

NEWS BREAK

Article: **Pickle-Up Games**

Section: **Pacific NW, 3**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, March 24, 2024** of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

****Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.***

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will take a deep dive into the popular sport of pickleball and the beauty of its inclusiveness among all ages. They will learn the history of how and when the sport was created and how it became a social and physical lifeline during COVID-19. Students will discuss other places they've built connection and community with others.

Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about, using these pictures?
- Are there any clues? What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

The Green Lake pickleball scene began to **coalesce** just before COVID-19, and because the courts are outdoors, became a social lifeline for many during the next two years.

Coalesce Guess:

Coalesce Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. According to the article, what is the biggest advantage of playing pickleball at Green Lake?
2. What is the usual way players find others to play with at Green Lake?
3. How did the COVID-19 pandemic affect the Green Lake pickleball scene?
4. Where are the pickleball courts located at Green Lake Park?
5. What is the origin of the name "pickleball"?
6. How is pickleball similar to table tennis according to the article?
7. What does Peter Seitel do for the Green Lake pickleball community?
8. According to the unofficial survey, what is the average age of a Green Lake pickleball player?
9. What is the main difference between playing pickleball at Green Lake and attending networking events, as described in the article?
10. What is the best time for a beginner to show up and play pickleball at Green Lake?

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:

Class Discussion Questions:

- What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?
- At first, I thought _____, but now I think _____?
- What things did you already know from prior experience?
- Have you tried pickleball? Have other members of your family? Why do you think it's gotten so popular among all ages? What makes this game so inclusive and different (welcoming to newcomers, etc.)?
- Have you ever participated in a pickup game or other activity where you didn't know the people beforehand? How did it go?
- Where are places that you've found both connection and community?
- What are some of the benefits of playing sports or participating in physical activities beyond just exercise?
- How can we create a more welcoming and inclusive environment in our own classrooms and school communities?

Diving Deeper-Journal Prompts/Essay Questions:

1. Social media can be a great tool for connection, but it can also be superficial. How can we use technology to build authentic communities that go beyond online interactions?
2. Seattle is known for its "social freeze" reputation. What are the factors that contribute to this stereotype. Do you think the pickleball scene at Green Lake challenges this perception? Why or why not?

3. The Green Lake pickleball scene is described as "ageless" with a surprisingly younger demographic. What is the importance of intergenerational activities and how they can benefit people of all ages?

News Break is posted to the Web on Tuesday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register online](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.
Copyright © 2024 The Seattle Times Company