

Soccer unit study

Turn soccer obsession into homeschool fuel — statistics, physics, geography and writing built around the world's game, for K-12.

GRADE BANDS K-2 · 3-5 · 6-8 · 9-12

FULL GUIDE <https://handsdowneducation.com/homeschool/soccer>

How to use this planner

The six weeks below are sequenced from the guide's sample week: five weeks that each take one core subject through the topic, then a showcase week that turns the portfolio into a final product. Run each activity at the level your child is at (the grade band notes tell you how), keep the output, and by week six you have a portfolio that shows the unit end to end.

Pace is yours. A week here is three to five working sessions; a topic that is going well can take two calendar weeks, and one that has run dry can be closed early. Tick the box when a week's output is in the portfolio.

Six-week scope and sequence

Wk	Focus	Key activity	Portfolio output	Done
1	Reading & Writing through soccer	Read a great piece of football writing (Galeano's 'Soccer in Sun and Shadow' excerpts), then write a full match report of a game your child watched — with a headline and a nut graf.	Portfolio entry: the week's reading & writing piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
2	Math through soccer	Maintain a league table by hand for one week: points, goal difference, and the tiebreaker rules — then compute what results next week would change the order.	Portfolio entry: the week's math piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
3	Science through soccer	Film a curved free kick in slow motion and explain the Magnus effect; test it with a light ball that curves more visibly.	Portfolio entry: the week's science piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
4	Social Studies through soccer	Map every country in one World Cup group stage, with capital, language, and one fact connecting that nation's history to its football culture.	Portfolio entry: the week's social studies piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
5	Art through soccer	Design a full club identity — crest, kit, colors — and write the one-paragraph story each design element tells.	Portfolio entry: the week's art piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
6	Showcase and review	Choose one final product that pulls the unit together — a presentation, an exhibit, a field guide or a short documentary — and give the week to making it. Finish with a portfolio review: lay every week's output on the table and let your child narrate what changed in what they know about soccer.	The final product plus a one-page unit summary in your child's words, filed with the portfolio.	☐

Running it at your child's level

K-2 learners count goals, sort teams by color and country, and practice reading through match schedules and player names — high-motivation early literacy.

Teens can run expected-goals (xG) analysis with free data, study the economics of transfers and wages, and debate governance cases like World Cup hosting — real applied statistics and civics.

A sample week, subject by subject

Reading & Writing

Read a great piece of football writing (Galeano's 'Soccer in Sun and Shadow' excerpts), then write a full match report of a game your child watched — with a headline and a nut graf.

Math

Maintain a league table by hand for one week: points, goal difference, and the tiebreaker rules — then compute what results next week would change the order.

Science

Film a curved free kick in slow motion and explain the Magnus effect; test it with a light ball that curves more visibly.

Social Studies

Map every country in one World Cup group stage, with capital, language, and one fact connecting that nation's history to its football culture.

Art

Design a full club identity — crest, kit, colors — and write the one-paragraph story each design element tells.

Common questions

Is a sports-based curriculum academically respectable?

The theme is the delivery mechanism, not the content. Statistics, physics, geography and journalism taught through soccer are the same disciplines taught through anything else — with better attendance.

What about actually playing?

Training and matches slot in as genuine PE credit, and tactical study (formations, pressing schemes) is legitimate systems thinking on top.

My child only follows one club. Too narrow?

One club is a complete curriculum: its city's history, its finances, its academy system, its league's rules. Depth beats breadth here, as with most obsessions.

Turn this into a full, standards-aligned curriculum

Generate a complete plan around soccer for your child's grade and pace — free to try, no account required.

<https://handsdowneducation.com/curriculum/generate>