



Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

5 Jewish Sports Legends

Step 1: Lesson Goals

Goals:

Affective – Students will appreciate that there have been many great professional Jewish athletes.

Behavioral – Students will be able to identify talented Jewish athletes and how they demonstrate their Judaism.

Cognitive – Students will understand that sometimes there are conflicts between obligations for religious observance and sports.

Essential Questions/Big Ideas:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How do Jewish athletes choose to display their Jewish identities?2. Do Jews have expectations from Jewish professional athletes that are above and beyond simply competing at a high level? | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Despite stereotypes of being unathletic, there have been some extremely talented Jewish athletes.2. Many Jewish athletes demonstrate both great skill in their sports and a high level of Jewish ethics and morals.3. Sometimes Jewish athletes have to find a balance between religious observance and competing in sports. |
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Step 2: Learning Plan

Hook/Trigger: (9 minutes)

Ask students who they think is the greatest Jewish athlete of all time and why. After taking answers, tell students that today they will learn about five Jewish athletes and what made them special both on and off the field of play.

Watch the [video](#).

Learning Activity: (25 minutes)

1. Discussion (7 minutes)

Jewish athletes

- Do you think there is a difference between a “Jewish athlete” and an athlete who happens to be a Jew? Explain your answer.
- Do you think you expect more from Jewish athletes in comparison to non-Jewish athletes? What about the Jewish population as a whole? Is this fair toward the athletes to expect more from them just because they are Jewish? Explain your answers.

2. Learning Activity (18 minutes)

Designing a Jewish uniform

In recent years, many Major League Baseball teams have unveiled special [City Connect](#) uniforms that “feature different colors, fonts and graphics than a team’s home and away uniforms, and seek to celebrate each city’s history and culture.”

Using the City Connect technique, ask students to create a Jewish uniform for a sport of their choice. The uniform can be for Team Israel, a Jewish All-Star team, or a fictional team with a Jewish theme. Have students present their uniforms to the class and explain how their designs celebrate Jewish history and culture.

Reflection: (7 minutes)

If I were a star athlete...

If you were a star athlete...

- Would you choose to publicly demonstrate your Jewish identity? Why or why not? If so, how?
- How would your level of Jewish observance impact your ability to play or compete, if at all?
- How would your upbringing and Jewish values affect the way you compete?

Step 3: Assessment

Checking for Understanding: (4 minutes)

After school, you tell your friend that you got to talk about sports and learn about Jewish athletes for an entire class. Your friend asks you, “Are there any successful Jewish athletes? Do they actually do Jewish things or do they just happen to be Jews?” How would you respond to your friend’s questions?