

Grade 7 -- Informational

The World's *Second* Most Popular Sport

Here in the United States, baseball, football, and basketball are usually considered the most popular sports. Throughout the rest of the world, soccer is number one. It may be a surprise to read that soccer is the most popular sport on Earth. The game is played on five continents and is the world's largest spectator sport. For example, in 1998 more than two billion people – one third of the world's population at the time – watched the World Cup soccer tournament.

What is the world's *second* most popular sport? Is it a surprise to learn that it is volleyball? An American invented it. Yet the game is more popular outside our country than in it. Only about four million Americans play volleyball more than twenty-five times per year; however, by some estimates, eight hundred million people around the world play in a volleyball game every week.

A YMCA gym teacher William Morgan created volleyball in 1895 in Holyoke, Massachusetts. By most accounts, Morgan wanted to make up an indoor game to help people stay in shape. But he wanted it to be less physically demanding than basketball—another sport invented at about the same time by a different YMCA teacher in Massachusetts. James Naismith, who Morgan happened to know from college, invented basketball in 1891. Morgan may have partly based his game on faustball, an outdoor German game that involves hitting a ball over a string instead of a net.

At first, Morgan called his new game "mintonette." It had elements of baseball, basketball, handball, and tennis. The game used a tennis net, raised off the floor, and a game lasted nine innings, like baseball. Players hit the ball with their hands, as in handball, and they were given two tries to serve it over the net, as in tennis. Teams could have any number of players and pass the ball an unlimited number of times among themselves before hitting it over the net. Since the game involved a lot of volleying, back and forth, it was renamed "volleyball." Shortly thereafter, volleyball acquired a new name and its own set of equipment and regulations: a special ball, net, court size, team size, and rules of play.

Through the YMCA, volleyball soon spread to Canada, Japan, and other countries. The sport got its biggest boost during World War I when it became part of the training program for U.S. troops. Americans brought the game with them to Europe and Africa. Volleyball became especially popular in countries with cold climates, since it was played indoors. In 1947, an international group was formed to oversee rules for volleyball around the world. Today, this group is based in Switzerland.

Volleyball became an Olympic sport in 1964. For years, Japan and Russia had the best teams. In 1984, the U.S. won its first volleyball medals. The women's team won silver and the men's team won gold. U.S. teams won medals again in 1988 and 1992.

Beach volleyball is a popular version of the indoor game. It is played on a sand court. Beach volleyball started as an informal pastime in the 1920s, in California. The prize for the first tournament was a case of soft drinks. Later, beach volleyball tournaments were sometimes combined with beauty pageants. Eventually, beach volleyball grew more serious and organized. The first world championship games were held in 1987. Beach volleyball became an Olympic sport in 1996. The U.S. men's teams won gold and silver medals that year, and gold in 2000. U.S. women's teams won Olympic gold and bronze medals for beach volleyball in 2004.

1) What is the main idea of this article? (LA.7.1.6.d)

- a) the rules for volleyball
- b) the history of volleyball
- c) the equipment needed to play volleyball
- d) the greatest volleyball players in the world

2) Which is a summary of paragraph 2 of the article? (LA.7.1.6.d)

- a) About four million Americans play volleyball regularly. An estimated eight hundred million people around the world play volleyball weekly.
- b) Volleyball is the second most popular sport in the world. Although it was invented by an American, it is more popular abroad than it is in the U.S.
- c) Most readers would be surprised by facts in the article. It is odd how frequently volleyball is played in countries around the world other than the United States.
- d) Statistics are compiled about participation in volleyball games in the U.S. and around the world. The statistics are based on how many times a person plays in a week.

3) Which of these events occurred last? (LA.7.1.6.e)

- a) Volleyball spread to Canada.
- b) Volleyball became an Olympic sport.
- c) The name of the sport changed from "mintonette" to "volleyball."
- d) Soldiers played volleyball as part of their training during in World War I.

4) Which is the most popular sport in the world? (LA.7.1.6.j)

- a) baseball
- b) basketball
- c) soccer
- d) volleyball

5) Which word describes the performance of U.S. volleyball teams in the Olympic Games of 1996, 2000, and 2004? (LA.7.1.6.j)

- a) average
- b) disappointing
- c) dominant
- d) perfect

6) Which word describes the two YMCA instructors named in the article? (LA.7.1.6.j)

- a) creative
- b) demanding
- c) popular
- d) unpredictable

7) As it is used in paragraph 3 of the article, what does the word shape mean? (LA.7.1.5.c)

- a) pattern
- b) conditioning
- c) outline
- d) appearance

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- a) baseball
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13) What is the main idea of this article? (LA.7.1.6.d)

- a) the rules for volleyball
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14) Which is a summary of paragraph 2 of the article? (LA.7.1.6.d)

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- c) Most readers would be surprised by facts in the article. It is odd how frequently volleyball is played in countries around the world other than the United States.
- d) Statistics are compiled about participation in volleyball games in the U.S. and around the world. The statistics are based on how many times a person plays in a week.

C4L Reading - Item Writing Tally Sheet

Grade 7- Informational

Passage Name: The Worlds Second Most Popular Game

Gr7 Vocabulary	DOK Level	DOK 1	DOK 2	DOK 3	Item Total
LA 7.1.5 Vocabulary: Students will build literary, general academic, and content specific grade level vocabulary.					
LA 7.1.5.a <i>Determine meaning of words through structural analysis, using knowledge of Greek, Latin, and Anglo-Saxon roots, prefixes, and suffixes to understand complex words, including words in science, mathematics, and social studies</i>	1, 2				
LA 7.1.5.c <i>Select and apply knowledge of context clues (e.g., word, phrase, sentence and paragraph clues, re-reading) and text features (e.g., glossary, headings, subheadings, index, tables, maps, graphs, charts) appropriate to a particular text to determine meaning of unknown words</i>	2				1
LA 7.1.5.d <i>Analyze semantic relationships (e.g., figurative language, connotations, subtle distinctions)</i>	2,3				
Gr7 Comprehension	DOK Level	DOK 1	DOK 2	DOK 3	Item Total
LA 7.1.6 Comprehension: Students will extract and construct meaning using prior knowledge, applying text information, and monitoring comprehension while reading grade level text.					
LA 7.1.6.a <i>Analyze the meaning, reliability, and validity of the text considering author's purpose and perspective</i>	2, 3				
LA 7.1.6.c <i>Analyze author's use of literary devices (e.g., foreshadowing, personification, idiom, oxymoron, hyperbole, flashback, suspense, symbolism, irony)</i>	2, 3				
LA 7.1.6.d <i>Summarize, analyze, and synthesize informational text using main idea and supporting details</i>	2, 3				2
LA 7.1.6.e <i>Apply knowledge of organizational patterns found in informational text (e.g., sequence, description, cause and effect, compare/contrast, fact/opinion, proposition/support)</i>	2				1
LA 7.1.6.f <i>Apply knowledge of text features to locate information and gain meaning from a text (e.g., index, annotations, maps, charts, tables, graphs, headings, subheadings)</i>	1, 2				

<p>LA 7.1.6.g <i>Explain and make inferences based on the characteristics of narrative and informational genres (e.g., textbooks, myths, fantasies, science fiction, drama, periodicals, essays)</i></p>	2				
<p>LA 7.1.6.j <i>Generate and/or answer literal, inferential, critical, and interpretive questions, analyzing prior knowledge, information from the text and additional sources, to support answers</i></p>	1, 2, 3	3			3