

LEVELED BOOK • H

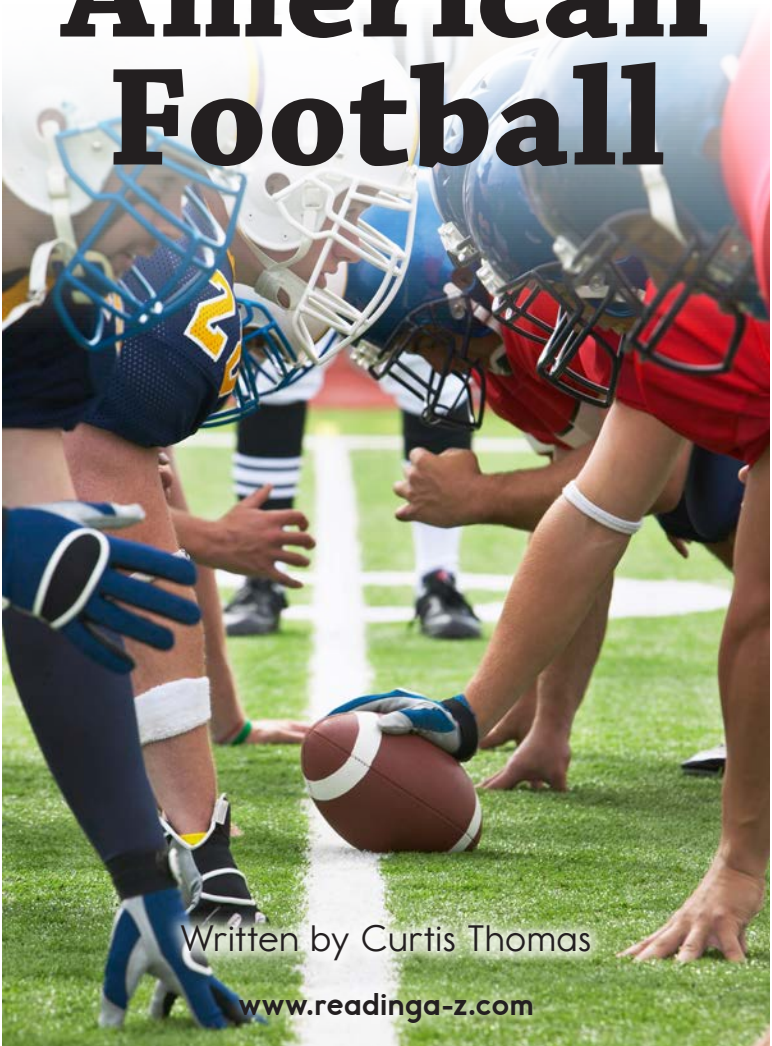
American Football



Written by Curtis Thomas

www.readinga-z.com

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Focus Question

Why is American football a fun sport for fans and players?



