

LEVELED BOOK • J

Cricket



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Focus Question

What makes cricket an interesting sport?

Words to Know

championships

matches

popular

professionals

protects

swaps

Front cover: A boy hits a cricket ball with a bat.

Back cover: A huge crowd watches a cricket game.

Title page: A cricket ball and bails

Page 3: Children playing cricket in India

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Cricket
Spectacular Sports
Level J Leveled Book
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An Australian player
gets down on one
knee to bat a low ball.



A Fun Sport

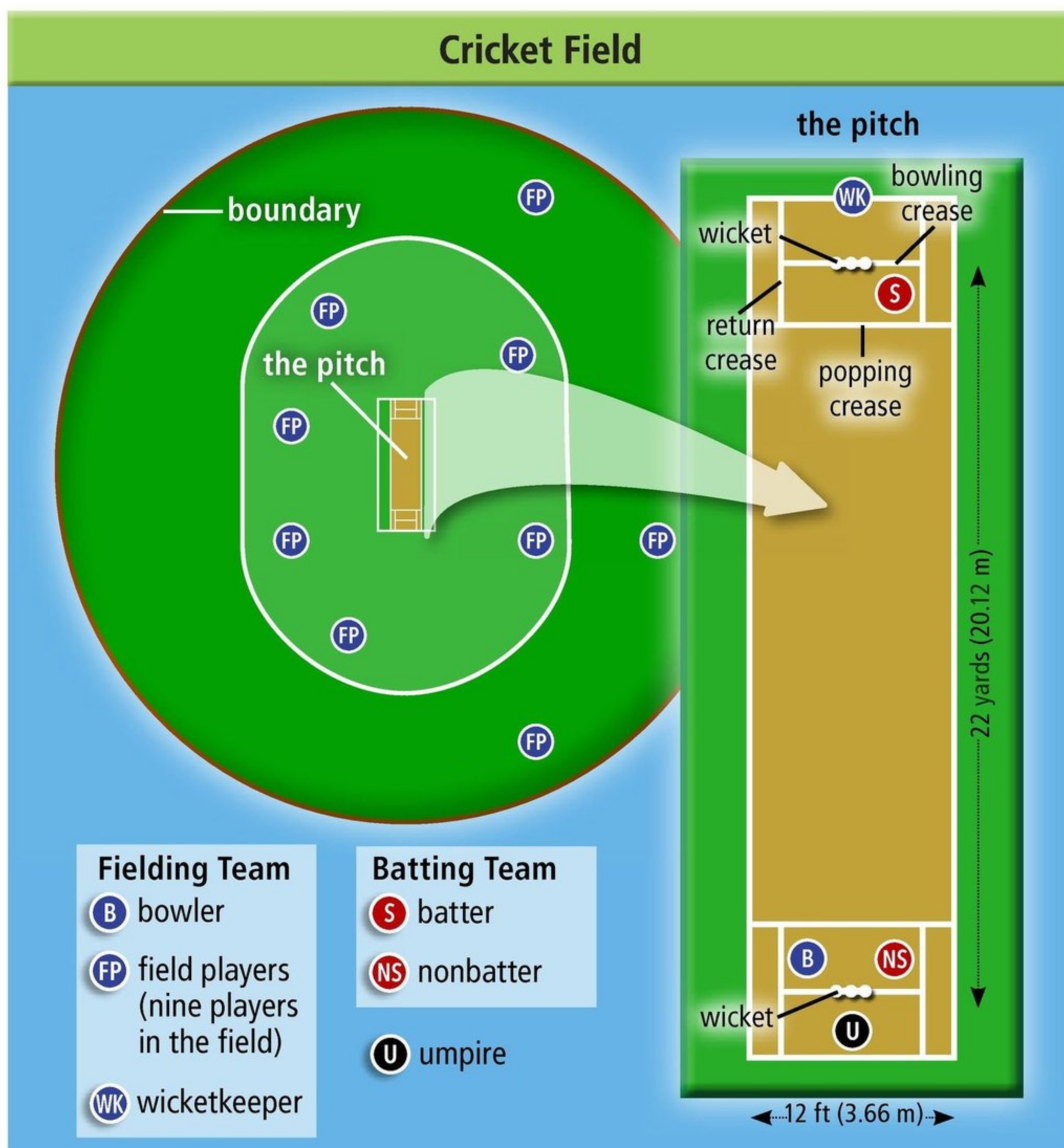
People around the world play an exciting sport called *cricket*. In cricket, a batter hits a ball with a large flat bat. The ball is about the same size as a baseball.

The Basics

Two teams play a game of cricket.
Each team has eleven players.
They play on an oval field with an
area in the middle called a *pitch*.



