

# **MARCH MADNESS** **SYLLABUS CHALLENGE**

## **Music on the Road to the Final Four®**

### **INTRODUCING THE ROAD TO THE FINAL FOUR**

**LESSON 1:** videos, trivia and discussions about what March Madness is and terms to know during the tournament..

**1**

### **ALL ABOUT THE BRACKET**

**LESSON 2:** About the March Madness bracket and inside look at Cinderella Stories and other aspects to the tournament that are beneficial in real life.

**2**

### **WINNING AND LOSING LIKE A PRO**

**LESSON 3:** Explore best practices in winning and losing. What does it really mean to be a “good sport” and how it helps in school, life and careers...

**3**

### **DEEPER DIVE INTO THE FOUR REGIONS**

**LESSON 10:** A look at the four regions through a social sciences lens on the map of the US: South, West, East, and Midwest?

**4**

### **VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP TO THE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MUSEUM**

**LESSON 11:** Students will explore the diverse musical traditions of the four March Madness regions and learn about different musical instruments, genres, and the cultural contexts in which they developed.

**5**

### **CHALLENGE SUBMISSION & CELEBRATION**

Students/classes will submit their “Regional Music Project” by Friday, April 5, 2024. (Be creative with your submissions).

Join the virtual celebration on Monday, April 8, 2024 and find out who the challenge winners are!

Best Regional Music Submission wins a trophy, \$50 Pizza Hut Gift Card and bragging rights!

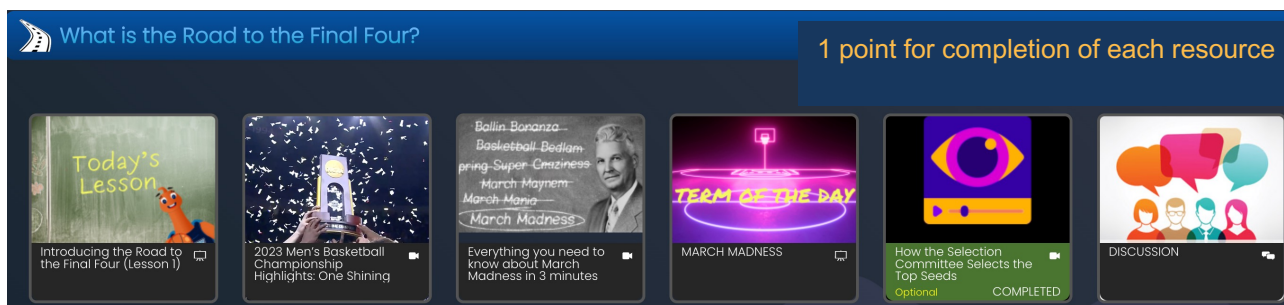
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# LESSON 1

## Introducing the Road to the Final Four®

*Learning Path: ALL*

Students will be introduced to the concept of the NCAA March Madness tournament, focusing on the journey teams undertake to reach the Final Four®. Through engaging videos, including highlights from the previous year's championship and an introduction by Mascot Syl, students will gain an understanding of the excitement and competitive spirit of the tournament.



**LESSON & VIDEOS (5 minutes each):** To be completed on the challenge platform

### VIDEO VIEWING:

- Play the "Mascot Syl Outlines Week 1" video to provide an overview of the first week of the March Madness Syllabus Challenge, highlighting key points and what students can expect.
- Follow with the "2023 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship Highlights" video to give students a taste of the intense competition and memorable moments from the previous year's tournament.

### DISCUSSION:

- Introduce your class and share what your class is looking most forward to about the March Madness Syllabus Challenge!

### OPTIONAL CLASS DISCUSSION:

- Briefly explain the NCAA March Madness tournament, emphasizing its significance in college basketball and its role in American sports culture.
- Mention the excitement surrounding the tournament, from the selection process to the crowning of the national champion.

