

# Soccer

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

—Lionel Messi



## 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?

## Quick Facts

**Sport:** Soccer

**Also called:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Playing surface:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Equipment:** \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Vocabulary Preview

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

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| _____ 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                                  |

## 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.

## 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. 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 and 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. It has been raining for two days and the \_\_\_\_\_ is too wet now to play soccer.
- 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?