The batter tries to keep the ball from hitting three posts
in the ground.



The teams take turns batting and bowling, or throwing, a ball. Two batters on the batting team stand on each end of the pitch. The team that isn't batting plays in the field.

One player on each team is the bowler.

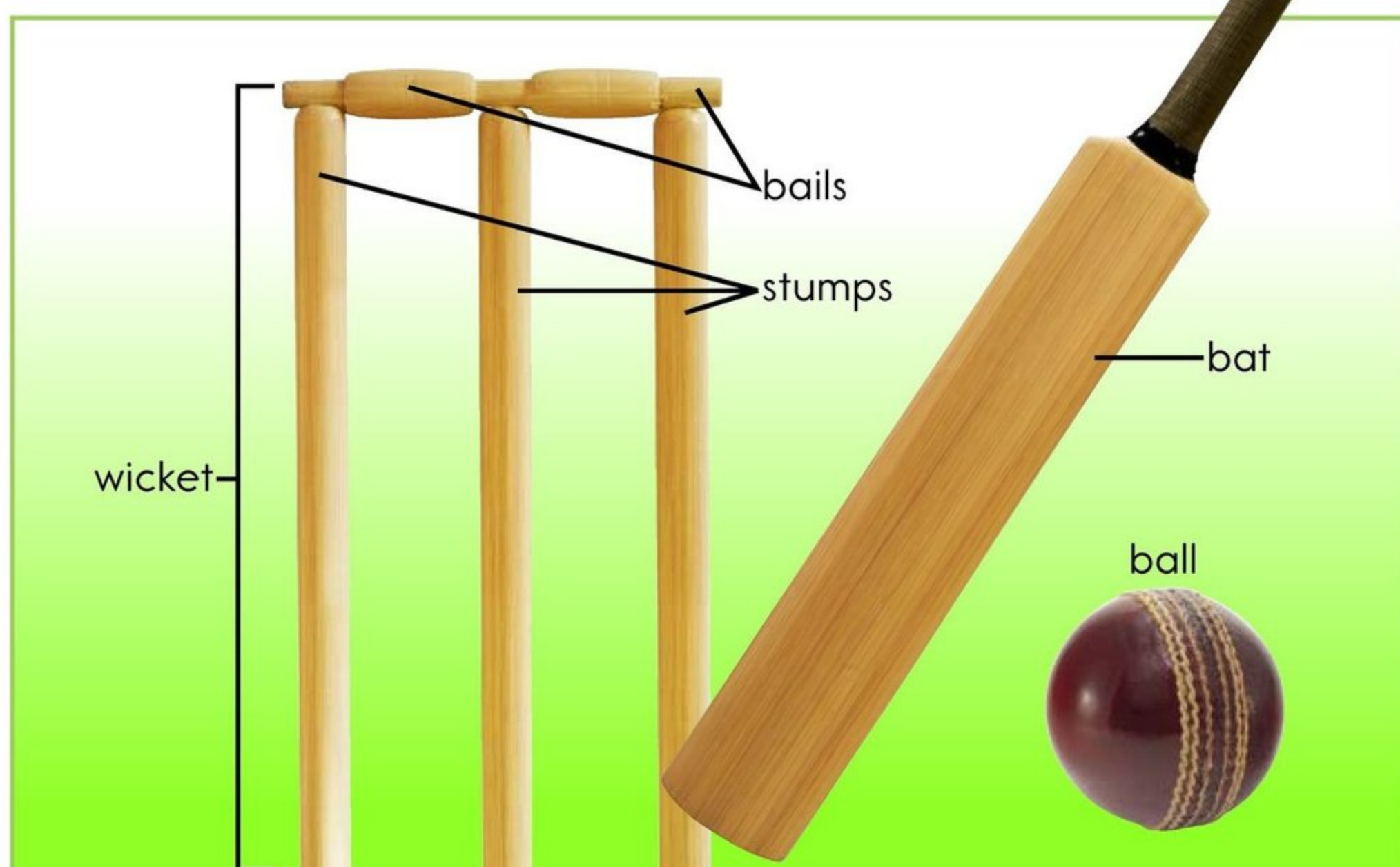
The bowler throws a ball to a batter on the other team.



