



Fertigkeit	Lesen
Relevante(r) Deskriptor(en)	<p>Deskriptor 4: Kann unkomplizierte Sachtexte über Themen, die mit den eigenen Interessen und Fachgebieten aus den Themenbereichen des Lehrplans in Zusammenhang stehen, mit befriedigendem Verständnis lesen. (B1)</p> <p>Deskriptor 8: Kann aus dem Textzusammenhang die Bedeutung einzelner unbekannter Wörter und Äußerungen erschließen, wenn die Thematik vertraut ist. (B1)</p>
Themenbereich(e)	Hobbys und Interessen
Zeitbedarf	15 Minuten
Länge des Lesetextes	443 Wörter
Material- und Medienbedarf	Schreibmaterial
Besondere Bemerkungen, Hinweise zur Durchführung	---
Quelle	---



THE ORIGINS OF FOOTBALL

Read the text about the early days of football.

 Then tick (✓) the sentences below “true” or “false”.

You will find the underlined word at the bottom of the page.

	true	false
(1) Something like football was played in China more than 2000 years ago.		
(2) The Greeks enjoyed ball games a lot.		
(3) In the Greek game “pheninda” you were not allowed to touch the ball.		
(4) In the Roman game “hapastum” you had to kick the ball across a goal line.		
(5) Hundreds of years ago football in England was a very brutal game.		
(6) For some kings and queens playing football was even a crime.		
(7) English soldiers played this game to practise for war with another country.		
(8) Football in England was not allowed before 1801.		
(9) Before 1801, the goal posts had to be 5 kilometres apart.		
(10) Before 1801, a football team could have any number of players.		
(11) The rules for football were thought up in Eton and Cambridge.		
(12) The football we know today started to be played in 1863.		



The Origins of Football

One of the earliest examples of a game similar to football existed in China. We know that around 200 BC a game called Tsu Chu ('kick ball') was played with two 30ft-high bamboo poles as goals. The Greeks, for whom ball games were very important, played a form of football which was known as "pheninda" and allowed kicking the ball, running with it and holding it in your hands. The Romans called their game "hapastum" and played it on a rectangular¹ field with two teams and lines which marked the ends of the field. The point of the game was to throw the ball from player to player, moving forward all the time and finally to throw it across the other team's "goal-line".

How did such a game come to England? We have documents saying that as early as in the twelfth century a game with a ball was played on one special Tuesday every year in a town called Ashbourne. The whole town would take part and the game could last for days. There is also a story which places the first football game in the east of England. This legend says local people played "football" with the cut-off head of a Danish soldier they had killed in battle! In these early times, whole towns and villages played against other towns and villages – and kicking, punching, biting and all kinds of dangerous attacks were allowed.

Often English monarchs tried to forbid such games. In 1365, King Edward III stopped football because of its violence – and because his soldiers spent most of their time playing football instead of practising for war! Queen Elizabeth I even sent football players to prison for a week because she didn't like the way they behaved!

However, football became more and more popular and by 1681, it was at least no longer a crime to play football in England! The games were still brutal and noisy, with players often leaving the field with broken bones or serious wounds. In most cases there was no standard for the number of players and sometimes the two goals were as far as 5 kilometres apart!

It was only by 1801 that it was agreed that teams should have an equal number of players and that the playing area should be about 91 metres (100 yards). People at Eton College fixed the first written rules of football in 1815, and by 1848, Cambridge University had produced a set of laws and regulations for football. Fifteen years later, The Football Association was founded and "Association Football", the game that is called "soccer" and played around the world today, was finally born.

Vocabulary:

1 rectangular – *rechteckig*

LÖSUNG



	true	false
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(2) The Greeks enjoyed ball games a lot.	✓	
(3) In the Greek game "pheninda" you were not allowed to touch the ball.		✓
(4) In the Roman game "hapastum" you had to kick the ball across a goal line.		✓
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(11) The rules for football were thought up in Eton and Cambridge.	✓	
(12) The football we know today started to be played in 1863.	✓	