

LEVELED BOOK • I

# Basketball



Written by Ken Mackler

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## Focus Question

What makes basketball a fun and fast game?

# Words to Know

bounce

score

created

sport

hoop

teams

Front and back cover: Sacramento Kings forward Omri Casspi goes for a layup during the team's victory over the Chicago Bulls in 2015.

Title page: Friends playing for fun in Cebu, Philippines

Page 3: Men playing a friendly game of one-on-one on an outdoor court

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Spectacular Sports  
Level I Leveled Book  
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## Correlation

LEVEL I	
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Players jump high  
to shoot the basketball  
through the hoop.

## A Fun Game

Basketball is a fun and fast sport.  
People play basketball with an  
orange ball and a hoop.



James Naismith came up with a new game using a basket and a ball.

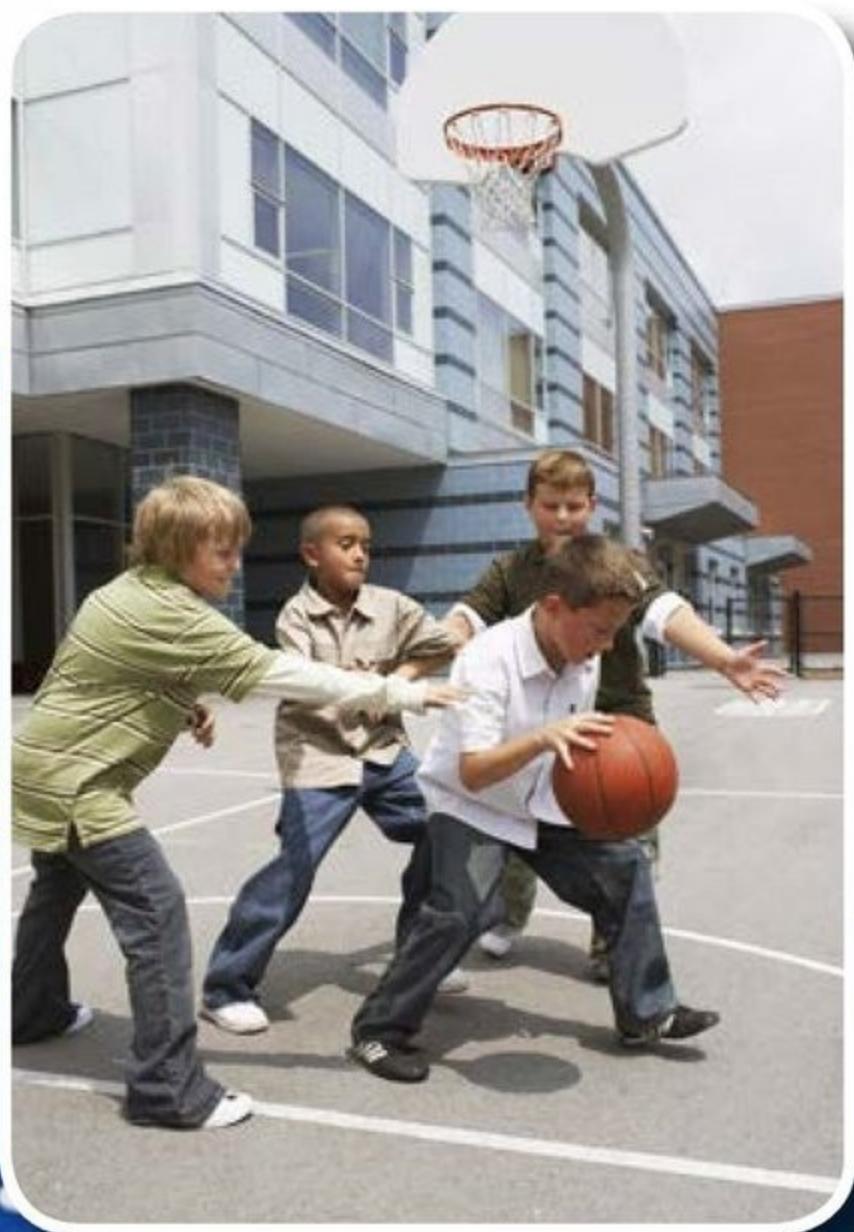
## Story of a Sport

Long ago, a teacher wanted a new sport for his students. The winters were too cold to play outside.



Boys, girls, men, and women began playing on basketball teams.

The teacher put peach baskets  
on a wall and made a new game—  
basketball.



People play basketball indoors, in parks or playgrounds, or even on top of buildings!

## Basketball Today

Today, students in schools everywhere have fun playing basketball.

All they need is a basket and a ball.



Almost every high school in the United States has a basketball team.

## Basketball All Over

There are thousands of basketball teams in cities and schools in the United States.



These teams are playing basketball in Spain.

There are also basketball teams  
in many countries around the world.



