

Sport and global sustainable development

Sport is recognised by the United Nations as an 'important enabler of sustainable development' and as an 'instrument for peace'. In this resource we will explore how sport can be used to promote resistance, individual and social transformation and a more just society.

Did you know...?

The word 'sport' derives from the Old French word 'desport' which means 'leisure'.

LANGUAGE TASK

In our [Environmental resource](#), we learned about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which were developed to end poverty, reduce inequality and build more peaceful, prosperous societies by 2030.

In the table below, match up the translations of the SDGs relating to sports and sport education.

	English	French	German	Spanish
1	Sport is a fundamental right for all.			
2	Sport promotes leadership, discipline, empathy and respect.			
3	Sport engages a diverse range of students.			
4	Sport contributes to the elimination of gender disparities.			
5	Sport promotes life-long learning.			

	French	German	Spanish
A	Le sport mobilise un large éventail d'élèves.	Sport spricht ein breites Spektrum von Schülern an.	El deporte involucra a una amplia gama de estudiantes.
B	Le sport contribue à éliminer les disparités entre les sexes.	Sport trägt dazu bei, geschlechtsspezifische Ungleichheiten zu beseitigen.	El deporte contribuye a eliminar las disparidades de género.
C	Le sport est un droit fondamental pour tous.	Sport ist ein Grundrecht für alle.	El deporte es un derecho fundamental para todos.
D	Le sport favorise l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie.	Sport fördert lebenslanges Lernen.	El deporte promueve el aprendizaje permanente.
E	Le sport favorise le leadership, la discipline, l'empathie et le respect.	Sport fördert Führungsqualitäten, Disziplin, Empathie und Respekt.	El deporte promueve el liderazgo, la disciplina, la empatía y el respeto.

Answers
1 = C; 2 = E; 3 = A; 4 = B; 5 = D

Reflective/discussion point

What is your response to these statements? Do any carry particular importance or relevance for you? Do you agree with some/most/all of these statements? Which other aspects do you think should be included?

GLOBAL SPORTS

The word cloud below contains the top 10 most popular sports around the world. Highlight the sports in the language(s) that you are studying (answers below).



Answers in French/German/Spanish
1 football/Fußball/fútbol
2 cricket/Kriquet/críquet
3 hockey/Hockey/hockey
4 tennis/Tennis/tenis
5 volleyball/Volleyball/voleibol
6 ping-pong/Tischtennis/ping-pong
7 basket/Basketball/baloncesto
8 base-ball/Baseball/béisbol
9 rugby/Rugby/rugby
10 golf/Golf/golf

Reflective questions

Have a read through the most popular sports in each country according to babble.com. Is there anything here that surprises you? How does this information chime or contrast with what you already know about the countries?

Archery is the most popular sport in Bhutan.



Baseball is the most popular sport in Cuba, The Dominican Republic, Japan, Nicaragua, Palau, Panama, Puerto Rico, Taiwan and Venezuela.



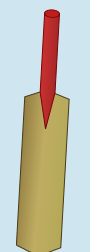
Basketball is the most popular sport in the Bahamas, China, Estonia, Lithuania, The Marshall Islands and The Philippines.



Boat racing is the most popular sport in Anguilla.



Cricket is the most popular sport in Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Barbados, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Nepal, Pakistan, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sri Lanka, and Trinidad and Tobago.



American football is the most popular sport in the United States.



Australian football is the most popular sport in Australia and Nauru.



Gaelic football is the most popular sport in Ireland.



Ice hockey is the most popular sport in Canada, Finland and Latvia.



Rugby is the most popular sport in Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, and Wallis and Futuna.



Windsurfing is the most popular sport in Guadeloupe.



Football is the most popular sport in the following countries:



Albania, Algeria, American Samoa, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, France, French Guiana, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mali, Malta, Martinique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, the Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, San Marino, São Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, the Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

WHICH SPORTS?

When you look at the information above, there is no doubt that sports bring people together across regional and national boundaries.



However, we would suggest that it is important to understand the evolution of modern sport in the context of colonial history (Nauright & Zipp 2018). Colonialism has been a driving force propelling the spread of the modern sports. Where there was colonial expansion, traditional sports and games were supplanted, which resulted in a loss of native or indigenous culture.

TRADITIONAL SPORTS AND GAMES

UNESCO highlights the need to safeguard traditional sports and games as part of its strategy to protect intangible cultural heritage. 'Intangible cultural heritage' refers to practices, expressions, skills and knowledge associated with cultures and societies.

Indigenous involvement in sport has been, and remains, a vehicle through which Indigenous Peoples assert and celebrate their cultural identity.



Contrary to a prevalent misconception that team sports are primarily an invention of Western civilisation, indigenous peoples have been involved in sport since ancient times and many traditional games influenced the Western-style sports with which you may be familiar.

