



Language Aims: To practice reading for understanding, to understand text formation, to learn about the history of a sport, to use sporting vocabulary, to use the language of discussion and problem solving in order to solve a problem.

Preparation: Make copies of the worksheet below so that each student in a pair will have a copy of it. (You may like to copy it on to colored card or paper so it is easier to sort.) Use scissors to separate each of the lines of the worksheet.

Procedure: 1. Ask students to sit in pairs. Give each pair a copy of the worksheet (with all the lines cut up.)

2. Tell the class they are going to read about how the game soccer may have begun.

3. Tell students to work in pairs and put their text in order as quickly as possible. Circulate but do not tell them whether they are right or wrong.

4. After a few minutes ask students to stop working. Ask pairs to volunteer to say which line of the text is first, which is next etc. Pairs can be awarded a point for each line they get correct.

5. You could then finish the activity by asking pairs to write two questions based on the text to ask another pair.

Variation: Make the activity more difficult by giving some of the lines to one student in a pair and some to the other student. They sit facing each other and then must work together to put them in order. However, when they are discussing, they are not allowed to see their partner's lines. Only when they agree on the order of a particular line can they put that one on the table for them both to look at.

Answers:

The earliest form of soccer was perhaps a Chinese game played by soldiers called cuju ("kickball"). Around 4,700 years ago soldiers played it to learn about cooperation and vigilance.

Two teams of soldiers battled on a rectangular-shaped field and tried to shoot a leather ball through a hole high up on an decorated gate.

6,000-year-old stone balls have also been dug up in the southwestern United States.

The balls are similar to ones used today by Native Americans in two kinds of soccer-like games.

In one game players pick the ball up with the insteps (the upper part of the foot between the toes and the ankle) of their feet and throw the ball as far as they can. In the other game--in so-called football races-- the ball is kicked with the instep in a race over distances as long as 30 km (19 miles).



Worksheet - (Cut each part into a separate strip)



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