

LESSON 6: OUR SPORTING STARS

Activity 1:	What does it take? (15 minutes)
Activity 2:	Dame Mary Peters (30 minutes)
Activity 3:	Our Sporting Stars (30 minutes)
Activity 4:	Project (50 minutes)

INTRODUCTION

This lesson focuses on Northern Ireland's sporting champions. It encourages the children to consider the skills and qualities needed to make it to the top and the highs and lows of the journey to get there. Through active learning strategies, the children learn about the achievements of some of Northern Ireland's sporting stars. In the final activity they have the opportunity to focus on a sporting champion of their choice.

You can use this lesson as a stand-alone resource or as an extended piece of work. Alternatively, adapt individual activities to link with other themes or topics and ability levels.

LEARNING INTENTIONS	RESOURCES	KEY WORDS
<p>The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider the qualities it takes to succeed in the sporting field; • become familiar with Dame Mary Peters – her life and her legacy; • be aware of the range of sporting heroes and heroines we have in Northern Ireland; • have a knowledge of some of sports stars in Northern Ireland and their contribution to the world stage; and • carry out research on a sporting star. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource 1: What qualities would it take to become a sports star? • Resource 2: What would it be like to be a professional sports person? • Resource 3: Dame Mary Peters • Resource 4: Fact files • Resource 5: Our sporting stars presentation 	<p>Hero, heroine, legacy, qualities, personality, successful, champion, biography, compete, challenge, achievement</p>

CURRICULUM LINKS

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Reading

- use traditional and digital resources to locate, select, evaluate and communicate information relevant for a particular task.

Writing

- discuss various features of layout in texts and apply these, as appropriate, to their own writing, for example headings and sub-headings and presentation of text in columns to add emphasis to key points or to create certain effects.

Talking and Listening

- participate in group and class discussions for a variety of curricular purposes
- know, understand and use the conventions of group discussion
- describe and talk about real experiences and imaginary situations and about people
- identify and ask appropriate questions to seek information, views and feelings.

THE ARTS

Art and Design

- collect, examine and select resource material to use in the development of ideas.

PD&MU (Strand 2)

- develop an awareness of the experiences, lives and cultures of people in the wider world.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS

Using ICT

- manage and present their stored work
- showcase their learning across the curriculum.

Communication

- listen to and take part in discussions, explanations, role-plays and presentations
- contribute comments, ask questions and respond to others' points of view
- read a range of texts for information, ideas and enjoyment
- talk about, plan and edit work
- develop, express and present ideas in a variety of forms and formats using traditional and digital resources.

THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES

Working with Others

- listen actively and share opinions
- develop routines of turn taking, sharing and co-operating.

Managing Information

- use own and others' ideas to locate sources of information.

Being Creative

- experiment with ideas and questions
- make new connections between ideas or information
- learn from and value other people's ideas.

ACTIVITY 1: WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

USE RESOURCE 1: WHAT QUALITIES WOULD IT TAKE TO BECOME A SPORTS STAR? AND RESOURCE 2: WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO BE A PROFESSIONAL SPORTSPERSON?

- Show slide 2. Discuss with the class what qualities it would take to become a sports star, for example determination, skill, perseverance, hard work, being a team player.
- Ask the children to complete **Resource 1**.
- Show slide 3. Introduce AP McCoy as a sporting great. Ask the children if they know what sport he was involved in.
- Show slide 4 – some words and phrases associated with AP McCoy. Discuss as a class – why have these words/ phrases been used? Discuss what it takes to make it to the top of your sport.
- Show slide 4 and discuss the sacrifices someone would have to make to become a sporting star. Would it be easy? What would the challenges be? What would be the highs? the lows? Ask the children to complete **Resource 2**.

ACTIVITY 2: DAME MARY PETERS

USE RESOURCE 3: DAME MARY PETERS

- Show slide 5. Using **Resource 3**, ask the children to read the passage on Mary Peters and complete the questions.
- When they have completed the task, discuss what they have learned about Mary Peters.
- As a class discuss how she and her coach would have felt at the 1972 Olympics in Munich. Ask the children to imagine these scenarios – before the pentathlon event, after the event waiting for the results, receiving the gold medal.

