



INTERNATIONAL
CHILD ART
FOUNDATION

6th Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan

Fostering Creativity and Empathy against COVID-19

The International Child Art Foundation (ICAF)—the national arts organization for American children and the global arts organization for the world’s children—invites your participation in the *6th Arts Olympiad*. The United States Olympic Committee has granted ICAF an exclusive license to use the “Arts Olympiad” mark.

The Arts Olympiad lesson plan is organized into Part 1 and Part 2 and culminates in students creating a painting about their favorite sport. Through your school art contest, you can select up to three best artworks. Please mail these works to ICAF before **March 15, 2021**. Though any student can participate in and benefit from the Arts Olympiad, your School Art Entries must be from students who are eight-to-twelve-years-old.

ICAF will announce the “Official Delegates” to the *6th World Children’s Festival (WCF)* on April 15th. The delegates will arrive in Washington, D.C. on July 28th and can depart on August 2nd. Included in the WCF program is a public celebration of “Creativity, Diversity, and Unity” held for three days at The National Mall across from the US Capitol on July 30th, July 31st, and August 1st. Since the WCF at the National Mall is free and open to the public, it is likely to attract more than 20,000 attendees.

ICAF does not charge any fee for the Arts Olympiad, and the registration fee for the WCF is zero. The delegates make their own travel, meals, and accommodation arrangements.

Benefits

COVID-19 has shown how important is creativity for adaptations to the pandemic and how critical is empathy for public health and safety. This lesson plan inspires students to revise their self-image by embracing the “Artist-Athlete Ideal” of the creative mind in a healthy body (*mens sana in corpore sano*). The “Artist-Athlete Ideal” helps them realize that mind and body reflect each other because the state of one’s mind can have an epigenetic effect. The lesson plan aims to awaken the dormant “inner artist” or the slumbering “inner athlete.” It develops empathy among students, especially mutual understanding between artists and athletes. Students’ self-image as artist-athletes solidifies when they depict themselves as such in their artwork. As the number of artist-athletes grows, the school becomes a more integrated, creative, and healthy community.

Deadline and Submissions

This lesson plan takes two to four class sessions to complete. Your school can enter between one and three artworks in the Arts Olympiad art competition. To select the school entries, please involve your students in the judging process. Submissions must include: (a) a brief essay by each student about his/her artwork, and (b) a completed School Artwork Submission Form.

Please attach these two items to the back of the artwork with a paper clip. Mail the artwork to ICAF before March 15, 2021. The digital artwork, if any, can be emailed to childart@icaf.org.

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

Reading Material Smithsonian Magazine > <https://bit.ly/355azsH>

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/childart/ChildArt_ArtforHealth_July-Sept2020.pdf

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 can be on any material that is roughly **45x60 cm** or **18x24 inches**.

Each student writes a short essay about his/her work. Clip this essay to the artwork.

The World Children's Festival

The Arts Olympiad winners from participating schools across the United States and in nearly 100 countries will be the Official Delegates at the *6th World Children's Festival* (WCF) to take place on July 28th to August 2nd of 2021 in Washington, DC.

The WCF includes a three-day public celebration of “Creativity, Diversity, and Unity” at The National Mall across from the US Capitol on July 30th, July 31st, and August 1st.

ICAF does not charge the delegates any registration fee. Arrangements for travel, meals, and accommodation are the responsibility of the delegates.

Keep yourself posted on the WCF by subscribing to the ad-free [ChildArt quarterly](#) and <https://Facebook.com/ICAF.org> or https://twitter.com/ICAF_org.

The WCF is a transformative experience that infuses students' creativity with empathy so they become “creative-empaths”—empowered and trained to create new hope for the future.

ICAF

ICAF serves American children as their national arts organization and the world's children as their global arts organization. Founded in 1997, ICAF fosters students' creativity, seeds their imagination, and connects them meaningfully with their peers worldwide through the universal language of art for a creative, healthy, and empathetic future.



July 30th to August 1st of 2021
The National Mall
Washington, DC



The 6th Arts Olympiad
School Artwork Submission Form

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