

SOCCER STAR



MESSI IN MIAMI

Soccer superstar Lionel Messi’s latest move has given the sport a boost in the U.S.

LEXILE: 1060L (890L alternate reading level)

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.1, RI.3, RI.5, RI.6, RI.7, W.2

ENGAGE THE READER

Ask students to raise a hand if they play or watch soccer. Invite volunteers to share what they know with the class. Ask students if they can name any soccer players. Did anyone name Lionel Messi? Show students the hero image of the “Messi in Miami” article. Have them share what they know about Messi before reading.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- What impact has Lionel Messi had on U.S. soccer?
- For what reasons might he have chosen to play for Inter Miami?
- How do you think the sport will change in the U.S.? Do you think this is a direct result of Messi’s move to Inter Miami?
- What is the tone of this article? How did the author accomplish this?

EXTEND LEARNING

Reread the second paragraph of the text and discuss why students think the author began the article in this way. Tell students that they’ll be taking on the role of a sports journalist. Invite them to research basic soccer terms and rules, to get a firm grasp on the sport. Have students ask questions about anything they’re confused by, and invite more-knowledgeable peers to respond. For the sports journalist activity, you may wish to partner students so that each pair has a student with a solid understanding of soccer. Then have students go to ti.me/MLSvideos and watch a few highlight videos. Have them choose one to study. Instruct them to write about the highlight using as much description as they can. To extend the activity, they can write about one of the players in the highlight, using the article “Messi in Miami” as a model.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 3 of this guide.

To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

1. A (RI.3) 2. D (RI.1) 3. C (RI.6) 4. B (RI.1) 5. B (RI.2)

6. D (RI.5) 7. Answers will vary. (W.2)

GETTING STARTED WITH MEDIA LITERACY

We partnered with the News Literacy Project to create a five-lesson unit on media literacy. Introduce the topic to students and look out for teasers in the coming weeks.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What is media literacy?
- What differentiates news from other types of information?

INTRODUCTION

Start by showing students the video from the News Literacy Project's TikTok at [ti.me/NLPtok](https://www.tiktok.com/@newsliteracyproject/video/6888888888888888888). You can have them take notes, as they're watching, about the tips and vocabulary that come up in the video, or you can have them use our viewing guide, at [ti.me/tiktokguide](https://www.tiktok.com/@newsliteracyproject/video/6888888888888888888). You might wish to go through the video a few times, so students can take notes. Bring them together to discuss what they've learned and what they hope to learn more about.

SMALL-GROUP ACTIVITY

Group students and have them read the news article "A Volcano Erupts." Is this news? Have them use the vocabulary from the video to discuss. Then ask them to come up with a definition of *media literacy* and to explain why it's important. Bring the class back together to share students' definitions and assessments of the article. Then can check out the five-lesson unit plan at [ti.me/MediaLitUnit](https://www.tiktok.com/@newsliteracyproject/video/6888888888888888888) to help you prepare for the lessons coming in the next several weeks.



GIRL POWER

Melinda French Gates discusses her work helping women and girls, and how kids can aspire to a career aiding others.

LEXILE: 1040L (840L alternate reading level)

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.1, RI.9, SL.1, W.1

BEFORE READING

Tell students they'll be learning about a new category of careers and will try to figure out what it is. Go around the room and have them name a career. Say "yes" or "no," depending on if the job is in the public service sector (e.g., teacher, police, governor). Write all yeses on the board. See if the class can identify what the jobs have in common.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Whom does Melinda French Gates primarily serve with her work?
- Why is French Gates passionate about helping girls and women?

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Have students go to [ti.me/service](https://www.tiktok.com/@newsliteracyproject/video/6888888888888888888) to read about more people in the public service industry. Whom do these people serve? After reading, ask students to come up with a definition of public service. What are some prominent qualities of people in this industry? Close the lesson with having students journal about whether public service is something that interests them as a potential career path. If so, which jobs specifically? If not, explain.

Name _____ Date _____

Use this week’s cover story, “Messi in Miami,” to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, use the back of this page.

<p>1. Which event happened first?</p> <p>A. Lionel Messi led Argentina to a World Cup win.</p> <p>B. Messi made his Major League Soccer (MLS) debut.</p> <p>C. Messi was awarded a game-winning free kick.</p> <p>D. Messi was signed by Saudi Arabia.</p>	<p>4. Which detail about U.S. soccer is true?</p> <p>A. U.S. audiences do not care about Messi.</p> <p>B. The U.S. is a host of the 2026 World Cup.</p> <p>C. Soccer is the most profitable sport in the U.S.</p> <p>D. U.S. soccer has the greatest pool of players in the world.</p>
<p>2. What did Messi do before deciding to join the Inter Miami team?</p> <p>A. He helped Paris Saint-Germain win the World Cup.</p> <p>B. He returned to the Barcelona team.</p> <p>C. He took a break from the game.</p> <p>D. He analyzed his options with his family.</p>	<p>5. What might be another headline for this article?</p> <p>A. “Messi’s Final Match”</p> <p>B. “The Messi Effect”</p> <p>C. “World Cup Winner”</p> <p>D. “Playoff Season”</p>
<p>3. Which person quoted in the text believes that Messi will inspire a new generation of American soccer players?</p> <p>A. Lionel Messi</p> <p>B. David Beckham</p> <p>C. Dan Hunt</p> <p>D. Sean Gregory</p>	<p>6. What new information is added by the sidebar, “Soccer Nation”?</p> <p>A. Attendance at Inter Miami’s home games jumped 40% after Messi arrived.</p> <p>B. Messi scored a game-winning goal in his U.S. soccer debut.</p> <p>C. Messi gave U.S. soccer a big boost.</p> <p>D. The U.S. is the world’s most profitable sports market.</p>

7. Use the details in the text to write a summary of Messi’s soccer career.
