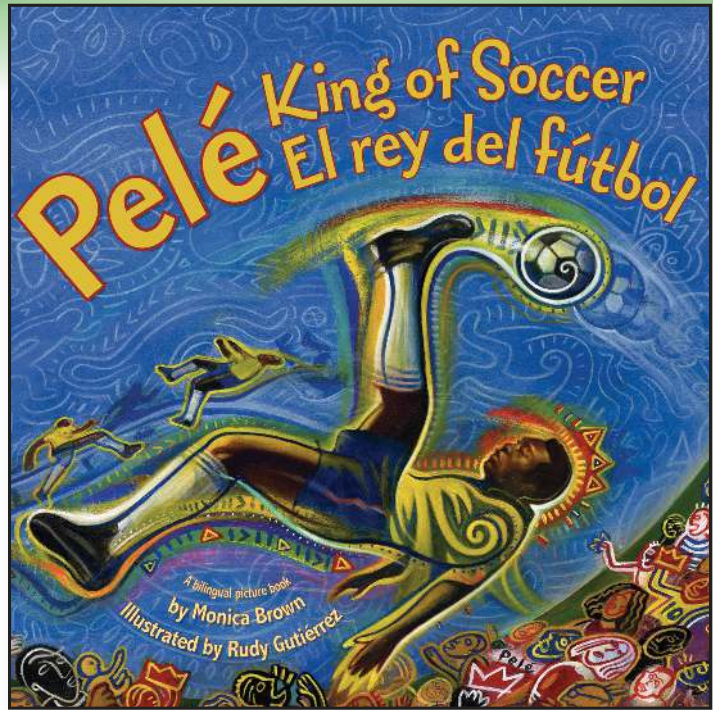


Curriculum Guide

Pelé, King of Soccer
Pelé, El rey del fútbol
Monica Brown
Illustrated by
Rudy Gutiérrez










ISBN 978-0-06-122779-0 \$17.99 hardcover
Rayo, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

BEFORE READING

What do you know about soccer, or fútbol as it is known in many other countries? As a class, complete a K-W-L chart to list what you already know about the sport, what you might like to learn, and finally, what you have learned after reading the book and completing the activities.

AFTER READING

- ⚽ Create a glossary of soccer terms. Arrange the following words in alphabetical order and write a definition for each: goal, defender, midfield, forward, dribble, pass, substitute, corner kick, hand ball, throw in.
- ⚽ Many sports use similar vocabulary to describe the game. Complete a Venn diagram comparing soccer to basketball (guide page 3). List terms that the two sports have in common in the overlapping portion of the circles and vocabulary that differs between soccer and basketball in the outside portions of the two circles.
- ⚽ Soccer, or fútbol, is the most popular sport in Latin and South American countries, and in most countries of the world. Spanish-speaking countries have a distinctive way of cheering when their team scores a ¡Gol! Share with your class the Spanish commentary on a soccer game found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkIGO2UA-u8>. Then re-read the last page of the book in a similar style.

