Irish Sport

Sports quotes:

1. “I’ve failed over and over in my life and that is why I succeed!” - Michael Jordan
2. “Age is no barrier. It’s a limitation you put on your mind.” - Jackie Joyner-Kersee
3. “I always felt that my greatest asset was not my physical ability, it was my mental ability.” – Bruce Jenner
4. “The five S’s of sports training are: stamina, speed, strength, skill, and spirit; but the greatest of these is spirit.” – Ken Doherty
5. “I don’t count my sit-ups; I only start counting when it starts hurting” – Mohammed Ali

Let’s Discuss:

1. Have you ever come across these sports?
2. Are they played only in Ireland?
3. How important is sport in a child’s upbringing?
4. Is it key to a country’s culture to have a national sport?
5. What role does sport play in your life?
Look at the pictures:

1. What do you think the rules of this game are?
2. How would you describe this sport?
3. Would you like to ‘give it a go’?
The Rules of Hurling:

Watch the video clip of ‘Hurling: Ireland’s National Obsession’ and find the 3 false statements below:

1) It’s been described as a ‘form of mayhem’
2) It’s a game we’ve never seen before
3) The president of Ireland presented the speaker with a ‘hurley’
4) Ireland is about 1000 years old
5) The greatest skill is ‘rising the ball’
6) The speaker calls the hurley ‘a magic wand’ for a hurler
7) It’s about fierce pride and honour
8) You play for the county that you are born in
9) Children don’t play this sport
10) Some children sleep with their hurleys
Student A

The History of Hurling (read to student B)

In 1893, the Gaelic League was established to give a sense of ‘Irishness’ back to the Irish people. During their occupation of Ireland, the British authorities banned hurling and suppressed much of Ireland’s identity so the aim of the Gaelic league was the revival of Irish culture, the Irish language and our traditional Irish sports.

In 1884 the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) was formed to promote Irish sports. Thanks to the efforts of its leaders, Irish sports become the most popular in Ireland, despite British efforts to introduce soccer and cricket.

The GAA became a powerful influence in rural communities, a tradition that is still well and truly alive today.

The Passion for the game (fill in the gaps)

Hurling is __________ boys, girls, men and woman in every village and town throughout the country of Ireland.

The two biggest __________ the GAA calendar are the All-Ireland finals in hurling and football. A sell-out attendance of 82,300 is __________ Croke Park and the ________ match tickets is an annual challenge as Ireland’s top counties __________ crowned All-Ireland champions.

The finals are broadcast around the world. The Irish who __________ all corners of the globe brought their national games with them and both regional and club teams are now well-established all over the world.

Irish sport gives us a __________ tremendous pride and identity. We have a __________ our national games that cannot be matched.
Student B
The Passion for the Game (Read to Student A)

Hurling is played by boys, girls, men and woman in every village and
town throughout the country of Ireland.

The two biggest days in the GAA calendar are the All-Ireland finals in
hurling and football. A sell-out attendance of 82,300 is guaranteed in
Croke Park and the hunt for match tickets is an annual challenge as
Ireland’s top counties battle to be crowned All-Ireland champions.

The finals are broadcast around the world. The Irish who emigrated to
all corners of the globe brought their national games with them and both
regional and club teams are now well-established all over the world.

Irish sport gives us a sense of tremendous pride and identity. We have a
passion for our national games that cannot be matched.

The History of Hurling (fill in the gaps)

In 1893, the Gaelic League was given a sense of ‘Irishness’ back to the Irish people. During their Ireland, the British authorities banned hurling and supressed much of Ireland’s identity so the the Gaelic league was the Irish culture, the Irish language and our traditional Irish sports.

In 1884 the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) was promote Irish sports. Thanks to the its leaders, Irish sports become the most Ireland, despite British introduce soccer and cricket.

The GAA became a powerful rural communities, a tradition that is still well and truly alive today.
Group Research Task:

Visit the following website:
www.experiencegaelicgames.com

1) Where is this experience based?
2) What groups is this experience for?
3) What will you learn?
4) What is involved?
5) Do you need to be physically fit to get involved?
6) What do you need to bring with you?
7) How much is a session for a group of 6 or more people?
8) What facilities do they have on-site?

Share your information with the other groups.
Did you find the same information?

Is this something you would like to do on your visit to Ireland?
Teachers Notes:

Sports Quotes:
In pairs, students read through the five quotes by famous sports people and give their interpretation of their meanings. Do they agree with each one?

Let’s Discuss:
In the same pairs, students now answer the five questions. Gather feedback and elicit meaning of the vocabulary in bold. Encourage discussion on the topic of cultural identity in sports.

The Rules of Hurling:
Students look at the pictures and answer the three questions based on the pictures.

Video Clip:
You are now going to play a video clip on YouTube called ‘Hurling, a national obsession’ (60 minutes by CBSnews.com)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQ-TOK2FiI4

Students decide which 3 of the 10 statements based on the video are false. Give students a few minutes to read through the 10 statements before playing the video and support them with any difficult vocabulary.

False statements:
4 – approx. 2000 years, 5 – Solo running, 9 – Most children play this sport.

Information Gap:
Student A reads ‘The History of Hurling’ to Student B
Student B listens and fills in the gaps on their text.

Student B reads ‘The Passion for the Game’ to Student A
Student A listens and fills in the gaps on their text.

Afterwards, group two pairs of students together and ask them to summarize the two texts in their own words. Gather feedback.