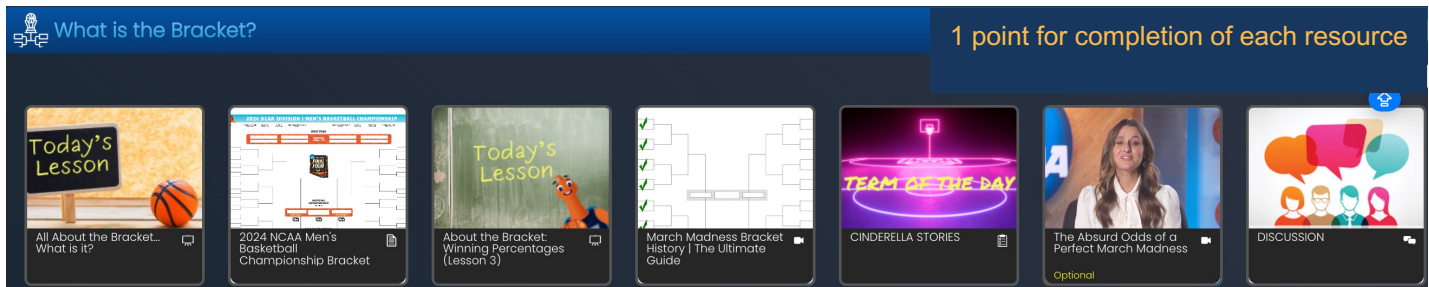
This lesson is designed to be a concise yet engaging introduction to the NCAA March Madness tournament, leveraging multimedia resources to capture students' interest and stimulate discussion. By the end of the lesson, students should have a foundational understanding of the tournament and be excited to learn more throughout the March Madness Syllabus Challenge.

# LESSON 2

## All About the Bracket... What is it?

### *Learning Path: ALL*

Students will gain an understanding of the March Madness tournament bracket, explore the concept of Cinderella Stories within the tournament, and engage in a discussion about the power of belief and determination in overcoming odds.



**LESSON & VIDEOS (5 minutes each):** To be completed on the challenge platform.

- Begin the lesson by introducing the March Madness tournament bracket. Explain that it is a single-elimination tournament held each spring in the United States, featuring 68 college basketball teams from the Division I level of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), to determine the national championship.
- Introduce the concept of "Cinderella Stories" in the context of the tournament, explaining how these are underdog teams that go much further in the tournament than expected.

### **DISCUSSION (5 minutes):**

- Discuss students' responses and insights regarding what can be learned from Cinderella Stories, emphasizing the themes of perseverance, teamwork, and the power of belief.
- Conclude the lesson by summarizing the key points discussed. Emphasize the inspirational aspect of Cinderella Stories, not just in sports but in any challenging situation in life.
- Encourage students to think about how the concepts of belief, determination, and overcoming odds can apply to their own lives and goals.

### **OPTIONAL ASSIGNMENTS (20 minutes):**

- 1. Class Discussion on Henry Ford's Quote (5 minutes):** Present the quote by Henry Ford: "Whether you think you can, or you think you can't, you're right." Facilitate a class discussion on how this quote relates to Cinderella Stories in the March Madness tournament. Encourage students to share their thoughts on the importance of belief and determination.
- 2. Review of the 2023 Bracket (10 minutes):**
  1. Display last year's 2023 Bracket on the projector or smartboard.
  2. Highlight several schools that entered the tournament as Cinderella stories. Discuss how, mathematically, these teams should not have advanced but did.
  3. Ask students to consider what factors could have played a role in these teams' consistency and inconsistency with the math. Discuss aspects such as teamwork, determination, strategy, and perhaps even luck.

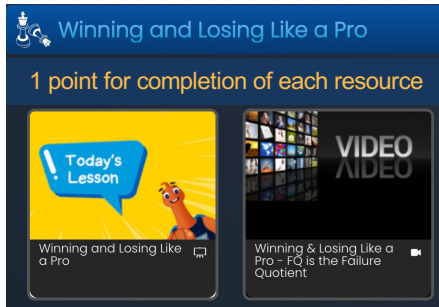
This lesson plan aims to not only educate students about the March Madness tournament bracket and Cinderella Stories but also to inspire them to believe in their own potential to overcome challenges, regardless of the odds.

# LESSON 3

## Winning & Losing Like a Pro

### *Learning Path: ALL*

In this lesson, students will learn the importance of sportsmanship, understanding both how to win and lose gracefully. They will explore the concept of being a "good sport" and the value of learning from both successes and failures.



**LESSON (5 minutes):** Begin the lesson by discussing the excitement of the NCAA March Madness tournament, highlighting the highs of winning and the lows of losing that teams experience. Introduce the concept of sportsmanship, asking students what they think it means to be a "good sport." Discuss the importance of respecting opponents, teammates, and officials in both victory and defeat.

#### **DISCUSSION (15 minutes):**

- Share a personal story of a time when you lost a game or failed a test. Describe how you felt, what you learned from the experience, and how it helped you grow.
- Prompt students to think of their own examples of winning or losing in sports, games, or academic challenges. Ask them to share how they handled the situation and what they learned from it.
- Discuss why it's important to learn from our failures and how setbacks can lead to greater successes in the future.