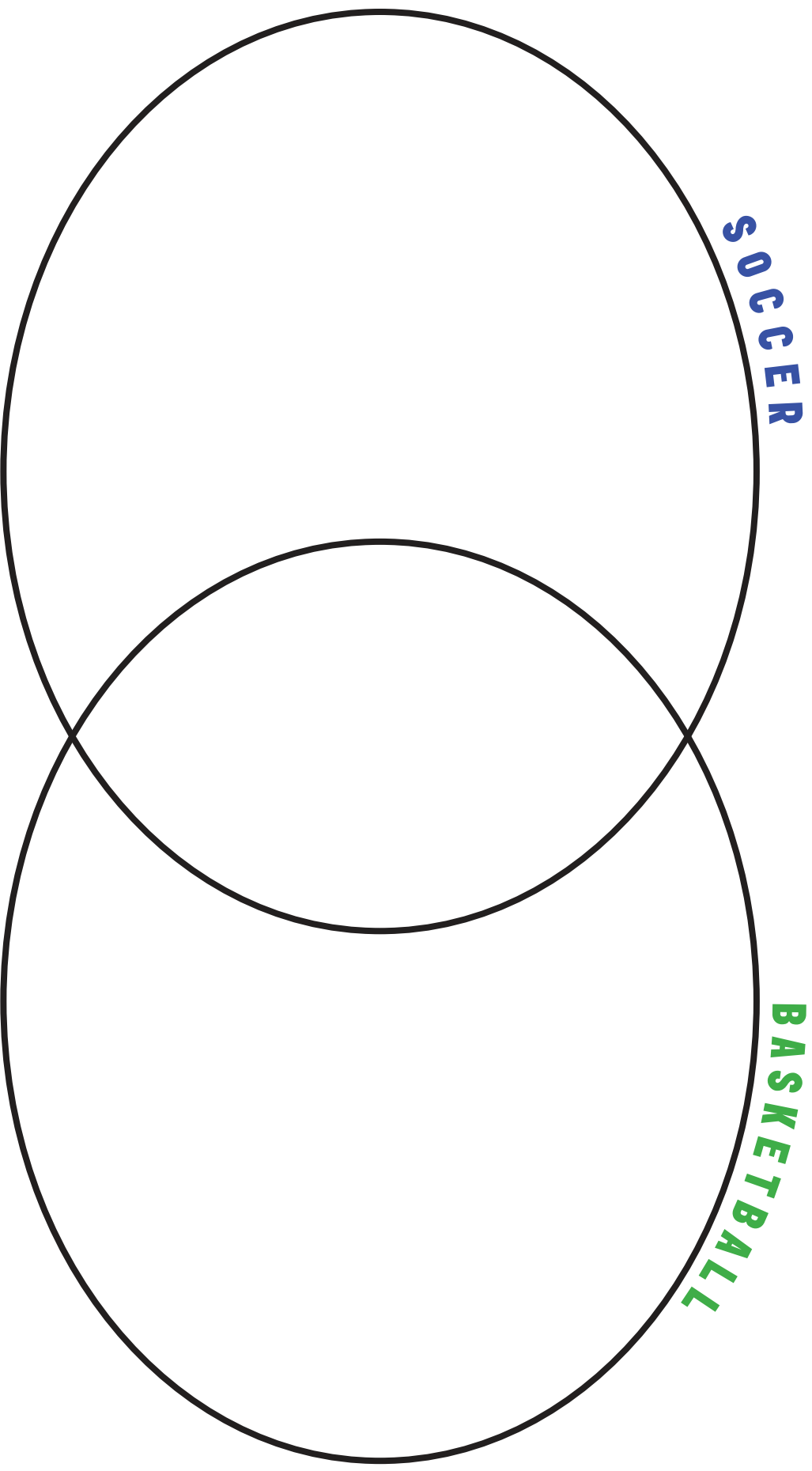
-  Create an acrostic poem using the letters s-o-c-c-e-r (guide page 4). Write words and phrases that describe the sport of soccer. Then create an acrostic poem for Pelé that includes details from his life story (guide page 5).
-  Soccer is an exciting, fast-paced game. Soccer players perform many actions on the field. Think of all of the verbs that describe how soccer players move (e.g. dribble, shoot). Create an illustrated collection of verbs used in soccer (guide page 6).
-  Good readers use the words in a sentence to help identify unfamiliar words. Use the strategy of context clues to help complete a cloze activity about Pelé’s life (guide page 7).
-  Pretend that you are a sports announcer at the soccer game where 80,000 fans watched as Pelé scored his 1,000th goal. Write a paragraph describing what you see as Pelé shoots the ball. Include details such as what the fans sound like and what people are saying and cheering. Re-read aloud the italicized sections of the book that represent soccer game commentary to get a feel for this style of writing and speaking.
-  Fans call soccer “the beautiful game,” a phrase coined by Pelé when talking about his sport. Discuss or have the students write about how a sport can be beautiful.
-  Pelé was a star on the soccer team, but he also knew the value of respecting and valuing each member of the team. On the playground, divide students into groups of approximately 10. Give each “team” a ball and ask them to line up in a single line. Starting at the front, have them practice handing the soccer ball to the person behind them in this pattern: overhead, between the legs, overhead, between the legs, so that each student must work with the person behind them. The last student who gets the ball runs to the front and starts again. The goal isn’t to be first, but to successfully pass the ball without dropping it or falling. (For variety, ask them to pass side to side—the first person swivels to her right to hand it behind her, and the next swivels to her left, etc.)
-  Soccer teams around the world have colorful and unique jerseys (shirts) that are inspired by the flag of their country. Ask students to choose a country and then research its flag in books or on a website such as <http://flags.nationmaster.com>. Have students design and color their own jersey based on the country they’d like to represent.

