GIANNIS ANTETOKOUNMPO
LESSON PLAN

1. TOPIC

Titlu	Lesson plan
Subtitle	**From the Streets of Athens to the Top of the Basketball World**
Grade	Upper Primary – Lower Secondary School
Duration	1 or 2 teaching periods
Subject	Physical education, English, Skills Workshops / Cross-curricular approach: History – Sport – English – Social Education

Subsections

- **Migration, Identity, and Belonging**

(the experience of growing up in Greece as a child of Nigerian immigrants and the difficulties of belonging and recognition)

- **The Power of Sport: Opportunity, Talent, and Hard Work**

(*how basketball opened a new path for Giannis, while talent, discipline and consistent effort helped him develop his potential)*

- **Success, Family, and Giving Back**

(how Giannis remained connected to his family and values and chose to use his success to support others)

2. OBJECTIVES

Cognitive	Emotional	Social
Students will be able to: • learn about Giannis Antetokounmpo's life and journey from Athens to the NBA • understand some of the challenges experienced by children of immigrant families	• recognize and express emotions connected with migration, belonging and difficult life experiences • develop empathy towards people who experience exclusion or uncertainty	• develop cooperation through group activities • discuss inclusion, identity and belonging • recognize the value of diversity
• explore the concepts of identity, belonging and opportunity • understand how sport can create opportunities for people from different social and economic backgrounds • identify the importance of talent, hard work, discipline and consistency in achieving a goal	• understand the importance of hope, perseverance, family and belonging • reflect on the emotional meaning of achieving a long-term dream	• understand how sport can bring people together • discuss the importance of using success to support others

3. SKILLS

- creativity
- storytelling
- communication
- dramatization
- critical thinking
- empathy
- expressing emotions and opinions
- character comparison

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4. TEACHING ORGANIZATION

METHODS

- cooperative learning
- inquiry-based learning
- experiential learning
- creative expression: diary, interviews, role play, crafts
- discussion and reflection
- storytelling

5. LESSON STRUCTURE

TOPIC: Who is Giannis Antetokounmpo?

The teacher introduces the lesson with a simple question: “What makes someone feel that they belong to a country?”

Starting point

“Where do we belong?”

Answers (examples)

where we are born, where we grow up, our family, our language, our friends, our school, our culture, our citizenship

Teachers input

- **Can someone feel that they belong to a country even if their parents were born somewhere else?**
- **What happens when a child grows up in a country but does not feel fully accepted or recognized there?**

The teacher introduces the idea that **belonging and identity are not always simple**, especially for children growing up in immigrant families.

CONNECTION TO GIANNIS

- **The teacher can use the story of G. Antetokoumpo from the platform in order to inform the students about his life.**

Discussion with students – Exploring their knowledge - 3 minutes

- Who is Giannis Antetokounmpo?
- Where did he grow up?
- What do you know about his childhood?

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Key words: dream – family – basketball – hard work – talent – success

Discussion with students – Exploring their knowledge - 3 minutes

- Do you think talent is enough to become successful?
- Can sport give people opportunities that they might not have in other areas of life?
- Can someone come from a difficult financial or social background and still reach the highest level in sport?
- Does sport give everyone the same chance to succeed, or does success also depend on hard work, support and opportunities?

6. ACTIVITIES

1. “What do you know – What do you wonder?” 3-5 min.

Students work individually or in pairs. They complete three sections:
What I know **What I think** **What I want to know**
What do I already know about Giannis?
What do I think his childhood was like?
What would I like to discover about his life?

2.What does belonging mean?

Students work in small groups. Aim: To introduce the concepts of migration, identity, inclusion and belonging before students explore Giannis's story in greater depth. Each group receives the following words:
HOME – FAMILY – COUNTRY – LANGUAGE – CULTURE – FRIENDS – CITIZENSHIP – SCHOOL – SPORT
They choose four words they think are most important for making someone feel that they belong. Groups explain their choices.