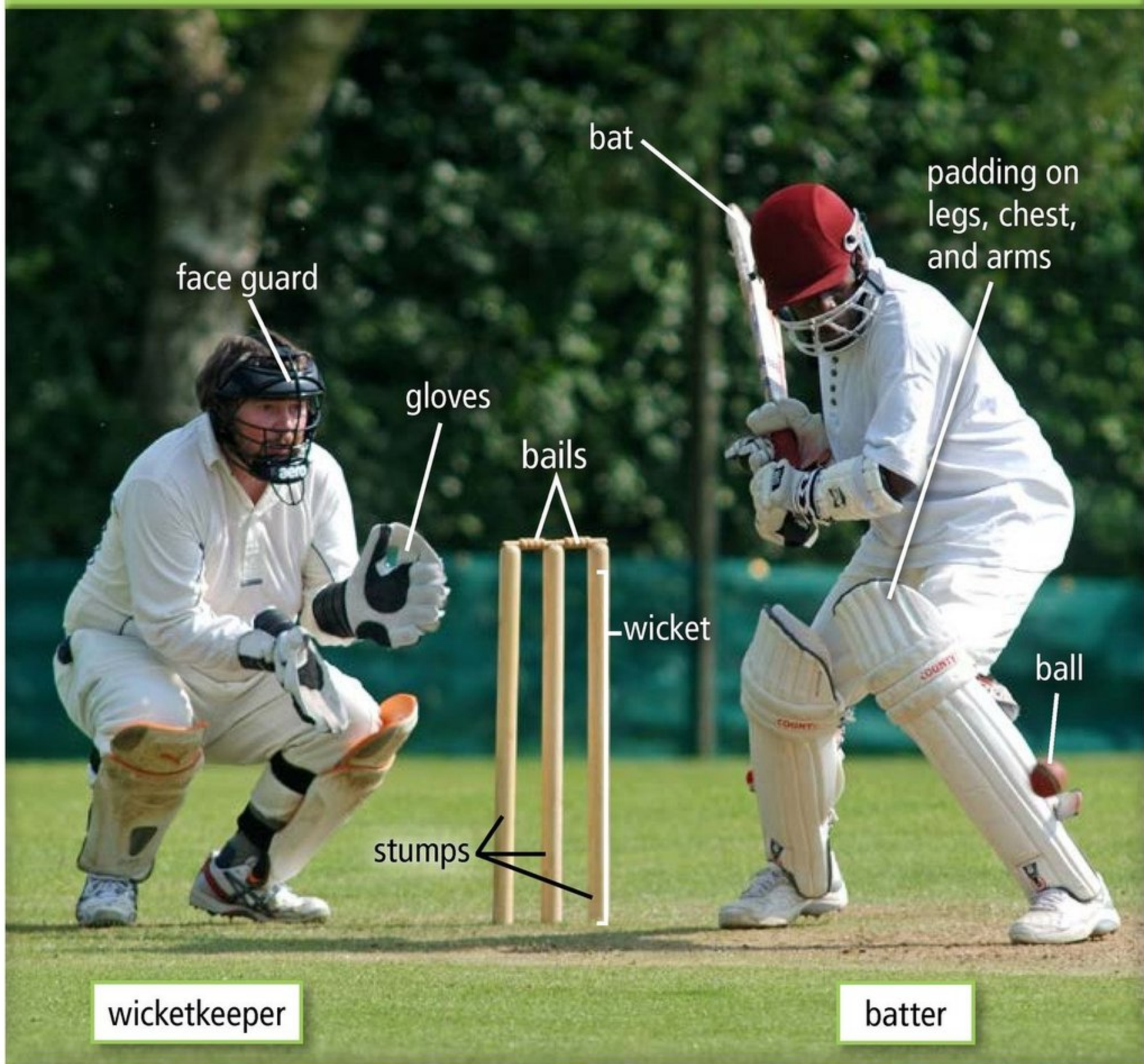
A batter gets ready to swing her bat to hit the ball. The bowler can throw a very fast ball.

The bowler tries to hit three small posts in the ground near the batter. These posts are called *stumps*. At the top of the stumps are two small pieces of wood called *bails*. Together, the stumps and bails are called a *wicket*.

If the bowler's ball knocks the bails off the wicket stumps, the batter is out.



Cricket Equipment



The batter **protects** the wicket by hitting the ball with his or her bat. If the batter hits the ball, he or she runs down the pitch.

If the batter **swaps** places with the other batter, he or she scores one point. The point is called a *run*.



Sometimes players in the field have to leap to get the ball.

Nine players on the bowling team play in the field.

Their job is to get the balls that the batter hits.

They can get the batter out by catching the ball.

They can also throw the ball and hit the wicket to get an out.

After ten outs, the bowling team gets their turn at bat.

