

LEVELED BOOK • H

Soccer



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Focus Question

Why is soccer a popular sport around the world?



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Millions of people around the world
watch soccer on television.

Great Fun

Soccer is a fun **sport**.

Players kick a ball with their feet.

They run very fast.

Soccer Teams

Schools have soccer **teams**.

Teams from different schools play each other.

Students of all ages can play soccer. They play on school teams or just for fun.



Soccer Around the World



The game is called *soccer* in North America and several other places. Most of the world calls it *football*.

Soccer Around the World

Countries have soccer teams, too.

Some countries call the sport soccer.

Some countries call it *football*.



Soccer Field (pitch)



Playing the Game

A soccer team has eleven players.

Players try to get the ball into the other team's **net**.

When they do, they score a **goal**.



Working together with members of your team is a big part of soccer.



A player from one team (red) slides in to get the ball from the other team (green).

Some players try to take the ball from the other team.

They use their feet to get the ball.

Soccer Skills



- 1** Dribbling—moving the ball small distances with the feet
- 2** Passing—moving the ball to another player
- 3** Tackling—getting the ball from a player on the other team
- 4** Heading—using the head to move the ball
- 5** Shooting—kicking the ball to score a goal

One player on each team
stays by the net.

They are goalies.

Goalies try to stop the ball
from going into the net.



Goalies have to think fast and must be very brave. They often
dive for the ball.

Goalies can use their hands.
They can catch the ball
or hit away from the net.



Players may fly through the air to stop a ball.



Mia Hamm was the first big women's soccer star.

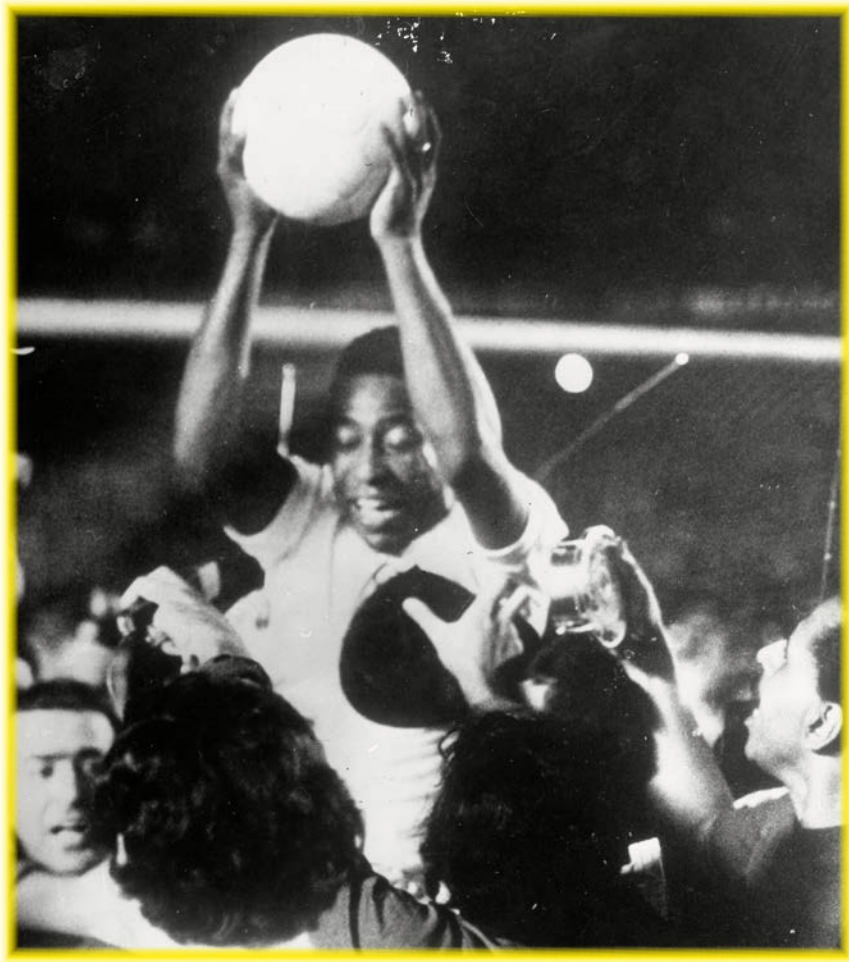
Soccer fields are big.

Players need to be strong to run for a whole game.

They need to practice to be good at soccer.

Fans around the world watch
their teams play.

At the end of the game, the team
with the most goals wins!



Even the other team cheered when a player scored
one thousand goals. His name was Pelé.



Families can play soccer
at home or in a park.

Fun for Everyone

Anyone can learn to play soccer.

Do you want to play?

All you need is a ball
and some friends.

Soccer is a fun game for everyone!

Glossary

- countries** (*n.*) areas of land that have their own government; nations (p. 6)
- fans** (*n.*) people who follow or enjoy something, such as sports or entertainment (p. 14)
- goal** (*n.*) the place where a ball or puck must end up to score points in a game (p. 8)
- net** (*n.*) woven string or rope attached to a frame, often used as a goal in sports (p. 8)
- sport** (*n.*) a game or contest that requires skill and physical exercise (p. 4)
- teams** (*n.*) groups of players on different sides in a sport or other game (p. 5)

Words to Know

countries

net

fans

sport

goal

teams

Front cover: Two soccer players trying to get control of the ball for their team

Title page: High school girls playing in a match

Page 3: Children playing soccer in Thailand

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Spectacular Sports

Level H Leveled Book

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Correlation

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Connections

Writing

If you played on a soccer team, would you like to be the goalie? Why or why not? Write about it.

Social Studies Connection

Do you think more countries around the world call this sport soccer or *football*? How do you know? Discuss with a partner.



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