- *Can someone belong to more than one culture?*
- *Can someone feel at home in a country where their parents were not born? Is belonging only about citizenship?*
- *Can a school or sports team help someone feel that they belong?*

3.“Giannis's Story – What I See, What I Feel, What I Think”

The teacher presents the beginning of Giannis's story.
Students focus on:

- his childhood in Athens
- the financial difficulties his family experienced
- the fact that he did not have Greek citizenship as a child
- the feeling of uncertainty and invisibility
- the role of his family
- his first contact with basketball

Students work individually or in pairs and complete a simple three-column worksheet (see more in the next tabel).
Final discussion: Where did Giannis grow up? What role did his family play in his life? What changed when Giannis discovered basketball? How might Giannis have felt growing up in these circumstances? etc.

What I see	What I feel	What I think
A child growing up in Athens with his family	…	…
A family facing financial difficulties	…	…
A child growing up in a family of immigrants	…	…
A young boy who does not have Greek citizenship	…	…
A boy discovering basketball	…	…

Aim:

To help students connect **facts, emotions and personal interpretation** while developing empathy for Giannis's experience of **migration, belonging and difficult childhood circumstances**.

Key idea:

Giannis's story begins not with fame or success, but with a family trying to build a better life in Greece. Basketball gradually became an opportunity through which he could develop his talent and imagine a different future.

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4.“The Power of Sport – Is talent enough?”

What if…

The teacher introduces the idea that basketball gave Giannis an opportunity to imagine a different future. He or she can use a Bing video. Students work in small groups. Each group receives the following words and arrange the words in the order they consider most important for becoming successful in sport. There is no single correct answer. Each group explains.

TALENT – OPPORTUNITY – HARD WORK – DISCIPLINE – CONSISTENCY – SUPPORT – PATIENCE – DREAM

Discussion: Is talent enough? Can a talented athlete succeed without working hard? What does it mean to be consistent? Why is discipline important? Why can support from family and coaches matter?

Connection with Giannis

Using the list behind they can write a diary describing a period of Giannis’ life as if they are Giannis….

Quality	Giannis's story
Talent	Coaches noticed his potential.
Opportunity	Basketball opened a new path for him.
Hard work	He trained relentlessly.
Discipline	He remained focused on improving.
Consistency	He continued developing year after year.
Support	His family believed in him.
Perseverance	He continued despite difficulties.
Dream	He gradually turned the NBA dream into reality.

“Talent may open the door. Hard work, discipline and consistency help you move through it.”

Aim

To help students understand that **sport can create opportunities, but success at the highest level requires much more than natural ability.**

5.“From Athens to the NBA”

The teacher continues the story

Students discover how Giannis developed as a basketball player, how coaches noticed his talent and work ethic, and how his dream of playing in the NBA gradually became possible.

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2013 – NBA Draft

Giannis was selected by the **Milwaukee Bucks**. The students may watch some minutes of a game with Giannis in NBA.
The teacher asks:

- How did Giannis's life change?
- Where did he go?
- What difficulties did he face in America?
- What did he do when he faced new challenges?
- How did he continue to improve?

Key Ideea

Reaching the NBA was not the end of the journey. It was the beginning of a new challenge.

Creative idea:

Students may create a collage with photos of Giannis'life or make a mindmap… use the example below for these ideas:

GIANNIS

Possible connections:

Migration
↓
Identity & Belonging
↓
Family
↓
Dream
↓
Opportunity through Sport
↓
Talent
↓
Hard Work
↓
Discipline & Consistency
↓
Success
↓
Giving Back

7. FINAL DISCUSSION

“What can we learn from Giannis?”

The teacher asks:

- What is the most important lesson from Giannis's story?
- Which part of his journey impressed you most?
- What difficulties did he face as a child of immigrants?
- How did basketball change the possibilities available to him?
- Was talent enough?
- What role did hard work and consistency play?
- Why was family important?
- What does Giannis's story teach us about belonging?
- What does it teach us about dreams and opportunities?
- Success – What does it really mean?
- Is success only about trophies?
- What other things can make a person successful?
- Why does he emphasize being a good person as well as a great athlete?
- Why might someone who experienced difficulties as a child want to help others?
- Why is giving back important?

YOUTUBE - link

Bing: **The Giannis Antetokounmpo Story (2) - Gazzetta.gr**