#### **OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Role-Playing Winning and Losing Scenarios (20 minutes):**

- 1. Divide the class into small groups.** Assign each group a scenario that involves either winning or losing a game or competition.
- 2.Role-Play Preparation:** Give the groups time to prepare a short role-play that demonstrates good sportsmanship in their assigned scenario. Encourage them to include examples of positive behavior, such as shaking hands, offering words of encouragement, and reflecting on what can be learned from the experience.
- 3.Group Presentations:** Have each group present their role-play to the class. After each presentation, facilitate a brief discussion on what the group did well and how they exemplified being a "good sport."
- 4. Reflection and Discussion (10 minutes):**
  - After the role-playing activity, lead a class discussion on the importance of sportsmanship in all areas of life, not just sports. Ask students to reflect on how they can apply the principles of good sportsmanship to their daily interactions with peers, family, and in the classroom.
  - Discuss the concept of "failing forward" - learning and growing from our mistakes. Encourage students to think of a recent challenge and how they can use what they learned from it to improve in the future.
  - Summarize the key points of the lesson, emphasizing the value of sportsmanship, the importance of learning from both wins and losses, and the role of setbacks in personal growth.

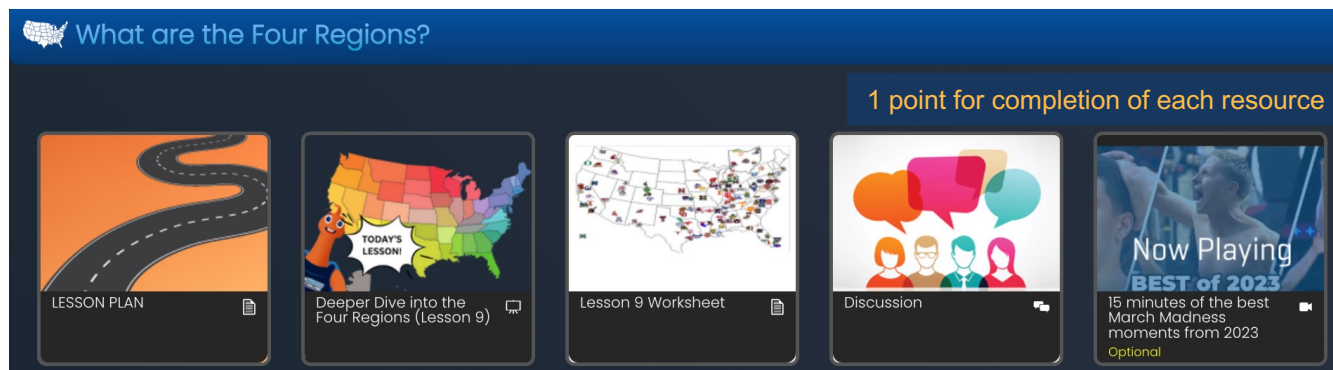
This lesson plan aims to teach students the importance of sportsmanship and the valuable lessons that can be learned from both winning and losing. Through personal reflection, role-playing, and discussion, students will develop a deeper understanding of how to handle victories and setbacks with grace and dignity, preparing them for the challenges and competitions they will face in life.

# LESSON 10

## Deeper Dive into the Four Regions

### *Learning Path: ALL CHALLENGES*

Students will deepen their understanding of the unique characteristics of the four main regions of the United States (South, West, East, and Midwest). They will explore aspects such as geography, history, food, culture, and music, and learn about teamwork and cohesiveness in a group setting.



**LESSON (5 minutes):** To be completed on the challenge platform. Begin the lesson by explaining the concept of "regions" and why the United States is often divided into four main regions: South, West, East, and Midwest. Discuss how each region has its own unique geography, history, food, culture, and music. Introduce the idea of "cohesiveness" in a team, emphasizing the importance of working together to achieve a common goal. Explain how this lesson will not only teach them about the different regions but also help them practice teamwork.