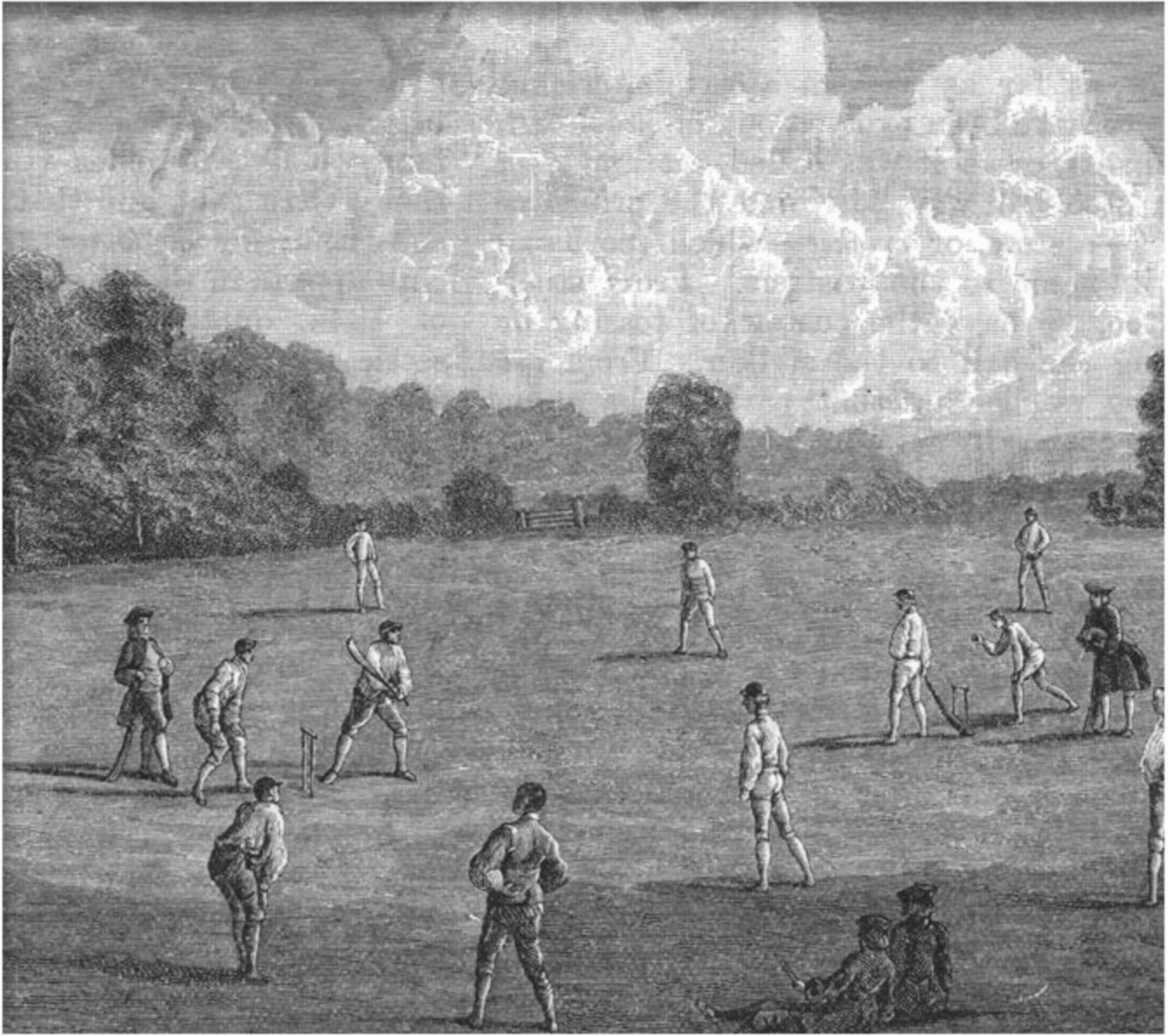
At the end of the game, the team with more runs wins.