Basketball players move very quickly. They jump high to make a basket and score points.

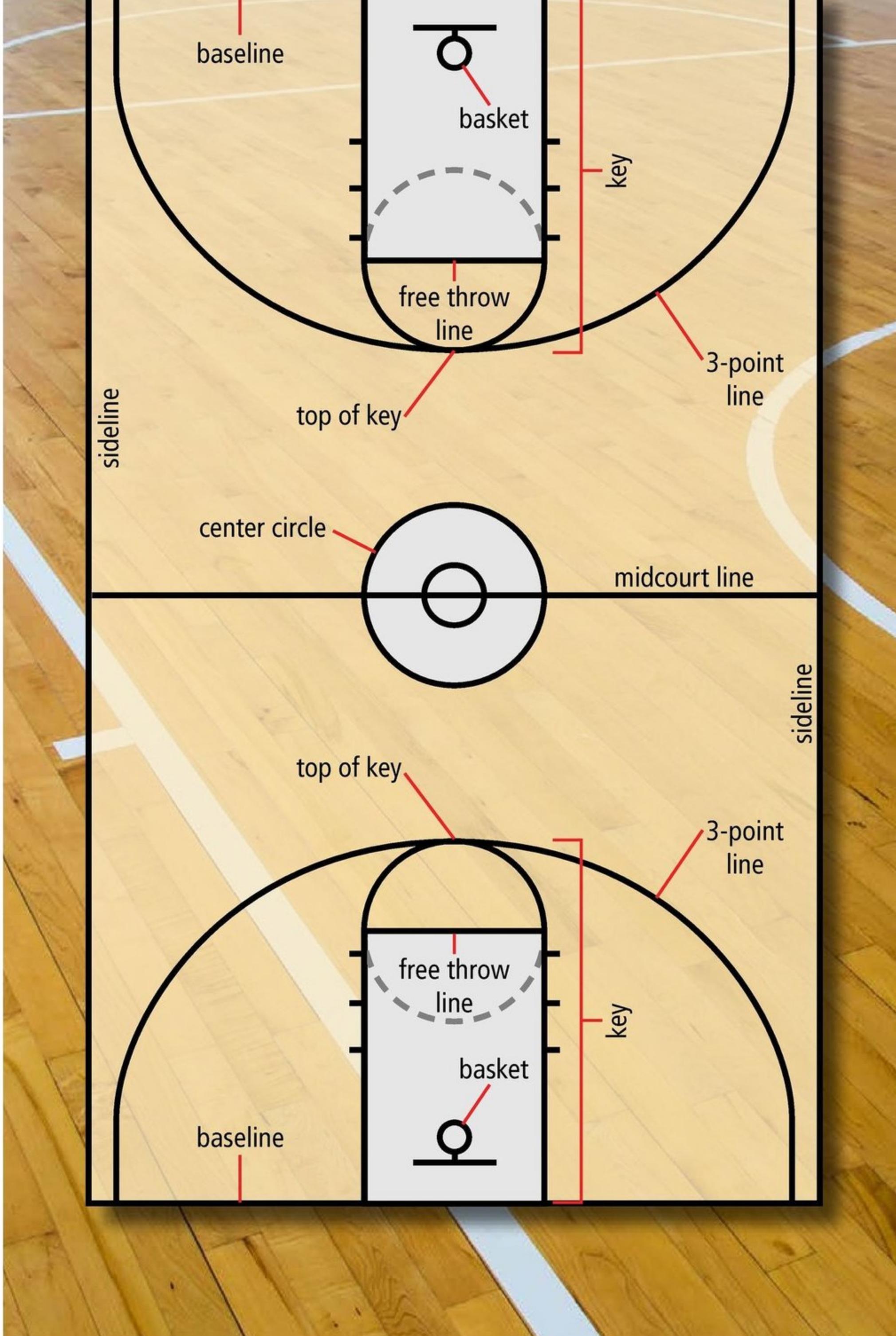
## How to Play

In a basketball game, there are two teams.

Teams **score** points by throwing the ball through the other team's hoop.

The team that ends the game with the most points wins!

# Basketball Court





Players must learn to bounce the ball as they move. They throw the ball to a teammate who can make a basket.



Players can only move the

basketball in two ways.

They can **bounce** the ball

while they walk or run.

They can also throw the ball

to another player.



Michael Jordan was sometimes called “Air Jordan” because he could jump very high to make baskets.

## Hoop Stars

There are many great basketball players.

Some people think Michael Jordan is the best player of all time.

He played basketball for sixteen years and scored thousands of points for his team.



Brittney Griner from Arizona jumps high in the air to shoot a basket in a game against a Connecticut team.

Brittney Griner is a great player, too.  
She made twenty-eight points  
in one game.



These children are playing basketball in Cuba.

## A Sport for Everyone

Basketball has grown since

it was **created** long ago.