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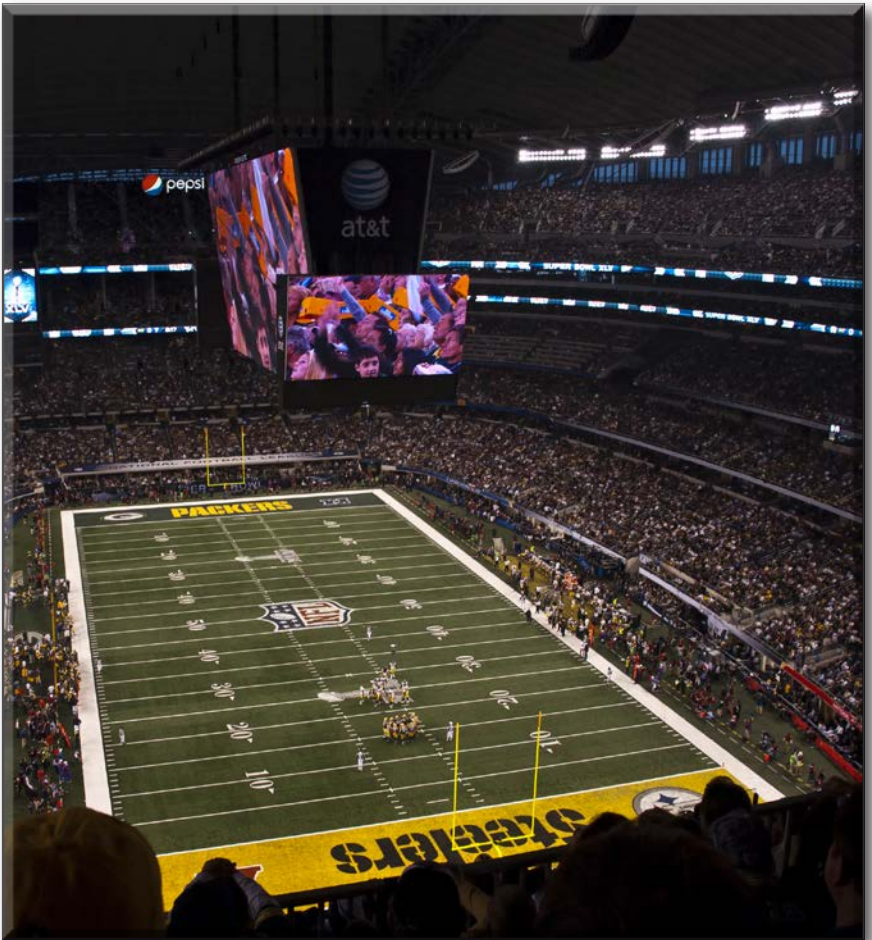


A football player is ready to pass the ball.

An Exciting Sport

American football is a sport.

It is fun to play.



Many people go to each Super Bowl game. Many others watch the game on TV.

Football Teams

Many American cities and schools have football **teams**.

The Super Bowl is the biggest football game.

