Arabic language, Arab culture and football

Activity 1
Activity 1

Share with your pupils copies of the letters written by the Egyptian girls who play football through the Premier skills project. Ask them to find Egypt on a world map, discuss questions in pairs and then feedback their thoughts and ideas to the rest of the class.

Questions for discussion

- What did you find most interesting about the letters from the Egyptian footballers?
- Did anything surprise you about their responses?
- What further questions would you like to ask one of the writers?
- Look again at the reasons that the girls give about why they like football. Which do you most agree with? Do you disagree with any?
- Why do you think team sports like football are important in school?
- What opportunities are available for girls and boys to play football in your school and community?

Learning objectives:
To provide opportunities for discussion and help pupils to learn about the lives of young female footballers in Egypt.

Core and transferable skills:
Communication and collaboration, Creativity and imagination.

Curriculum links:
English, Arts, PE.

Sustainable Development Goals:
SDG 5 Gender equality, SDG 3 Good health and wellbeing

Preparation and resources:
Copies of letters, plain pieces of paper or card, scissors, colouring pens or pencils and glue.

Arabic language, Arab culture and football
www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find/classroom/arabic_language_culture_football
Letters written by the Egyptian girls who play football through the Premier skills project

My name is: Rania Hamed Abdelghany
I live in (what town): Mattay, Menya, Egypt
Tell us about your family: Very Simple Family
My favourite things to do: I love Football
Why I love football: Because I feel the equality between males and females
What is your favourite team/favourite player? N/A
What job would you like to do in the future / what is your dream job? Football Coach

My name is: Nourhan Naser Mohamed
I live in (what town): Mallawy, Menya
Tell us about your family: Mother, Father, 3 siblings
My favourite things to do: Football, theatre, singing with sign language and tailoring
Why I love football: Because it is a way of solving a conflict and the best way to communicate with normal and hearing-impaired people
What is your favourite team/favourite player? Elahlly Team/ Mohamed Salah
What job would you like to do in the future / what is your dream job? Teacher at school/ Football Coach
Letters written by the Egyptian girls who play football through the Premier skills project

My name is: Nada Adel Badawi
I live in (what town): Quss. Qena
Tell us about your family: Nice and wonderful
My favourite things to do: Football, reading, drawing
Why I love football: because it is collective and when I play it I feel energized and because it develops the body
What is your favourite team/favourite player? Mohamed Salah
What job would you like to do in the future / what is your dream job? Professional football player

My name is: Judy Abdul Qawi Kamel Hajjaj
I live in (what town): Qena-Qus
Tell us about your family: Wonderful and supportive
My favourite things to do: Football/swimming
Why I love football: Because it’s a fun team game
What is your favourite team/favourite player? Al-Ahly Al-Masri/Cristiano Ronaldo/Leo Messi
What job would you like to do in the future / what is your dream job? Dentist
My name is: 
Aya Mohamed Abdel Imam

I live in (what town): 
Quss, Qena

Tell us about your family: 
Nice, wonderful and beautiful

My favourite things to do: 
Football, reading, drawing and karate

Why I love football: 
Because it is a team game and when I play it I feel energetic and because it develops the body

What is your favourite team/favourite player? 
Mohamed Salah

What job would you like to do in the future / what is your dream job? 
Professional football player

My name is: 
Rahma Jamal Ibrahim Mustafa

I live in (what town): 
Quss, Qena

Tell us about your family: 
I have 3 sisters, 2 brothers, my parents and my mother works as doctors and I am studying in middle school.

My favourite things to do: 
Drawing, reading, playing football

Why I love football: 
Because football is an interesting game that helps me raise my physical efficiency in addition to developing the personality of leadership and decision-making

What is your favourite team/favourite player? 
Al Ahly

What job would you like to do in the future / what is your dream job? 
I wish to work as a gynecologist and obstetrician like my father
Letters written by the Egyptian girls who play football through the Premier skills project

My name is:
Dina Mohamed Farghali

I live in (what town):
Quus. Qena

Tell us about your family:
My family consists of 6 members, 2 brothers, me and my sister Malak. My Father and mother work in the field of education.

My favourite things to do:
Drawing, colouring, swimming, football and acting

Why I love football:
Because it's a fun game that helps you revitalize the body.

What is your favourite team/favourite player?
Kahraba

What job would you like to do in the future /
what is your dream job?
Theater teacher

My name is:
Malak Muhammad Farghali

I live in (what town):
Quus, Qena

Tell us about your family:
I am from a family of 6 members, I have two brothers and two sisters. My father and mother work in the field of education and unfortunately, we have difficulties in my town to do any sports until the team of a 1000 girls 1000 dreams appeared and I was able to do sports. I started playing football which was one of my most important dreams.

My favourite things to do:
Reading, memorizing the Quran, swimming, football

Why I love football:
From a young age I have been hoping to play football because it is an interesting and fun game and I feel happy while playing it.

What is your favourite team/favourite player?
Mohamed Salah

What job would you like to do in the future /
what is your dream job?
Football coach
The Egyptian footballers shared information about themselves using the following headings:

- My name is:
- I live in (what town):
- Tell us about your family:
- My favourite things to do:
- Why I love football...
- What is your favourite team/favourite player?
- What is your dream job?

The British Library has launched a project called Step Inside your Story showing how authors and pupils can make simple concertina or zig zag books to tell others about themselves. Challenge your pupils to follow the set of instructions to make a zig zag book about themselves, their thoughts and aspirations. They could use the same categories as the Egyptian students or adapt them. They might include a catchy title, cartoons, pictures and speech bubbles. They could also try writing their names in English and Arabic using the information from the sheet in appendix 1. Remind your pupils that in Arabic the letters are written from right to left.

**They will need:** a plain piece of paper. It could be A4, or larger if they want to make a bigger book, scissors, colouring pencils or pens, glue, Arabic alphabet in appendix 1.

You could adapt these activities for your pupils using additional adults when available to support making the concertina books and provide word banks with useful vocabulary.
Instructions

1. Get all of your stationery together
2. Fold the paper in half lengthways, so the two long edges meet and cut along the fold to make two long strips.
3. Take one of the strips. Fold it in half, so the two short edges meet.
4. Fold the paper in half again to make the zig zag shape.
5. If you want to make a longer book, repeat with the second strip of paper and glue the two strips together.

You could also make a cover for your book out of card and share your completed zig zag books with another class or put copies in the class library.

Arabic language, Arab culture and football
www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find/classroom/arabic_language_culture_football
Opportunities to work with a partner school

If you are working with a partner school you could summarise and share the main points of your discussions along with copies of your concertina books with each other.

Additional activities

When the England women’s team won the UEFA European Women’s Championship in 2022, they wanted to inspire a new generation of footballers. In relation to this, they wrote an open letter to the UK government asking them to ensure that all girls have access to a minimum of 2 hours of PE lessons a week and are able to play football in PE lessons. Ask your pupils to discuss these proposals in pairs. They could line up on one side of the classroom if they agree with the proposal and on the other if they disagree and state the reason for their choice. Alternatively, you could organise a debate or invite pupils to write a letter to a member of staff sharing their views on the topic.

In 1921, the Football Association – the sport’s governing body in the UK banned women’s football games from FA-affiliated football grounds, stating, “The game of football is quite unsuitable for females and should not be encouraged.” This ban lasted for 51 years. Read the historical article in appendix 2 or look at the whole education pack here: https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/football-rememberseducation-pack-6427911.

Ask your pupils to discuss their thoughts and opinions about the issues raised in the article and the subsequent ban on women’s football.

Arabic language, Arab culture and football

www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find/classroom/arabic_language_culture_football