#### **ACTIVITY (15 minutes):**

- Divide the class into four groups, assigning each group one of the four regions: South, West, East, and Midwest.
- Each group will research their assigned region, focusing on its unique geography, history, food, culture, and music. Provide resources such as textbooks, library access, and internet (if available) to assist in their research.
- Encourage groups to divide the work among members, ensuring everyone has a role and contributes to the project.
- Groups will prepare a short presentation on their region, highlighting the most interesting aspects they discovered.
- Allow each group to present their findings to the class. Encourage creativity in their presentations, whether through posters, slideshows, or even a short performance related to their region's music or culture.
- HANDOUT: [Link](#)

**DISCUSSION (5 minutes):** After all groups have presented, lead a class discussion on the most interesting feature of each region, as voted on by the class. Share your own insights and highlight the diversity and richness of the United States' regions. Discuss the teamwork aspect of the assignment. Ask students to reflect on what they learned about working cohesively as a team and how they overcame any challenges.

This lesson plan offers students a comprehensive look at the diverse regions of the United States, encouraging them to explore and appreciate the unique characteristics of each area. By working in groups, students also learn the value of teamwork and cohesiveness, skills that are essential for success in both academic and personal endeavors.

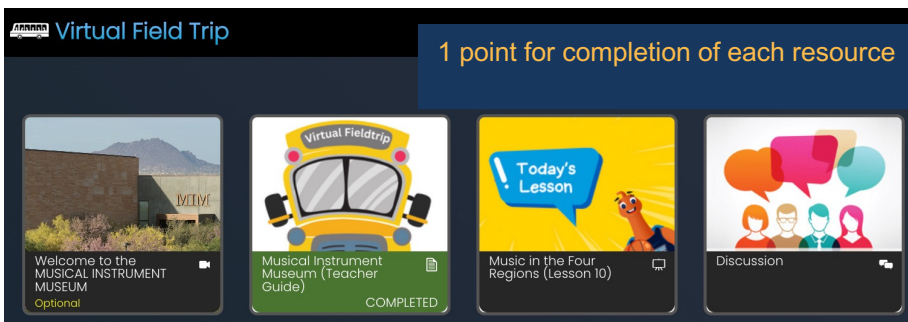


# LESSON 11

## Regional Music & Virtual Fieldtrip to the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix, AZ

### *Learning Path: ALL CHALLENGES*

Every year our Virtual Fieldtrip is in the NCAA Men's Final Four host city. This year, we are excited to visit is the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM)! MIM is the world's most comprehensive global musical instrument museum and a spectacular place to learn about new people, places, and cultures through music.



In addition to engaging with MIM virtually through this challenge, students and educators are invited to check out MIM's many on-site learning opportunities—including live educational concerts and unique STEM programs—and visit the museum on a fun-filled field trip. Free and reduced student admission is available. Watch our Virtual Education Program trailer to learn more.

Students will explore the diverse musical traditions of the four March Madness regions (The West, The South, The East, and The Midwest) through a virtual field trip to the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) in Phoenix, AZ. They will learn about different musical instruments, genres, and the cultural contexts in which they developed.

**INTRODUCTION (5 minutes):** Begin the lesson by discussing the importance of music in various cultures around the world. Explain how music can tell stories, express emotions, and bring people together. Introduce the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) in Phoenix, AZ, as the world's most comprehensive global musical instrument museum. Highlight that this year's NCAA Men's Final Four host city is home to this incredible museum, offering a unique opportunity to learn about music and cultures globally.

**VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP TO MIM: Link for this lesson** - Conduct a virtual field trip to the MIM, focusing on the exhibits related to the four March Madness regions. Use the MIM's online resources to guide the tour, ensuring students get a comprehensive view of the museum's collection. Highlight the unique musical instruments and genres from each region, providing context on their origins and cultural significance.

- **The West | Music in Arizona** - Explore the diverse musical landscape of Arizona, focusing on Native American flutes, mariachi bands, and the influence of border cultures on the music of the West.
- **The South | Cajun and Zydeco Music** - Discuss the origins of Cajun and Zydeco music in Louisiana, highlighting the use of the accordion and washboard in these genres.
- **The East | Appalachian Music and the Banjo** - Explore the roots of Appalachian music, focusing on the banjo's role and its African origins.
- **The Midwest | The Blues** - Introduce the Blues as a genre that originated in the African American communities of the South and became popular in the Midwest, especially Chicago.

Summarize the key learnings from the lesson, emphasizing the diversity of musical traditions across the United States. Encourage students to continue exploring music as a way to understand different cultures and histories. Remind students of the importance of music in expressing and preserving cultural identities..

This lesson offers students a unique opportunity to explore the rich tapestry of American regional by engaging with the musical traditions of the four regions, students gain a deeper understanding of the cultural significance of music and the role it plays in expressing and preserving our diverse heritage.