Prompts: use these words to assist/ prompt children if needed. They could be displayed on a whiteboard.

Focused, proud, emotional, tense, positive, confident, edgy, driven, prepared, honoured, happy, tearful, glad, apprehensive, controlled, powerful, nervous, encouraged, rewarded, concentrating, grateful, appreciative.

Extend this activity with a hot seating task. Ask the children to form groups with one group member pretending to be Mary Peters. Encourage the other children in the group to ask her relevant questions about her successes.

ACTIVITY 3: OUR SPORTING HEROES AND HEROINES

USE RESOURCE 4: FACT FILES

- Show slide 6. Can the children name any famous Northern Irish sportspeople?
- Discuss which sports are popular in Northern Ireland and the many sportspeople in Northern Ireland who have achieved worldwide recognition.
- Show slide 7 displaying eight of our sporting heroes and heroines. Discuss with the children which sport they play and complete table as a class or ask children to complete the table below in their jotter or on spare paper:

SPORTSPERSON	SPORT
Rory McIlroy	
Joey Dunlop	
Carl Frampton	
Bethany Firth	
Rory Best	
George Best	
Eddie Irvine	
Marissa Callaghan	

- **Resource 4** has eight fact files about our sporting heroes and heroines (slide 7) from Northern Ireland. Read through these with the class and discuss or ask the children to choose one to read and then tell the class the facts they have learned about the sporting hero or heroine.

ACTIVITY 4: PROJECT

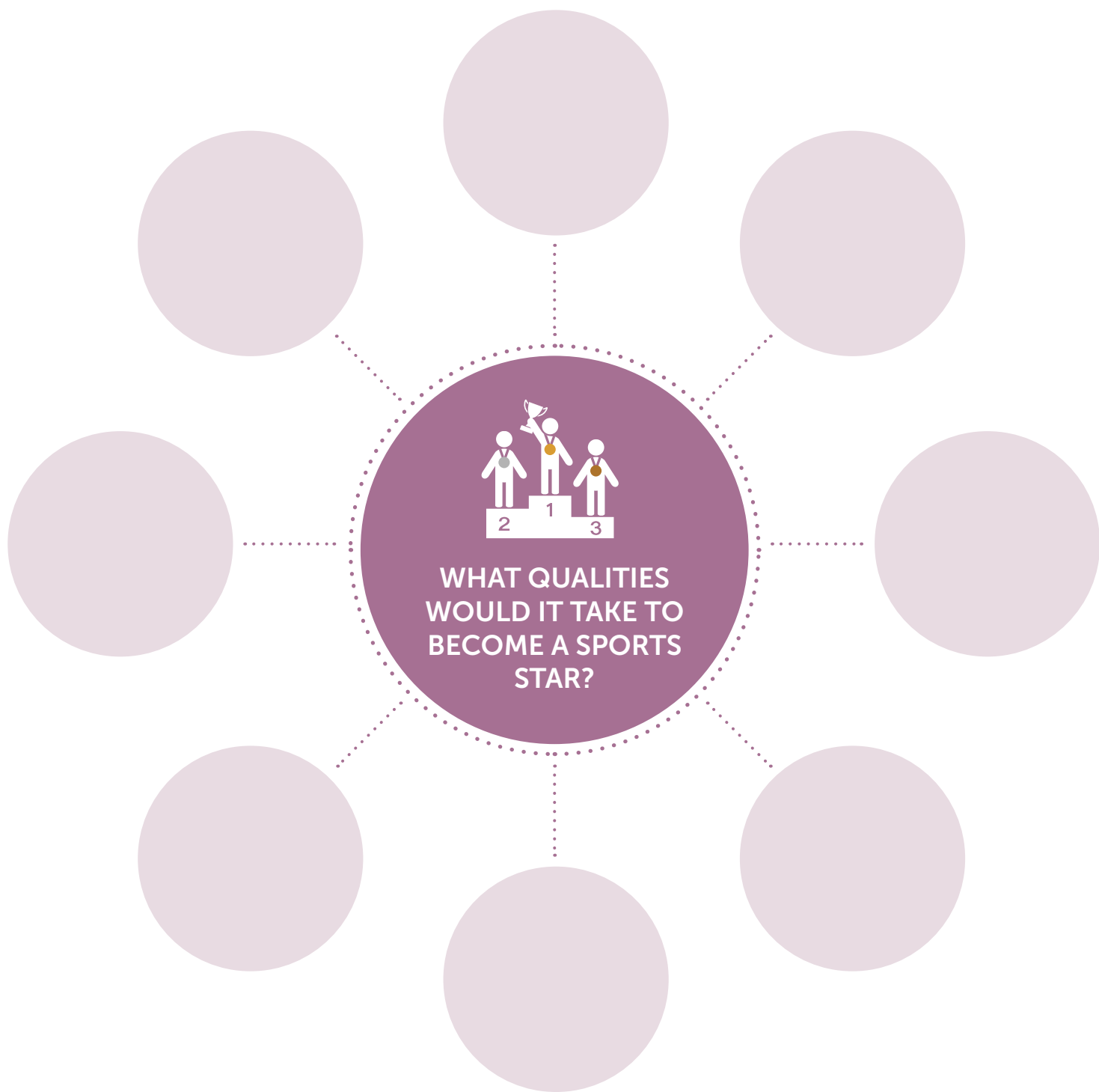
- Show slide 8. Invite the children to create their own project on their favourite Northern Ireland sporting star.

