



Soccer

SOCCER

PRE-READING 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?





Soccer

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.

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.

Many different types of balls were used. Pacific Islanders kicked coconuts, oranges, or pig's bladders. The ancient Incas and Mayans developed a game that used a rubber ball. Other peoples played with balls made from animal skins, stuffed with hair, grass, or rags.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

A. True or False. Read the statements below. If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence. If it is false, write F. If it is false, correct the information.

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. _____
3. The modern game of soccer began in China. _____
4. Soccer is an Olympic sport. _____

B. Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in complete sentences.

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
A. Match the words on the left with the correct meaning on the right.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. score | a) whole |
| _____ 2. goal | b) teach |
| _____ 3. ancient | c) from long ago |
| _____ 4. train | d) make a point in a game |
| _____ 5. coconut | e) a piece of cloth |
| _____ 6. bladder | f) place where the ball is kicked to make a point |
| _____ 7. stuffed | g) a large, hard shelled fruit filled with a milky liquid |
| _____ 8. rag | h) person who tries to stop the ball from entering the goal |
| _____ 9. entire | i) filled |
| _____ 10. goalkeeper | j) bag of skin in which urine collects in the body |

B. Match the words on the left with the correct meaning on the right.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. authorities | a) people who come to live in a new country |
| _____ 2. ban | b) well-liked |
| _____ 3. common | c) not allow; order something not to be done |
| _____ 4. refuse | d) doing something for money as a job |
| _____ 5. create | e) average, ordinary |
| _____ 6. field | f) showing great force |
| _____ 7. settlers | g) say no to a request |
| _____ 8. popular | h) area of land |
| _____ 9. professional | i) the people who are in control or have the power |
| _____ 10. violent | j) make something new |

C. Choose the correct word from the left column in exercise A or B to complete the following sentences.

- I need a _____ to wash the car.
- It has been raining for two days and the _____ is too wet now to play soccer.
- The first _____ to Canada were from England and France.
- You don't need any experience for that job. The company will _____ you.
- The government decided to _____ smoking in all public buildings.

