



Educator Guide

Goal!: Awesome Soccer Stories and Fun Facts for Kids

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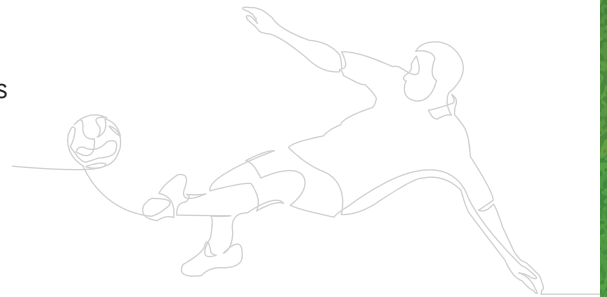
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Ages 7 to 9 (Grades 2 to 4)

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About the Book

This guide to all things soccer offers an engaging introduction to the beautiful game. With over 100 player profiles, *Goal!* covers soccer's greatest legends and rising stars, providing detailed information in a young reader-friendly format. Fact boxes highlight major events and milestones in soccer history, making the sport's rich legacy accessible to kids. Packed with new and vibrant photos, this book captures the excitement and passion of the game, making it an ideal gift for budding soccer fans. Read along to discover all there is to know about this popular sport and engage with the book's fun features, including:

- Profiles of international and female players
- An interactive glossary
- From-the-field anecdotes
- And much more!

Educational and entertaining, *Goal!* is the perfect resource to foster a lifelong love of soccer. Whether learning the basics, exploring historic moments, or discovering fun trivia, young readers will find everything they need to become soccer enthusiasts.

Prereading Activities

Before reading the book, the following prereading activities can prime students for better comprehension and deeper thinking about the text!

Words to Know

Teach in advance these essential words from the text glossary to prepare students to comprehend the text. Example sentences have been provided. Additional words can be found on pages 150-151.

Assist (noun): The pass made to set up a goal.

Example: The player gave a great pass to her teammate, and that pass became an assist when her teammate scored a goal!

Cup (noun): The prize given for winning a league or tournament; sometimes refers to the World Cup itself.

Example: The tournament is almost over, so if we win the last game, we win the cup!

Dribble (verb): When a player moves the ball up and down the field with his feet, including past opponents.

Example: Lionel Messi dribbled the ball past 3 other players before scoring a goal.

Header (noun): When a player plays the ball with their head, either to score a goal or clear the ball.
Example: Josh jumped high into the air and used a strong header to guide the ball right into the goal!

Pitch (noun): Another word for soccer field.
Example: The game is about to start, so the players walk onto the pitch.

Read Ahead Questions

Activate students' prior knowledge by discussing the following read ahead questions:

- What traits make a professional athlete a legend? Does it matter what this person does off the field as well?
- Think of a sport that you enjoy watching. Who is the Greatest of All Time, or "GOAT" of that sport? Why do you think so?
- How can you become great at a sport that you love?

Essential Discussion Questions

After reading, students can work with partners or small groups to discuss the following questions. They should draw on evidence from the text and also engage in higher-order thinking!

- Why is soccer considered an international sport?
- What makes the role of goalkeeper a difficult position?
- Of all the players in this book, which inspired you the most? What details from his or her life inspired you?
- After reading the "Become the Next Soccer Legend" section (page 145), what do you think is more important for a young player: being born with talent or practicing every day? Why do you think so?
- After reading the profiles of international female players, what are some of the biggest challenges they faced compared to the male players?
- Choose a soccer position that was described in the book. What are the challenges and advantages of that position according to the text?
- Read "Soccer Legacies Beyond the Field" starting on page 137. What are some ways that soccer players have made the world a better place? Why might it be important for professional athletes to do this kind of work?

Extension Activities

Empower students to deepen their literacy skills through these thoughtfully designed extension exercises.

Compare & Contrast

Prompt students to pick two players from the book. You can also assign players to each student, or have students draw two names from a hat! Then, students should read about each player and complete a Venn diagram to see the players' similarities and differences. Finally, they can follow the writing process to write a paragraph based on the diagram they created. Use worksheet A for this activity.