This should include:


- a biography (some details about their life);
- their sporting achievements; and
- photos.

Alternatively, the children could write a newspaper article about their hero or heroine. They could write it as if it's the day after their chosen sportsperson accomplished their greatest achievement.

RESOURCE 1: WHAT QUALITIES WOULD IT TAKE TO BECOME A SPORTS STAR?



RESOURCE 2:
WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO BE A PROFESSIONAL SPORTSPERSON?

THE HIGHS	THE LOWS
	

RESOURCE 3: DAME MARY PETERS

Read the passage on Mary Peters and complete the questions.



Dame Mary Elizabeth Peters, CH, DBE was born on 6 July, 1939 in Lancashire, England, but she moved to Ballymena when she was eleven. Mary is famous for competing in the pentathlon and shot put.

In the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Peters won the gold medal competing for Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the women's pentathlon. She had finished fourth in 1964 and ninth in 1968. To win the gold medal, she narrowly beat the local favourite, West Germany's Heide Rosendahl, by 10 points, setting a world record.

Mary Peters is still honoured in Northern Ireland with an athletics track named after her and a charity in her name. The Mary Peters Trust was established to create an on-going and meaningful commemoration of her Gold Medal win in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games. It is Northern Ireland's leading sporting charity, helping disabled and able-bodied young people to achieve their sporting dreams and ambitions.

1. What is Mary Peters famous for?

2. How many events are in a pentathlon?

3. What are the events in a pentathlon?

4. What age was she when she won Olympic gold?

5. What was so special about her winning the event in Munich?

RESOURCE 4: FACT FILES**Rory McIlroy**

Rory McIlroy was born on 4 May 1989 in Holywood, Northern Ireland. He is a professional golfer.

Rory was an amateur golfer until 2007, when at the age of 17 he became professional. He soon became very popular on the golfing scene.

He has won four major championships: the US Open in 2011; the USPGA championships in 2012 and 2014; and the Open Championships in 2014.

In 2011, Rory became the youngest golfer to earn €10 million on the European Tour at the age of just 22. In 2012, he was the youngest golfer to reach \$10 million on the PGA Tour.

Rory has been awarded RTÉ Sports Person of the Year twice (in 2011 and 2014). He has also represented Europe, Great Britain and Ireland, and Ireland as an amateur and a professional.

**Joey Dunlop**

Joey Dunlop was born on 25 February 1952 in County Antrim, Northern Ireland. He was a world champion motorcyclist. He achieved three hat-tricks at the Isle of Man TT motorcycle championships (1985, 1988 and 2000). He also won the Ulster Grand Prix 24 times.

