6th Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan
Fostering Creativity and Empathy against COVID-19

You are invited to participate in the Arts Olympiad—the world's largest school art program.

The Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan is organized into Part 1 (Group Activities) and Part 2 (Original Art Creation). Students create art on the theme, My Favorite Sport. The sport can be Olympic, traditional, or imaginary.

We request that you select TWO best artworks on basis of originality and creativity. Please mail these works to ICAF before May 15, 2021. Though any student can participate in and benefit from the Arts Olympiad, your School Art Entries must be from students who are ages 8 to 12.

You and your students will be invited as "Official Delegates" to the 6th World Children's Festival (WCF) this July 30th – August 1st at The National Mall across from the U.S. Capitol.

Please visit https://WorldChildrensFestival.org where you can apply to host a workshop at the WCF or your school can apply to conduct a musical or dance performance at The National Mall. The WCF is held every four years as the “Olympics” of children's imagination. Open and free to all, the WCF is held every four years as a public celebration of “Creativity, Diversity, and Unity.”

We do not charge any fee for the Arts Olympiad or any registration fee for the WCF, but the delegates make their own travel, meals, and accommodation arrangements.

Benefits
The Arts Olympiad empowers students to overcome the well-documented “4th-grade slump” in their creativity. This lesson plan is structured to inspire them to embrace the “Artist-Athlete Ideal” of the creative mind and a healthy body (mens sana in corpore sano). Students realize that mind and body reflect each other because the state of one’s mind can have an epigenetic effect. You awaken the dormant “inner artist” or the slumbering “inner athlete.” You can develop mutual empathy between young athletes and young artists. Students get to embrace the “Artist-Athlete Ideal” when they depict themselves as artist-athletes in their artwork. As the number of artist-athletes increases, the school becomes a more integrated, creative, and healthy community.

Deadline and Submissions
This lesson plan may take 2-4 class sessions. Your School Art Submissions must include a brief essay by the student about his/her artwork, and a completed School Artwork Submission Form, which is at the end of this lesson plan. Please attach these two items to the back of the artwork with a paper clip prior to sending the work to ICAF.

National Arts Education Standards
This lesson plan meets the National Arts Education (Visual Arts) Content Standards 3, 5 and 6, and the following related Achievement Standards: (a) Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas to convey meaning, (b) Reflecting upon and assessing the character and merits of their work and the work of another, and (c) making connections between visual arts and other disciplines.
**Part 1: Instructional Group Activities**
These three suggested activities invite students to develop connections between art and sport.

**Activity A. The Olympics Art Competitions**


Students answer these three questions:

1. Should the Olympic Art Competitions be reinstated? Why? For what age group of artists?
2. What is your favorite sport? Why?
3. In which cities will the Summer Olympics take place in 2024 and 2028? Winter Olympics?

**Activity B. Thinking Outside the Box**

Reading Material: ChildArt quarterly https://icaf.org/ArtforHealth

Students are asked to separate themselves into two groups: “Artists” and “Athletes.”

“Artists” answer these questions:

- **Question 1.** Why do people run, swim, or play soccer?
- **Question 2.** How do you feel when you play a sport?

“Artists” are asked to draw or paint any sports gear or equipment, be it a bat, a ball, a goal post, or an athletic t-shirt.

“Athletes” answer these questions:

- **Question 1.** Why do people draw, paint, sculpt, or carve?
- **Question 2.** How do you feel when you create art?

“Athletes” are asked to draw or paint any art tool or equipment, be it an easel or a brush.

**Activity C. Building Peace through Art and Sport**

Students read this quotation of Nobel Laureate Nelson Mandela:

> “Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers.”

Question: If “sport” is replaced by “art” in the above quote, would it still ring true?

Why or why not?

How about adding art to sport? Does the quotation become stronger?
Part 2: Original Art Creation

Students are to create art on the theme, *My Favorite Sport*. They can depict themselves as “artist-athlete” in any sport—Olympic, traditional, or even an imaginary one. They can produce a painting, a drawing, or digital art.

Painting or drawing should be roughly 18x24 inches or 45x60 cm.

Each student writes a short essay. Please clip the essay and the School Artwork Submission Form to the artwork and mail these by May 15, 2021 to:

International Child Art Foundation
Post Office Box 58133
Washington, DC 20037

If you have to courier the artworks, please email childart@icaf.org in advance.

The digital artwork, if any, can be emailed to childart@icaf.org.

6th World Children's Festival

Our children are suffering many of the negative impacts of COVID-19. They need a celebration this summer that brings them together at The National Mall to participate and create music and art. The 6th World Children's Festival (WCF) will be more significant and transformative than the previous WCFs, though it might be less global and more regional this time.

If COVID-19 is not brought under control by July, we will be forced to postpone the WCF to next summer. Please subscribe to https://facebook.com/ICAF.org to stay updated.

The WCF is unlike any event in the world. It is in reality a three-day educational event with a clear purpose—provide children a transformative experience that infuses their creativity with empathy so they become “creative-empaths”—empowered and trained to create new hope for the future.

No vendor booths or stall are allowed at the WCF. No adult performance groups or musicians. All workshops and activities are hosted by eminent educators and subject matter experts, many from the federal agencies and governmental departments. Finally, but importantly, the WCF is emceed by the children—the participants of previous WCFs.

International Child Art Foundation
Incorporated in the District of Columbia in 1997 as a 501(c)3) nonprofit, ICAF serves American children as their national arts organization that fosters their creativity and develops mutual empathy between them and with their peers worldwide through the universal language of art.

The Arts Olympiad is free-of-charge and ICAF does not charge the delegates any registration fee. The delegates provide their own travel, accommodation, and meal arrangements. To subscribe, please visit https://icaf.org/ChildArt
I. School

School/Institution name

Name of Organizer

Mailing Address

City

State

Country

Zip code

Organizer’s email

Telephone

How many students participated?

Comments on the lesson plan

II. Student Artist

First name

Last name

Age

Date of birth

Title of work: ____________________________________________________________

Medium: ________________________

Parent’s Name

Email

Telephone

III. Agreement

We certify that the attached “My Favorite Sport” artwork is the original work of the student artist named above. We understand that the student’s artwork becomes the property of the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) and will not be returned. We agree that the artwork can be published, exhibited, or reproduced by ICAF or transferred or loaned to another entity to advance the mission of ICAF, ranked independently among the 25 Top Children’s Charities in the United States.

Name of Teacher

Signature

Date

Name of Parent

Signature

Date

ICAF │ Post Office Box 58133 │ Washington, DC 20037 │ +1 202 530-1000 │ https://ICAF.org │ ChildArt@ICAF.org