Writing Mechanics

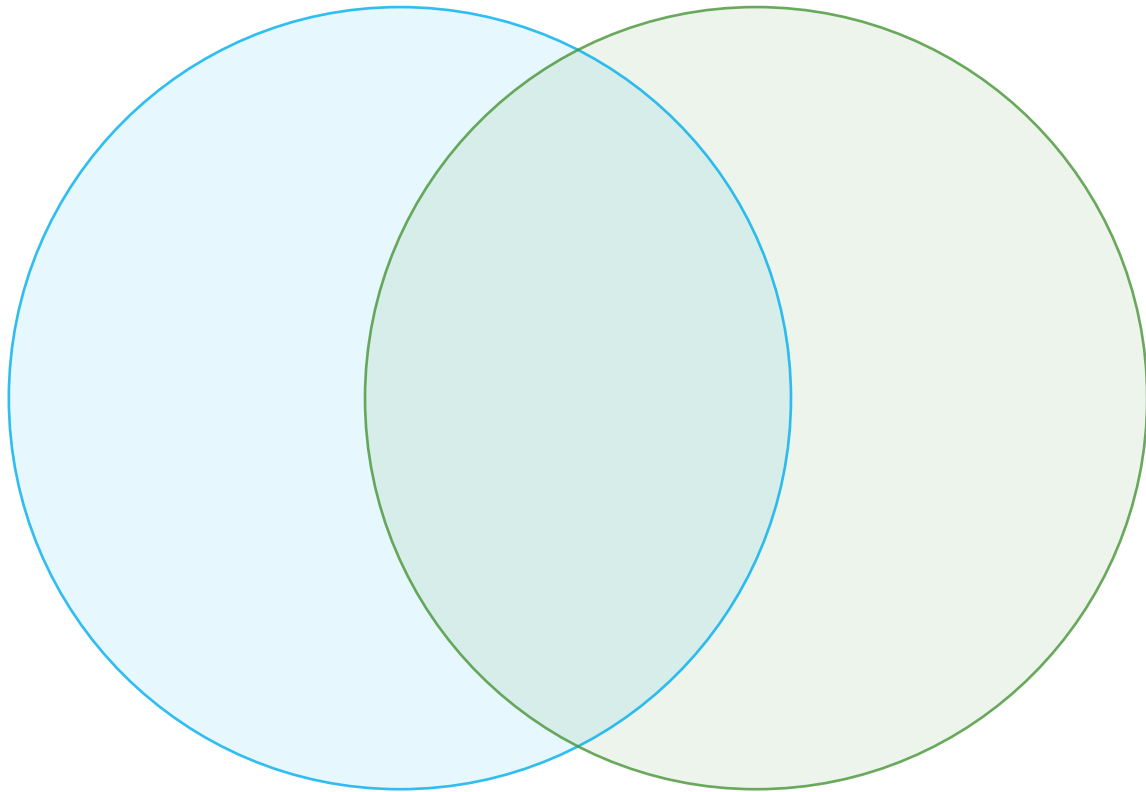
After teaching a mini lesson on capitalization and punctuation, use Worksheet B to reinforce student mastery of writing mechanics. In this activity, students will edit sentences from the text and rewrite them with accurate capitalization and punctuation. They will be prompted to capitalize proper nouns and the first letter of sentences. They will use periods and commas accurately in their revisions. Finally, they will write an original and accurate complete sentence in response to a question.

Worksheet A - Goal! Awesome Soccer Stories and Fun Facts for Kids

Instructions: Choose two players from the text. Then, use the Venn diagram to compare them. How are they similar and what makes them different? Use evidence from the text. Make sure to include at least two ways that they are different and two ways that they are the same.

Player 1: _____

Player 2: _____



Now, write a paragraph below. Include a main idea sentence and at least three details.

Worksheet B - Goal! Awesome Soccer Stories and Fun Facts for Kids

Instructions: Read each sentence from the text below. Correct the mistakes with capital letters, commas, and periods. Then, write the sentence correctly on the line provided.

1. messi is argentina's all-time leader in goals assists and appearances.

2. between 2005 and 2016, hope solo was the standout goalkeeper for the us women's national team, leaping across the goal to stop shots that seemed impossible to save

3. sanchez played fifty-eight times for mexico scored twenty-nine goals and appeared in three world cups and the 1993 Copa america.

4. when birgit prinz scored the game-winning goal seconds before full time in her debut with germany's senior team at just sixteen years old, it became evident she was poised for greatness.

Now You Try!

Who are your three favorite players from the book? Write your answer in a complete sentence.