The History of Cricket

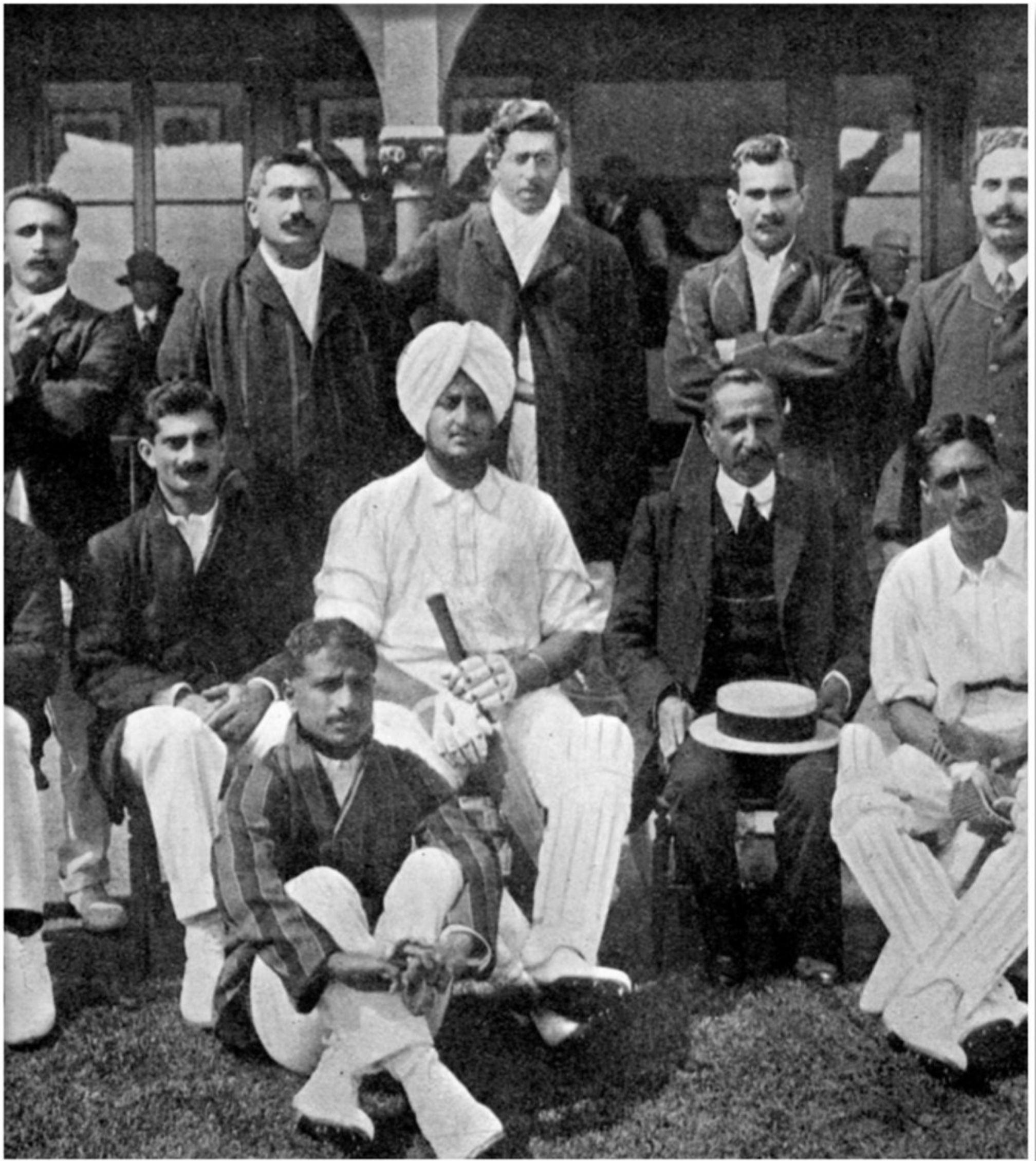
In the 1500s, children in England played cricket.

By the early 1700s, adults started playing as **professionals**.

In 1788, people created the cricket rules still in use today.



People play cricket in England in the 1700s.



The cricket team of India poses for a photograph in 1911.

Soon, cricket teams formed outside England as well.

Then, people created longer cricket **matches** called Tests for world **championships**.



A boy from England gets a lesson from a player in 1931.

Cricket teams played once
at the Olympic Games in 1900.
Some fans hope cricket teams
will one day play in every Summer
Olympic Games.

Cricket Around the World

Today, people play cricket around the world.

Ten countries have teams that play in Test matches.





Children everywhere enjoy cricket.
These boys play a game in Asia.

That's Cricket!

Since its start as a children's game, cricket has been **popular**.

Today, it is followed by billions of fans around the world.

You can enjoy cricket, too!

Glossary

championships (<i>n.</i>)	contests to decide a winner (p. 12)
matches (<i>n.</i>)	contests or games (p. 12)
popular (<i>adj.</i>)	accepted, liked, or enjoyed by many people (p. 15)
professionals (<i>n.</i>)	people who earn money for taking part in an activity, rather than doing it purely for pleasure (p. 11)
protects (<i>v.</i>)	guards or defends from harm or danger (p. 9)
swaps (<i>v.</i>)	trades or exchanges something (p. 9)

Cricket

A Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Book
Word Count: 399

Connections

Writing

Which position would you like to play on a cricket team? Why? Draw a picture and write about it.

Social Studies

On a map of the world, label the ten countries with teams that play cricket in Test matches. Include a compass rose on your map.

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