Today, basketball is all around  
the world.

The sport is in schools  
and parks everywhere.

All you have to do is pick up a ball  
and find the nearest hoop!

## Glossary

**bounce** (v.) to move quickly back from or spring off a surface after hitting it (p. 12)

**created** (v.) made or designed; brought into being (p. 15)

**hoop** (n.) anything made in the shape of a large ring (p. 4)

**score** (v.) to get points in a game or contest (p. 10)

**sport** (n.) a game or contest that requires skill and physical exercise (p. 4)

**teams** (n.) groups of players on one side in sports or other games (p. 8)

# Basketball

A Reading A-Z Level I Leveled Book

Word Count: 237

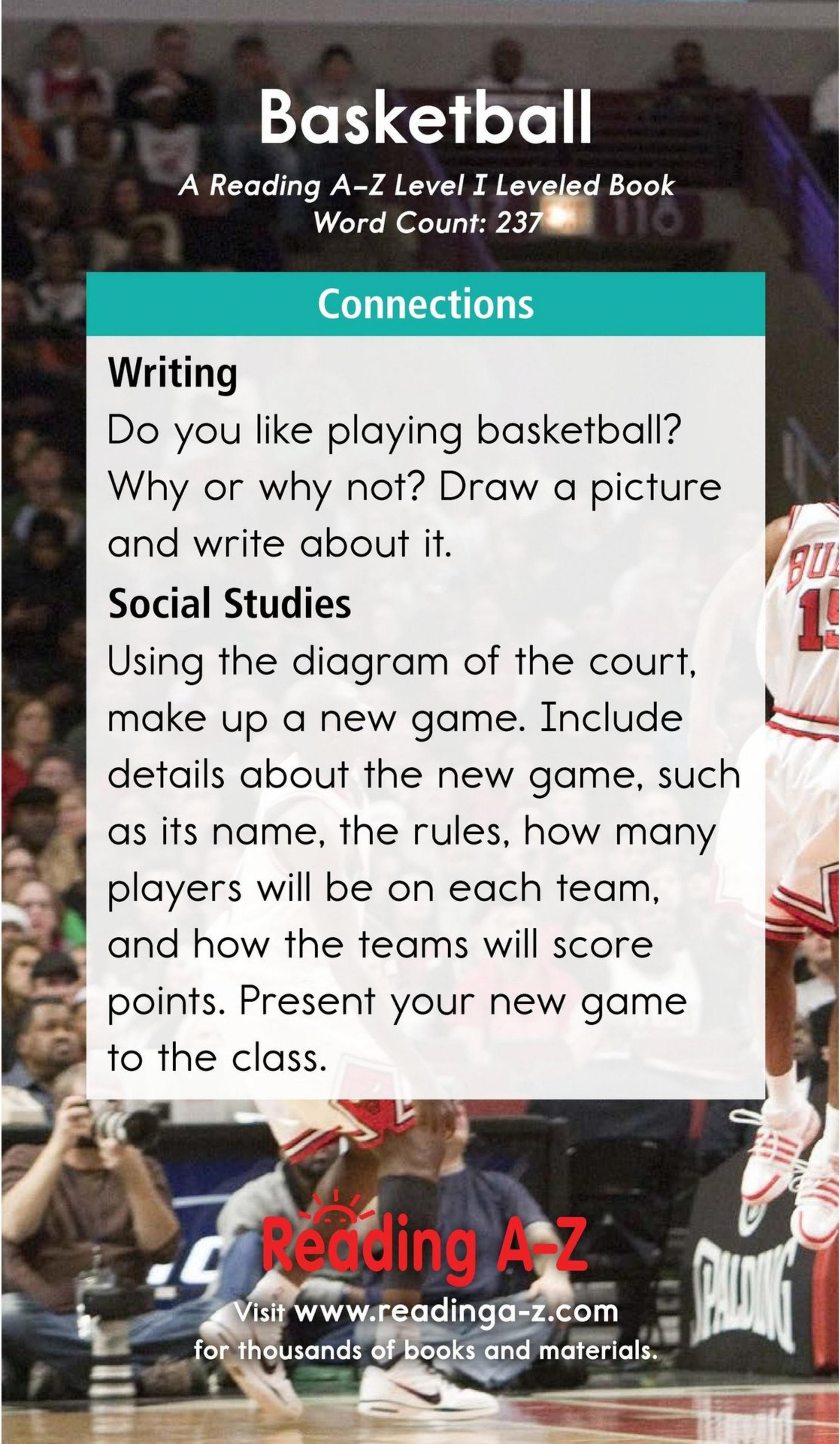
## Connections

### Writing

Do you like playing basketball? Why or why not? Draw a picture and write about it.

### Social Studies

Using the diagram of the court, make up a new game. Include details about the new game, such as its name, the rules, how many players will be on each team, and how the teams will score points. Present your new game to the class.



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