

Lerner Sports Reading Challenges



Basketball Challenge

Activity 1 - Shoot for the Stars

Basketball is a high-scoring game. Read through the basketball articles on LernerSports and find out which athlete has scored the highest points in a single game.

Activity 2 - Hoop Ladies

The WNBA has been growing in popularity. Read the four articles of female basketball players currently on Lerner Sports and find something that they have in common, aside from being women.

Activity 3 - Dream Team

Basketball has had a lot of superstars over the years. But what if you were a coach and had the power to assemble a dream team of basketball players throughout all time? Read through the basketball articles on LernerSports and pick 5 players to join your team. Use their stats to describe why they would be unstoppable.



Football Challenge

Activity 1 - All in the Family

Football can have dynasties, just like countries. Read through the football articles on LernerSports and find out which athletes had a parent or sibling play pro in the same sport.

Activity 2 - Show Me that Bling

Winners of the Super Bowl championship famously receive a ring to commemorate their accomplishment. Read through the football articles on LernerSports and find the 5 athletes with the most Super Bowl championship rings.

Activity 3 - Hall of Fame

Only the best players make it into the National Football Hall of Fame. Read through the football articles on LernerSports and choose five athletes that you think deserve a spot on the list and explain why.



Baseball Challenge

Activity 1 - Going, Going, Gone

The Home Run Derby is a home run hitting competition between the best hitters in the MLB each season. Find the athletes in LernerSports who have competed in the derby. Then rank them in order of home runs hit.

Activity 2 - Home Field Advantage

Many baseball players end up playing for the team they rooted for as a kid. Some of those teams are local, some are just their childhood dream. Find all the athletes in LernerSports who were able to play for their home or dream team.

Activity 3 - The Long and the Short of It

Baseball is a less physically demanding sport than some others. This means baseball players can have very long careers, playing well into their 40's. Some players spend their entire career with one team, while others move or get traded every few seasons. Read through the baseball articles on LernerSports and find all of the athletes who spent their whole career on one team. Then find the three athletes who played on the most teams.



Soccer Challenge

Activity 1 - Olympic Stars

Many soccer stars are famous in their home countries and the world over for being at the top of their game. Some have even played on the world's largest stage in sports--the Olympics. Read the Soccer articles on LernerSports to find three stars who have also played in the Olympics.

Activity 2 - Going Toe to Toe

Soccer is a sport where men and women are more evenly matched than others. Read through the Soccer articles on LernerSports, and determine who would win in a men-against-women face off match.

Activity 3 - Shoot and Score!

Unlike basketball, points are hard to score in soccer. Players who are good at scoring goals are prized in the game. Find the top scorers in the Soccer articles on LernerSports.



"More Sports" Challenge

Activity 1 - Common Ground

More Sports is a catchall for athletes who don't fit into other categories. More Sports athletes range from tennis to snowboarding to NASCAR racing to hockey. Read through the More Sports articles on LernerSports and find three athletes that have something in common.

Activity 2 - Head to Head

Some sports have teams playing against each other, and others have individual athletes playing against each other. Read through the More Sports articles on LernerSports and find all of the athletes that have played head to head.

Activity 3 - Jack of All Trades

Some athletes excelled in multiple professional sports throughout their careers. Try to find the athlete who competed in the most sports. Make a venn diagram of each of the skills needed for each different sport, as well as the skills needed for all or some of them.



Olympics Challenge

Activity 1 - Medal Detector

There are a lot of US Olympic medalists! Read through the Olympic articles on LernerSports and place athletes in order of the number of Olympic medals they've won.

Activity 2 - Snack Attack!

Olympic athletes famously eat a lot of calories so they can keep training hard. Read through the Olympic articles on LernerSports and find three athletes who have the same cravings as you.

Activity 3 - Athletes of Every Age

Athletes prepare their whole lives for the Olympics, and train hard in the four years between games. Some athletes make their Olympic debuts at an early age and compete in multiple Olympic games. Read through the articles of the Olympic athletes on Lerner Sports and find out how old each athlete was when they competed. Who was the youngest? The oldest?



Vocabulary Challenge

Activity 1 - Out of this World

If aliens landed in your backyard tonight and asked you to teach them an Earth sport, which one would you choose? And how would you explain it? Pick a sport featured in the Lerner Sports database and read up on the definitions of its glossary terms. Use those terms and definitions to write a brief explanation of the sport for the aliens.

Activity 2 - Name of the Game

A good number of sports have similar endings to their names. Read through the articles on Lerner Sports and identify all of the sports that include the same word in their name. (Hint: "ball" isn't the only one.) Don't forget to include sports covered in the More Sports category!

Activity 3 - Pop Quiz

Do you know a Fakie from a False Start? Search the glossary words in different sports bios on Lerner Sports for 3-5 sports terms you didn't know. Then, create a quiz for a friend, classmate, or family member to see if they can guess the correct definition of each word! Give them 3 possible definitions for each word. If they need a hint, be sure to tell them what sport the word belongs to!



"Best All-Around" Challenge

Activity 1 - Getting Fit

All athletes need to maintain physical fitness and eat healthy in order to excel at their sport. Pick five athletes from different sports in the Lerner Sports database and compare their workout regimens, diets, and other activities they do to stay in shape. What do they have in common? What might differ between sports?

Activity 2 - Doing Good

Many famous professional athletes have started foundations that give money or raise awareness for a cause important to them. Find five athletes who have started charities, and take note of what they do and why it's important to them. If you were a famous athlete, what cause would you help to support?

Activity 3 - Overcoming Challenges

Many athletes overcome challenges in their professional or personal lives as they work to get to the top of their game. Read the article about your favorite athlete and write about a time you've overcome a challenge to reach a goal.