One example is the so-called 'Creator's game', depicted in the image below. This game is the origin of the sport we know today as lacrosse.



Pelota mixteca is a traditional ball game that originated in Oaxaca, Mexico. Players invite rivals to share food and participate in other ceremonies before and after the game.

[Find out more about pelota mixteca,](#) and the Muxes team which prides itself on being inclusive of people of all genders and sexualities.

WORLD INDIGENOUS GAMES

The World Indigenous Games was hosted by Brazil in 2015 and over 2,000 athletes took part. In addition to many of the sports we are used to seeing in the World Olympics, the World Indigenous Games also included the **wild tree-trunk**, in which participants sprint 500 metres while carrying a 100 kg log on their shoulders, and **archery**, which sees participants' bodies covered in traditional paintings. Another event called **xikunahati** is very similar to football, except



Reflective/discussion point

Are you familiar with any traditional or indigenous sports and games? Why do you think that indigenous peoples' contribution to sports is lesser known than European contributions to sport? Do you think it is important to find out more about indigenous and traditional sports and games? Why?



CULTURAL APPROPRIATION AND MASCOTS IN SPORT

In the US, indigenous American names and images were appropriated and used by football teams. For many indigenous peoples, the misuse of their images and culture is an insult and a modern representation of the marginalisation they have been subjected to for many generations. Read about cultural appreciation versus cultural appropriation in [our resource](#).

Reflective/discussion point

Think about the impact of this commodification of indigenous culture on indigenous peoples. Are you aware of any aspects of your own or others' cultures being used to market products or services?

Reflective/discussion point

How inclusive are sports?

There are profound inequalities in the world of sport, which leads to the exclusion from sport of many people on the basis of their economic status, faith or religion, gender, sexuality and ethnicity.

What can be done at the individual, community, national and international level to ensure that sports are more inclusive?

SUGGESTED LINKS:

[Follow the link](#) to find out about Malak Abdelshafi, a Paralympic swimming champion from Egypt, and Khadija Timera, a lawyer and a boxer from Senegal.

[Follow the link](#) to find out about *En sus marcas, listos...inclusión*, a project which aims to promote Paralympic sport in Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Peru and Nicaragua.

CREATIVE TASK

Design a poster in the language that you are studying to promote an event which celebrates world sports. Do some research online to find out more about indigenous and traditional sports and games and include them in your poster. Make sure that your representation is sensitive: avoid tokenistic images and the misappropriation of indigenous images and ideas. Think carefully about how you can make your event inclusive for all participants in terms of ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion and disability.

Help box

English	French	German	Spanish
Welcome to the sports event of the century!	Bienvenue à l'événement sportif du siècle !	Willkommen beim Sportereignis des Jahrhunderts!	¡Bienvenidos al evento deportivo del siglo!
Everyone is welcome.	Tout le monde est le bienvenu.	Alle sind willkommen.	Todos son bienvenidos.
We speak...	Nous parlons...	Wir sprechen...	Hablamos...
Sports will include...	Les sports incluront...	Zu den Sportarten gehören...	Los deportes incluirán...

LANGUAGE TASK

Use the support boxes to help you write a description of the photo in the language(s) you are studying.



Help Box

- In the photo there are.../Sur la photo, il y a.../Auf dem Foto gibt es.../En la foto hay...
- three athletes/trois athlètes/drei Athleten/tres atletas
- They are playing.../Ils jouent.../Sie spielen.../Están jugando...
- wheelchair basketball/basketball en fauteuil roulant/Rollstuhl-Basketball/al baloncesto en silla de ruedas



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Help Box

- In the photo there are.../Sur la photo, il y a.../Auf dem Foto gibt es.../En la foto hay...
- a football team/une équipe de football/eine Fußballmannschaft/un equipo de fútbol
- They seem happy/Elles ont l'air heureuses/Sie sehen glücklich aus/Parecen felices
- I think they won the match./Je pense qu'elles ont gagné le match./Ich denke, sie haben das Spiel gewonnen./Creo que ganaron el partido.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Lisa Panford is a Senior Lecturer at St Mary's University in Twickenham, with over 14 years' experience teaching languages in secondary schools in London. She has studied and worked in Spain and Peru. Lisa is passionate about counteracting discriminatory practices in the secondary MFL classroom and is dedicated to the principle that all pupils should be given an opportunity to appreciate the enriching and transformative experience of studying languages. Lisa is the co-founder of the Decolonising Secondary MFL Curriculum Special Interest Group, elected Member of the Council for the Association for Language Learning and a Member of the Advisory Panels at the Institute of Languages, Cultures and Societies and the British Academy.

Explore the rest of our resources on [diversity and inclusion](#).

