

# Culture

## National sports

### Learning objectives

- The students learn about the national sports of Canada.
- In the project stage, students find out about a national sport and write about it.

### Warmer

- 1 Brainstorm some sports onto the board and encourage the students to complete this table:

Sport	Equipment	How do you play it?
football	ball, two goals	Players kick the ball and score goals.

- 2 Ask students, in pairs, to ask and answer questions about their favourite sports. Write these questions on the board to help them: *What's your favourite sport? How do you play it? How often do you play it? Do you play in a team? Why do you like it?*

- 1 Ask the students to discuss questions 1 and 2. For question 3, brainstorm a list of countries onto the board and ask the students to guess the national sport. If you have access to the internet, check the students' ideas or ask the students to do this for homework.
- 2 After the students have named the sports in the photos, encourage them to try to guess how each sport was invented. If necessary, pre-teach *soldiers* by asking *What do we call someone in an army who may go to war and fight?* and *bone* by pointing to one.

Then ask the students to read the sentences and match them to the correct sport. Compare answers around the class and encourage the students to give reasons, e.g. *I think sentence 3 goes with football because you kick the ball in football.* Explain that they will hear the answers in exercise 3.


### Answers

a tennis b polo c basketball d rugby e football/soccer  
f skiing g golf

The students will check their answers to the quiz in exercise 3.

The answers are:

1 skiing 2 polo 3 football/soccer 4 golf  
5 rugby 6 basketball

- 3  1.17 Play the recording and ask the students to listen and check their ideas in exercise 2 first. If they enjoy competition, award points for correct answers.

Next, ask them to read the questions and try to answer them from memory. The sentences in exercise 2 will help them. Then play the recording again for them to check their ideas. The answers occur in the same order as the sentences. As the recording is long, with a weaker class, play each paragraph separately, encourage the students to read the sentences at the same time and stop the recording when the answer is given.

### Answers

- 1 wood
- 2 'the sport of kings' because it became very popular with kings and leaders in Asia
- 3 Scotland
- 4 He picked up the ball and ran with it.
- 5 The basket didn't have a hole at the bottom, and the players had to take it down and remove the ball after every goal.

### Audioscript

A lot of the world's most popular sports have been around for a lot longer than you think, and some of them had some very interesting beginnings.

Possibly the most ancient sport is skiing – can you believe that people were skiing as long as 5,000 years ago? We know this from small wooden sculptures found in the north of Norway, Sweden and Finland, but we think that the sport spread to Asia as well. People first used the bones of large animals as skis, but then moved on to wooden skis.

Another pretty ancient sport is polo – we know of matches over 2,500 years ago between groups from different regions of Persia (that's today's Iran). It was a way of training horse soldiers, with competitions involving up to 100 men a side! Polo is known as 'the sport of kings', and that's because it became very popular with all the different kings and leaders in Asia. The most popular sport in the world is football, or soccer, a national sport in many countries, and many countries claim it started there! In fact, the earliest games of football appear to be from second-century China, where soldiers used to kick a leather ball around in their free time; it was called kick-ball. It seems that a game similar to golf started in fifteenth-century Scotland, where players used to hit a stone with sticks through the sand hills. Maybe that's why the oldest golf course in the world is in Scotland.

In comparison, some sports are quite modern. The sport of rugby only started in the early nineteenth century, during a game of football at Rugby School in England. One of the players decided to pick up the ball and run with it, completely against the rules of football, and rugby was born! It is now the national sport of several countries, including New Zealand. Finally, it was almost the twentieth century before basketball was born. A coach in a college in New England, USA, needed to find an activity to keep his footballers and rugby players fit in the winter, and he invented basketball! At first, the basket didn't have a hole at the bottom, and the players had to take it down and remove the ball after every goal, so he cut a hole in it. Well, that's a brief history of sport for you. If you'd like to know more, ...

- 4 First, ask the students to try to guess what the summer and winter national sports of Canada are. Then ask them to read the first paragraph of the text quickly, to check their ideas, and write the name of the sports in the table. Then ask them to read about lacrosse and complete the first column. If appropriate, ask the students to underline the answers in the text. Point out that they will listen to a recording about ice hockey in exercise 5.


### Answers

Summer: lacrosse Winter: ice hockey

- 1 Canadian Indians played a field game called *crosse*.
- 2 1844 3 No 4 to score more goals than the other team
- 5 ten 6 a long stick with a net and a small rubber ball
- 7 60 mins / 15 mins each quarter

### Mixed ability

Divide the class into two groups and pair up stronger students with weaker students in each group. Tell Group A to find the answers to questions 1–4 and Group B to find the answers to questions 5–8. Encourage the stronger students to help the weaker students find and underline the answers in the text. All students should write the answers in the first column. Then reorganise the students so that students from Group A sit with students with Group B. Then they share their answers.

- 5  1.18 Tell the students they are now going to hear about Canada's national winter sport: ice hockey. Ask them, in pairs, to try to predict the answers to gaps 1–8. Then play the recording twice and ask them to listen and complete the table. Point out that the answers on the recording are NOT in the same order as the gaps. If necessary, play the recording for a third time and pause after each answer is given. With a weaker class, tell the students which order the answers are in.

### Answers

- 1 Scottish
- 2 late 1800s
- 3 1875
- 4 six
- 5 hockey stick
- 6 puck
- 7 points
- 8 an hour
- 9 Gretzky

### Audioscript

**Boy:** Today I'm going to tell you about a sport I started when I was living in Canada a couple of years ago – ice hockey. I joined an ice hockey club soon after we arrived in Canada, because ice hockey is Canada's winter national sport. They're really brilliant at it, too – they won both the gold medals at the last Winter Olympics.

Ice hockey is a bit like field hockey, which we play here in winter, but they say it's more like a Scottish game called shinty. I think they started playing it in Canada in the late 1800s. The first match was 1875, I think, and they used to play it just on ice in winter, until they could build ice rinks. The name comes from the type of stick they use – it's *hoquet* in French.

There are six players in a team: five skaters and one goaltender – that's like a goalkeeper – but it's quite a small goal – only about 1.2 metres tall and 1.8 metres wide. The players use their hockey sticks to move a puck around, that's like a ball but it's flatter, so it slides on the ice more easily; it's more easily controlled than a ball. It's like football in some ways, as you have to score goals, but you get points for scoring goals or helping to score a goal, so the aim is to score more points than the other team. The matches are shorter than football too, only an hour long, in three periods of 20 minutes. While I was at the club in Canada, I got into the under-15s team and played a couple of competitions, which was really exciting. Everyone in the clubs in Canada wants to be Wayne Gretzky, that's G-R-E-T-Z-K-Y. He's the greatest player ever, they say. He doesn't play any more but he's scored more points than any other player. I've looked around here to see if there are any ice hockey clubs, but unfortunately it isn't a popular sport in Britain, so I can't play it, but I've started to play field hockey again now.

### Cooler

In pairs, the students look at the completed table in exercise 4 and compare lacrosse with ice hockey. Encourage them to talk about the similarities and the differences. Ask them which sport they'd rather play, and why.

### Project

Organise the students into groups or pairs and tell them they are going to produce a text about a national sport similar to the *National sports* text. Ask them to look at this text again and ask: *How is it organised?* *Are there headings?* (There is an introduction and three headings: *History* (which has two paragraphs), *International competition* and *Aim and rules*.)

Tell the students to choose a national sport and find out about it. They should make notes in a table. Then, ask them to write about it using headings, as in the text about lacrosse, and find some photos of it. Display their work around the classroom.