

Hockey

"Every day is a great day for hockey."

—Mario Lemieux



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do you know how to skate?
2. Do you like to watch hockey games?
3. Is hockey a popular sport in your country?
4. In which country do you think hockey was first played?
5. How old do you think the game of hockey is?

Quick Facts

Sport: Hockey

Originated in: _____

Equipment: _____

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. goal | a) moving up and down |
| _____ 2. score | b) to get better |
| _____ 3. goaltender | c) doing something for money, making a living |
| _____ 4. carver | d) to make a point in a game of sports |
| _____ 5. popular | e) to slip, to move along smoothly |
| _____ 6. curved | f) a point in a game, a place where a ball or puck is placed to make a point |
| _____ 7. bouncing | g) to separate or break into parts |
| _____ 8. improve | h) a person who tries to keep the ball or puck out of the net |
| _____ 9. professional | i) a person who cuts wood or stone to make forms |
| _____ 10. divide | j) not straight |
| _____ 11. slide (past tense: slid) | k) well-liked |

Reading

1. Hockey is a game played on ice. Players wearing skates use a wooden stick to try to hit a hard rubber puck into the other team's net to score a **goal**. Each team has six players on the ice at one time. This includes a **goaltender**, who tries to keep the puck out of his team's net. Games are 60 minutes long and are **divided** into three 20-minute periods.
2. Hockey is a Canadian game. It was first played about 1800 in Windsor, Nova Scotia. Schoolboys there started to play hurley, an Irish stick-ball game, on ice in the winter. Ice skating had been popular in Nova Scotia since the 1700s. The boys wore skates and used wooden sticks to move a hurley ball over the ice to **score** a goal.
3. The game changed over the next 60 years. By the 1860s, Mi'kmaq Indian **carvers** were making **curved** hockey sticks out of a single piece of wood. A round, disk-shaped wooden puck had replaced the hurley ball. The puck **slid** over the ice, which made it easier to control with a stick than a **bouncing** ball. Skates had also **improved** so that players could move faster on the ice.
4. News of the game and how to play it slowly reached people in other parts of Canada. Hockey was played in Quebec by 1875, in Ontario by 1886, and in Winnipeg by 1890. By 1900, men and women across Canada were playing hockey. People in the United States and Europe had also started to play the game.
5. Hockey became very **popular** and teams were formed in many parts of Canada and the United States. In 1893, Lord Stanley, Canada's governor general, announced that the Stanley Cup would be given to the top hockey team each year. Today, **professional** hockey teams still try to win the Stanley Cup.

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.

- _____ 1. There are 20 periods in a hockey game.
- _____ 2. A hockey team has six players plus a goalie on the ice at one time.
- _____ 3. Hockey is played in Canada, the United States, and Europe.
- _____ 4. Hockey is no longer played with a bouncing ball.
- _____ 5. Hockey is only a male sport.

B. Ask and Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

- 1. Briefly describe how the game of hockey is played.
- 2. When and where did hockey originate?
- 3. How is the game of hockey different from the game of hurley?
- 4. Who was Lord Stanley?
- 5. How did Lord Stanley contribute to the game of hockey?
- 6. How long is a hockey game and how many periods are there in a game?
- 7. What is a puck made of?

Vocabulary Review

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.

You may need to change the word forms.

1. He is a _____ hockey player. He makes over a million dollars a year.
2. If you practice speaking every day, your English will _____ quickly.
3. When she _____ on the ice, she fell and broke her leg.
4. He is a famous stone _____.
His work is shown in many big art galleries.
5. Her language course is _____ into two parts.
One class is for conversation and the other is for reading.
6. Celine Dion is a very _____ singer.
Her songs are sold around the world.
7. It is difficult to find a frame for this picture because
the edges are _____ instead of straight.
8. The soccer game was very exciting. The game was tied until the last
minute when the home team scored a _____.

Discussion

1. Do you play or have you ever played
any team sports? If so, which sports?
2. How much money do you think the average
professional hockey player makes per year?
3. The 2004/2005 professional hockey season was
canceled in Canada and United States because
of a fight between players and team owners about
salaries. Do you think that professional athletes
are paid fairly or do you think they are paid
too much?
4. Do you think that there is too
much violence in professional hockey?