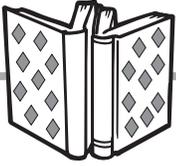


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## Score the Goal!

Perhaps you played soccer today. You played with your friends. Another class formed the other team. You marked goals. You knew where to kick the ball. This is how people played soccer long ago. They did not always have rules. Games had large teams.

People have played soccer for many years. People in other places played early forms of soccer. They played soccer in China. They played in Central America. Greeks played a form of soccer. The Romans also played.

In Central America, players used a rubber ball. They played in a low place in the ground. They kicked the ball into baskets. The baskets were on the sidewalls. A ball went in the basket. It counted as a **goal**. A rubber ball is hard to kick. People from these countries still play soccer well.

In the Middle Ages, whole towns played the game. They did not care how many played on a team. People from the same town made up a team. They used landmarks for goals. They defended their goal. They made balls out of leather skins or pigskin. They stuffed the balls. The teams ran towards the ball. They all tried to kick it. They pushed each other. They wanted to get to the ball. These games got rough. People got hurt.



Ebenezer Cobb Morley formed a club. He talked to leaders from other clubs. They made rules for the game. Cobb called the game “football.”

Some teams did not like the rules. They wanted to carry the ball. They tripped other people. The two groups split. One group played football (in America, this is called soccer). The other group played rugby.

The World Cup is a contest for soccer. It happens every four years. It is important. Some people think it is as great as the Olympics. Half the people on Earth play soccer. It is the most widely played game in the world.



## Score the Goal!

Perhaps you played soccer at recess today. You played with your friends. Another class formed the other team. You marked goals. You knew where to kick the ball. This is how people played soccer long ago. Soccer games did not always have rules. Games had large teams.

People have played soccer for many years. People in other countries played early forms of the game. People played soccer in China. They played in Central and South America. The Greeks and Romans played a form of soccer.

In Central America, players used a rubber ball. They played in a large pit dug below the ground. They tried to kick the ball into baskets. The baskets were strapped along the sidewalls. A ball went into a basket. It counted as a **goal**. A rubber ball is hard to control. People from these countries play soccer well today.

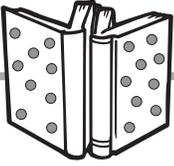
During the Middle Ages, whole towns played the game. They did not care how many people played on a team. Each person on a team was from the same town. They used landmarks for goals and defended their goals. They made balls out of leather skins. Some balls were made of pigskin. The balls were stuffed with almost anything. The two teams ran towards the ball. They all tried to kick it. They pushed each other out of the way to get to the ball. These games got rough, and people got hurt.



Ebenezer Cobb Morley formed a club. He asked leaders from other clubs to meet. They made rules for the game. Morley called the game “football.”

Some teams did not like the rules. They wanted to allow players to carry the ball. They tripped other players. The two groups split. One group played football (in America, this is called soccer). The other group played rugby.

The World Cup is a contest for soccer. It happens every four years. It is very important. Some people think it is as great as the Olympics. Half the people on Earth play soccer. This makes it the most widely played game in the world.



## Score the Goal!

Perhaps you played soccer at recess or P.E. this week. Your friends and classmates formed a team. Kids from another class formed another team. You marked where to kick the ball to score a goal. Soccer played this way is much like soccer long ago. Many games of soccer did not have rules. Sometimes there were large teams.

People have played soccer for many years. Other countries had early forms of the game. People played soccer in China. They played in Central and South America. The Greeks and Romans played a form of soccer.

In Central America, players used a rubber ball. They played in a pit dug below ground level. They tried to kick the ball into baskets. The baskets were strapped along the sidewalls. If the ball went into a basket, it counted as a **goal**. A rubber ball is hard to control. People from these countries play soccer well today.

During the Middle Ages, whole villages would play the game. It didn't matter how many people were on a team. Each person on a team had to be from the same town. They used landmarks for goals and defended their goals. The balls were made out of leather skins. Some balls were made of pigskin. The balls were stuffed with almost anything. The masses of people ran towards the ball. They all tried to kick it. They pushed each other out of the way to get to the ball. These games got violent.



Ebenezer Cobb Morley formed a club. He asked leaders from other clubs to meet. They made official rules for the game. Morley called the game “football.”

Some teams disagreed with the rules. They wanted players to carry the ball. They thought it was okay to trip other players. Finally, the two groups split. One group played football (in America, this is called soccer), and the other group played rugby.

The World Cup soccer tournament occurs every four years. Some people think it is as important as the Olympics. Almost half the people in the world play soccer. This makes it the most widely played game in the world.



## Score the Goal!

**Directions: Darken the best answer choice.**

1. Where did players use a rubber ball?

(A) China

(B) Greece

(C) Rome

(D) Central America

2. A **goal** is

(A) the other team.

(B) when you score points.

(C) the ball you kick.

(D) the person who makes the rules.

3. What happened first?

(A) People from the same town made a team.

(B) People got a leather ball.

(C) People ran towards the ball.

(D) People got hurt.

4. How is soccer today like soccer long ago?

(A) Players use a rubber ball.

(B) Games have two teams.

(C) We use a basket for a goal.

(D) Players carry the ball.

5. The World Cup is a contest to see

(A) which team has the most players.

(B) which team brings the biggest cup.

(C) which team plays the best.

(D) which team has the best rules.

6. Where are the goals in soccer today?

(A) in a hole in the field

(B) in the middle of the field

(C) on the sides of the field

(D) at each end of the field