

Soccer

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do you play or have you ever played soccer?
2. Do you know how many players are on a soccer team?
3. Do you know where soccer originated?
4. Do you know what a soccer ball is made of?
5. What is the most popular sport in your country?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can. Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| ___ 1. professional | a) whole |
| ___ 2. coconut | b) to teach |
| ___ 3. bladder | c) from long ago |
| ___ 4. stuff | d) to disallow |
| ___ 5. rag | e) a piece of cloth |
| ___ 6. entire | f) to fill with something |
| ___ 7. authorities | g) a large, hard-shelled fruit filled with a milky liquid |
| ___ 8. ban | h) a bag of skin in which urine collects in the body |
| ___ 9. create | i) people who come to live in a new country |
| ___ 10. settlers | j) doing something for money as a job |
| ___ 11. train | k) the people who are in control or have the power |
| ___ 12. ancient | l) to make something new |

Quick Facts

- Sport:** Soccer _____
- Also called:** _____
- Playing surface:** _____
- Equipment:** _____

Reading

1. Soccer is a game in which players score a point by getting a ball into the other team's goal. Each team has 11 players, including a goalkeeper. In many parts of the world, soccer is called football.
2. Games that involved kicking a ball have been played for over 3,000 years. **Ancient** Chinese, Greek, and Roman soldiers played them to **train** for war. Religious ceremonies and wedding celebrations often included such a game.
3. Many different types of balls were used. Pacific Islanders kicked **coconuts**, oranges, or pig **bladders**. The ancient Incas and Mayans developed a game that used a rubber ball. Other people played with balls made from animal skins **stuffed** with hair, grass, or **rags**.
4. The modern game of soccer began in Britain. In the Middle Ages, **entire** villages would play against each other. Because there were no rules, games were very violent and might go all day long. **Authorities** tried to **ban** the game, but the common people loved it and refused to stop playing.
5. To make the game less violent, upper-class English schools **created** rules for it in the 1800s. In 1863, the London Football Association was formed and set rules for its member clubs to play by. In 1869, it added the rule that players could not touch the ball with their hands. They could use only their feet or their head to move the ball around the playing field to score a goal. This rule still applies today.
6. Up until the late 1800s, the game had been called football, but it is thought that students named it "soccer" as an abbreviated form of Association. Today, depending on the country, the game is called either soccer or football. School clubs were formed to play against each other.
7. Over the years, British sailors and **settlers** introduced the game to Europe, South and North America, and India. In 1908, soccer became an Olympic sport.
8. Soccer is now the world's most popular game. It is watched by millions and is played by everyone from **professional** players to young children.

"The best decisions aren't made with your mind but with your instinct."

—Lionel Messi

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information in your notebook.

- _____ 1. A soccer team has eleven players plus a goalkeeper.
- _____ 2. Ball games were played at ancient wedding ceremonies.
- _____ 3. Soccer was once a very violent game.
- _____ 4. The modern game of soccer began in China.
- _____ 5. Soccer is an Olympic sport.

B. Ask & Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

- 1. Why did ancient Roman soldiers play ball games?
- 2. What kinds of balls have people used over the years?
- 3. Why did the British authorities in the Middle Ages try to ban the ball game?
- 4. How did the modern game of soccer develop?
- 5. Why was the year 1863 important in the development of soccer?
- 6. What rule was added in 1869?
- 7. Who introduced the game of soccer to North and South America?

Vocabulary Review

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.
You may need to change the word forms.

1. I need a _____ to wash the car.
2. Do you think _____ athletes should compete in the Olympics?
3. The first _____ to Canada were from England and France.
4. You don't need any experience for that job. The company will _____ you.
5. The government decided to _____ smoking in all public buildings.

Discussion

1. Why do you think soccer is the most popular sport in the world?
2. Many soccer fans around the world become very violent during tournaments. Why do you think this happens?
What can the government do to prevent this?
3. What can children learn from playing team sports?
4. Have you ever played a team sport? If so, what sport was it?
How long did you play? What skills did you gain from your experience?

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students read about soccer, also known as “football.” After learning vocabulary and checking comprehension, students discuss why soccer is such a popular sport around the world. They also share their own experiences in team sports.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: soccer, football, sports, athlete, Olympics, summer, history, British, London, middle ages

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Answers will vary.

- In the past, soccer balls were made of leather, but nowadays most soccer balls are made of synthetic, man-made materials such as polyurethane.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. j | 3. h | 5. e | 7. k | 9. l | 11. b |
| 2. g | 4. f | 6. a | 8. d | 10. i | 12. c |

Quick Facts

Also called: football (outside North America)

Playing surface: soccer field

Equipment: ball, goal, cleats

Comprehension

A. TRUE OR FALSE?

- F – A soccer team has eleven players including a goalkeeper.
- T
- T
- F – The modern game of soccer began in Britain.
- T

B. ASK & ANSWER

- Ancient Roman soldiers played ball games to train for war.
- People have used coconuts, oranges, pig bladders, rubber balls, and balls made from animal skins stuffed with hair, grass, or rags.
- The British authorities tried to ban the game because there were no rules and the games were very violent.
- Modern soccer developed from the long, violent ball games played in Britain in the Middle Ages. Eventually, rules were created to make the game less violent.
- In 1863, the London Football Association was formed and rules were set for member clubs to follow.
- In 1869, a rule was added that players could not touch the ball with their hands.
- British sailors and settlers introduced the game of soccer to North and South America.

Vocabulary Review

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|--------|
| 1. rag | 3. settlers | 5. ban |
| 2. professional | 4. train | |

Discussion

Discuss as a class, in groups, or in pairs. Answers will vary.

SPELLING NOTES:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the word *Practice*. Most other English-speaking countries spell it this way: *Practise* (when used as a verb, *Practice* when used as a noun). Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spelling.