Countries That Play American Football



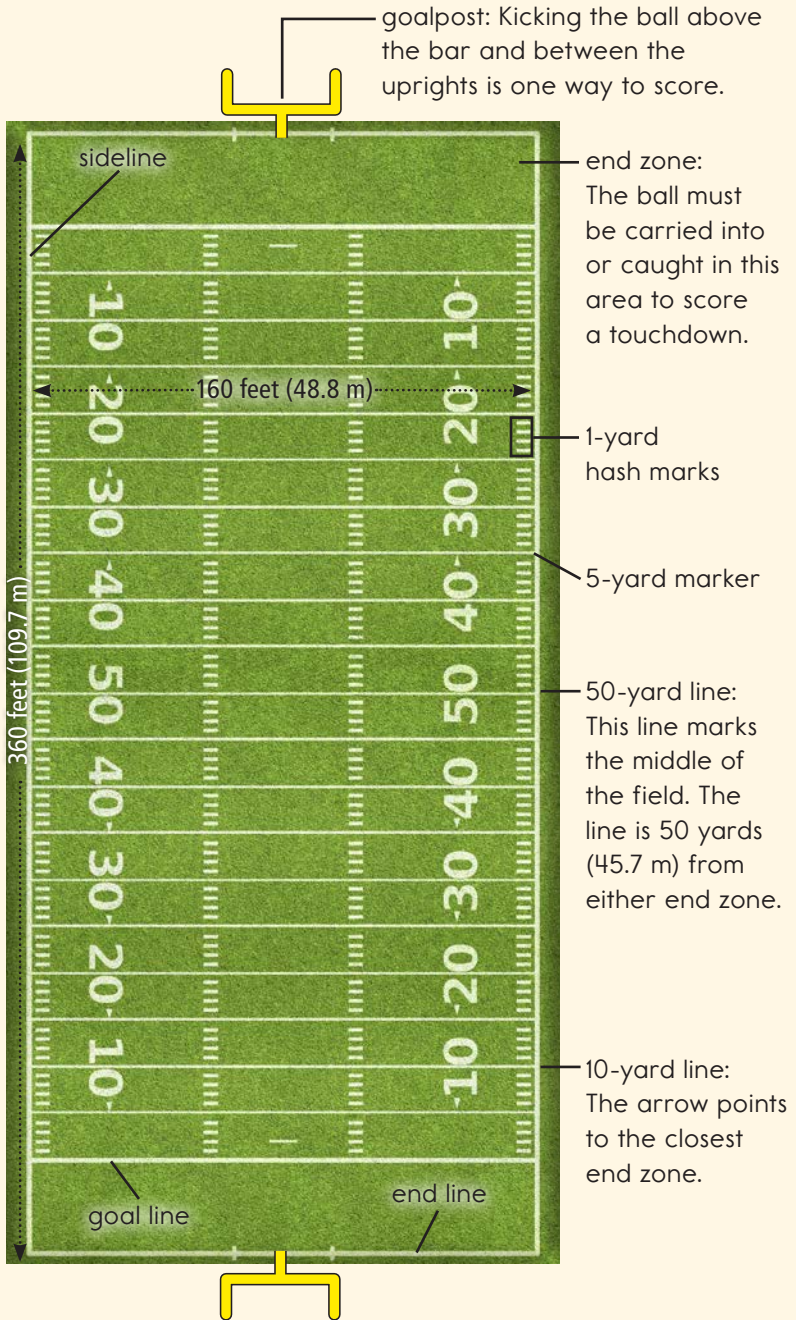
Football Around the World

People play American football
in many countries.



A team from Germany (with the ball) is about to start a play
against a team from Sweden.

American Football Field



Eleven players from each team
are on the field at the same time.



Playing the Game

Football teams try to **score** points.
They try to stop the other team
from getting points.

The name of the home team is on both end zones.



Each end of the field has
an **end zone**.

Players try to get the ball
into the end zone.

They can run with the ball.



In American football, throwing is called *passing* (top). To score a touchdown, a player carries or catches the ball in the end zone (bottom).

Players can also throw or hand the ball to a player on their team. If a player with the ball reaches the end zone, it is a touchdown. They score six points with each touchdown.



After a touchdown, the team can try to score one or two extra points.

If the team kicks the ball between the **goalposts**, the team scores one extra point.



A player throws the ball to his teammate for two extra points.

The team can also run with the ball or pass it into the end zone. If they do, they score two extra points.



The player in white tackles the player with the ball.

The other team tries to stop
players with the ball.

They **tackle** them to stop them.



A player on one team (blue) tries to grab the ball away from a player on another team (white).

The other team also tries to take the ball from the team with the ball.

If they do, they can run with the ball to try to make a touchdown.



Football fans dress up in their team colors to show their support.

Football Fans

Some football fans paint their faces. Other fans dress in the colors of their team. Football is a fun sport for fans and players.

Glossary

end zone (n.)	the area at the end of an American football field between the goal line and the end line (p. 9)
goalposts (n.)	upright poles that form a goal in many sports, such as American football, hockey, and soccer (p. 11)
score (v.)	to get points in a game or contest (p. 8)
sport (n.)	a game or contest that requires skill and physical exercise (p. 4)
tackle (v.)	to grab and stop someone and throw him or her to the ground (p. 13)
teams (n.)	groups of players on different sides in a sport or other game (p. 5)

Words to Know

end zone

sport

goalposts

tackle

score

teams

Front and back cover: The Oakland Raiders play the Tennessee Titans in Oakland, California, in 2003.

Title page: College football players are about to start a play. The sport is popular in colleges across the United States.

Page 3: A Detroit player catches a touchdown pass in a game between Detroit and Tampa Bay.

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American Football
Spectacular Sports
Level H Leveled Book
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Correlation

LEVEL H	
Fountas & Pinnell	H
Reading Recovery	13–14
DRA	14

American Football

A Reading A-Z Level H Leveled Book

Word Count: 231

Connections

Writing

Create a new team. Choose the team's city, name, and colors. Write a letter to fans announcing your new team.

Math

An American football field is 100 yards (91 m) long. Work with your class to find out how many feet long the field is. If your classmates all lay across a field head to toe, would you all fit? Draw a picture showing your results.

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