Monica Brown, Ph.D., is the author of several award-winning bilingual and multicultural books, including *My Name Is Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz/Me llamo Celia: La vida de Celia Cruz*, winner of the Américas Award for Children’s Literature and a Pura Belpré Honor. She is a professor of English at Northern Arizona University, specializing in U.S. Latino literature and multicultural literature. She lives with her family in Flagstaff, Arizona. Learn more about her life and work at www.monicabrown.net.

Rudy Gutiérrez is an award-winning artist whose work has been exhibited nationally and abroad. In addition to children’s books, he also creates cover artwork for popular musical groups’ CDs. He teaches at the Pratt Institute and lives in Bogota, New Jersey. Learn more about his life and work at www.rudygutierrez.net.

Soccer and Basketball

Compare soccer and basketball by writing words in the Venn diagram that describe each sport.



Soccer Acrostic Poem

Using the letters s-o-c-c-e-r, write words and phrases that describe the sport.

S

O

C

C

E

R



Pelé Acrostic Poem

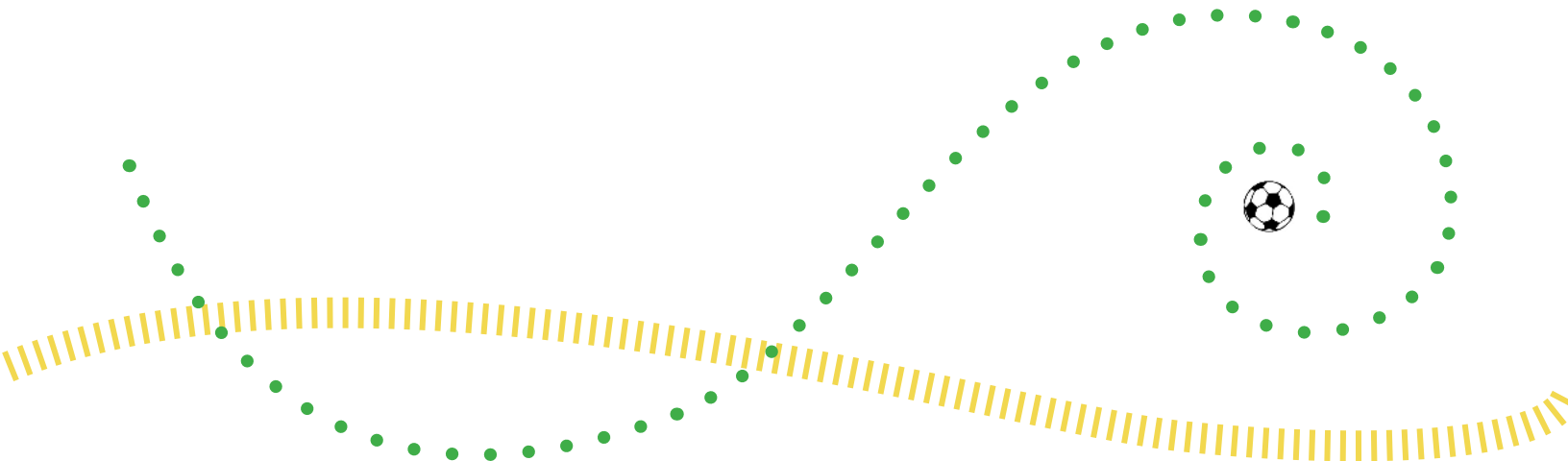
Using the letters P-e-l-e, write words and phrases that describe Pele.
Include details from his life story.