Joey was a shy man, who was loved by fans. He was also greatly involved in supporting orphanages in Romania. Joey was awarded an MBE for his services to sport in 1986 and an OBE in 1996 for his humanitarian work in Romanian orphanages. Joey could always be recognised as he wore a yellow helmet and red t-shirt.

Joey Dunlop died while racing in Estonia in 2000. A memorial statue was built in his hometown, Ballymoney, of him on the Isle of Man circuit, and the most successful racer of the annual TT races is presented with the Joey Dunlop Cup.

PHOTO TO
COME

Carl Frampton

Carl Frampton, MBE, is a professional boxer who was born on 21 February, 1987. He had a successful amateur career before turning professional in 2009.

Carl competed in two weight classes: featherweight and super-bantamweight.

He retired from boxing on 3 April 2021 after being stopped by Jamel Herring in the sixth round of the super-featherweight world title contest in Dubai.



Bethany Firth

Bethany Firth, born 14 February 1996, in Seaforde, County Down is a Northern Irish swimmer who first competed at the London 2012 Games representing Ireland. Since then, she has competed for Great Britain in the S14 disability swimming classification.

Bethany is a champion and record setter. At the 2015 British Para-Swimming International Meet in Glasgow, she set new world records in the 200m individual medley, 100m backstroke and 100m breaststroke. In 2016 she won her first European titles and at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games she won three gold medals and was Great Britain's most decorated athlete from the Paralympics.



Rory Best

Rory Best was born on 15 August 1982 in County Armagh. He played rugby union professionally for Ireland and Ulster and is registered with Banbridge Rugby Club.

Rory gained his first Ulster contract in 2004. He took over the captaincy of Ulster in 2007. He played the position of hooker on the rugby pitch.

Rory Best made his international debut in 2005 as a replacement on the Ireland team before becoming a more permanent member of the team from 2006.

Rory was named as the captain of the Ireland team for the 2016 Six Nations Championship. In November 2016, Best earned 124 caps for Ireland, making his debut in 2005 and retiring at the end of the 2019 Rugby World Cup, his fourth World Cup.



George Best

George Best was born on 22 May 1946 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He was a professional footballer, who played as a winger for Manchester United and Northern Ireland.



The Northern Irish Football Association described him as 'the greatest player to ever pull on the green shirt of Northern Ireland'.

In 1968, George Best was named European Footballer of the Year and the FWA Footballer of the Year. Best quickly became a celebrity footballer due to his talent on the pitch. However, along with this fame came the celebrity lifestyle that would cause his downfall. He became an alcoholic which resulted in his death in 2005. As a memorial to the famous footballer the Belfast City Airport was renamed George Best Belfast City Airport, on what would have been his 60th birthday.

Eddie Irvine

Eddie Irvine first raced in Formula 1 in 1993 with the Jordan team. He then moved to Ferrari in 1996.



His most successful season was when he came runner up in the 1999 Formula 1 World Championship. Eddie then moved to Jaguar in 2000 before his retirement in 2002.

Marissa Callaghan

Marissa Callaghan, born 1985 in Belfast is a Northern Irish women's football player and captain of the Northern Ireland women's football team. She started playing football at the age of 5. She made her debut for Northern Ireland in 2010 and in 2016 was awarded the Northern Ireland's Women's Football Association Women's Personality of the year award.



The Northern Ireland team made history on 13 April 2021 with a 2–0 victory against Ukraine at Belfast's Seaview stadium, qualifying for the Women's European Championships in 2022. Marissa and fellow player Nadene Caldwell scored. The team has become an inspiration for women and girls throughout Northern Ireland.

RESOURCE 5: OUR SPORTING STAR PRESENTATION

Screenshot of powerpoint here and link to PP on website

CREDITS

Page 7:

Dame Mary Peters

Copyright: PA Images/Alamy Stock Photo

Page 8:

Rory McIlroy

Copyright: REUTERS/Alamy Stock Photo

Joey Dunlop ???

Page 9:

Carl Frampton

Copyright: PA Images/Alamy Stock Photo

Bethany Firth

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Rory Best

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Page 10:

George Best

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Eddie Irvine

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Marissa Callaghan

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