P

E

L

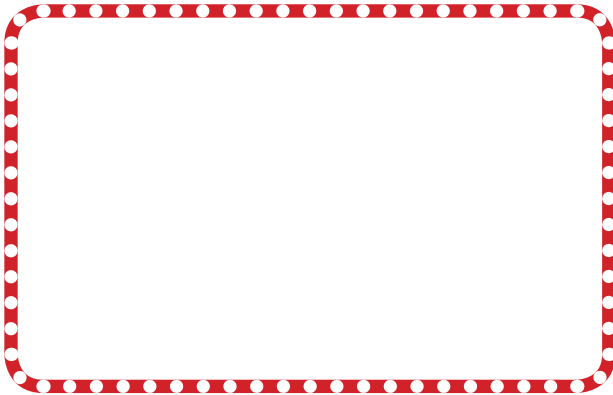
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Illustrated Collection Of Soccer Verbs

Soccer is a game of action. Think of six verbs that describe the action that takes place during a soccer game. List the verbs and create an illustration for each.

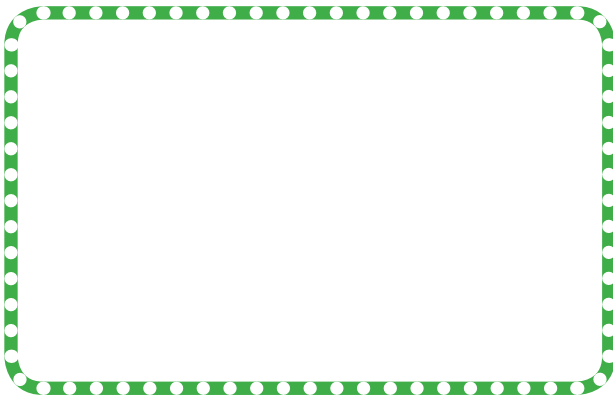
Verb _____



Verb _____



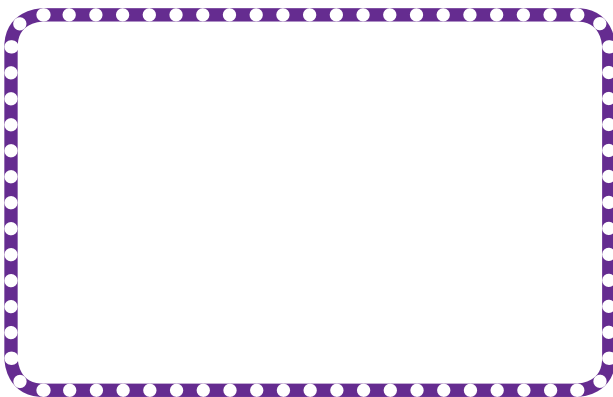
Verb _____



Verb _____



Verb _____



Verb _____



Pelé's Life

Use context clues to help you fill in the blanks with words that complete the following sentences about Pelé's life.

Pelé is from the country of _____. When he was young, his family was very _____, so Pelé would work shining _____ to help make money. Pelé's father loved soccer. Every night after work Pelé and his _____ would play _____ in the streets. Pelé also loved to play soccer with his _____. They didn't have enough _____ for a ball, so they used a grapefruit. Pelé began to play soccer on a team. His team won games often. One day a famous _____ player invited Pelé to try out for a professional _____. Pelé was very skinny so his coach encouraged him to _____. Pelé was a gifted player. He played in his first _____ Cup when he was seventeen years old! Pelé became a famous player and traveled all over the _____. He met kings and _____, but the person who was most proud of him was his _____ at home in Brazil.

Answers: Brazil; poor; shoes; father; soccer; friends; money; soccer; team; eat; World; World; presidents or queens; father