

# Sports Around the World

Sport is no longer a matter of simply playing games. It is a way of life for people all over the world. It can also be an international language, a force for peace or a political weapon as well as business.

Sport is something that touches our lives to a lesser or greater degree. Some sports are global, others are more localised. Many sports have changed through the ages, others have stayed essentially the same for hundreds of years.

## QUESTIONS

Can you give examples of global and local sports? Are there any sports played exclusively in the Czech Republic?

What are the sports with a long history? What are the most recent sports and games?

## CLASSIFICATION OF SPORTS

### Stadium Team Sports

American Football, Football, Rugby, Baseball, Softball, Cricket, Hockey

### Court Games

Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton, Tennis, Squash

### Athletics

Track Events, Field Events

### Gymnastics

Men's, Women's Gymnastics (Artistic); Rhythmic Gymnastics

### Combat Sports

Boxing, Wrestling, Sumo Wrestling, Martial Arts

### Water Sports

Swimming, Rowing, Canoeing, Windsurfing, Diving, Scuba Diving

### Winter Sports

Skiing, Ski Jumping, Bobsleigh, Snowboarding, Skating, Ice Hockey

### Activity/ Adventure Sports

Cycling, Mountain Biking, Skateboarding, Inline Skating, Mountaineering, Paragliding

## TASK

Add to the list more sports you know.

Give characteristics of sports you like best.

## WORLD SPORTS QUIZ

"The most popular sport in the world is football (called soccer in some countries). However, it is not always the designated national sport of a country. Match these national sports with their nation."

1. The winter sport is hockey and the summer sport is lacrosse in which country?  
Canada  
Finland  
United States  
Russia
2. The most popular sport in this country is kickboxing. Which country is it?  
Indonesia  
Myanmar  
Cambodia  
Singapore
3. If singing was a sport, it would be the national sport of Wales. As it is, which sport enjoys the most support in that hilly country?  
Rugby Union  
Cricket  
Football (Soccer)  
Rock-climbing
4. What is the most popular sport in the People's Republic of China?  
Ice Skating  
Dragon Boat Racing  
Table Tennis  
Mahjong
5. What is the national sport of Pakistan?  
Horse racing  
Cricket  
Field Hockey  
Football (Soccer)
6. Basketball is the national sport of this country, but football is also a popular sport.  
Sweden  
United States  
Lithuania  
Finland
7. What is England's national sport?  
Football  
Rugby  
Polo  
Cricket
8. In which country is darts the national sport?  
Tonga  
Fiji  
Tuvalu  
Papua New Guinea

## VOCABULARY

### Exercise 1:

What sports are the people probably talking about?

1. It is all a matter of balance really.
2. You need a good eye and a lot of concentration.
3. The women's downhill starts at ten.
4. After his performance on the rings, he'll be hoping for something better on the horse.
5. You get sore at first and can hardly sit down, but you get used to it after a while.
6. The next big race is the 800 metres, in which Sarah Gates represents Great Britain.
7. It's incredibly noisy, fast and dangerous, but exciting to watch.
8. And so Clare Downs wins the 100 metres freestyle to add to her victory in breaststroke.

### Exercise 2:

Read this text and choose the best alternative from the four choices given to fill each gap.

To be good at whatever sport you (1) \_\_\_\_\_, you need to (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of time and energy on it. Professional footballers, for example, need to develop particular (3) \_\_\_\_\_, like passing the ball and tackling, but they also need to improve their endurance and general (4) \_\_\_\_\_. They (5) \_\_\_\_\_ most days. This usually involves running around the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and doing lots of exercises.

- |                |                   |              |          |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|----------|
| 1. A do        | B make            | C play       | D take   |
| 2. A give      | B spend           | C use        | D waste  |
| 3. A abilities | B characteristics | C strategies | D skills |
| 4. A state     | B fitness         | C form       | D image  |
| 5. A prepare   | B perform         | C rehearse   | D train  |
| 6. A pitch     | B court           | C grass      | D pool   |

### Exercise 3:

Complete the sentences with the expressions given below.

*tournament record score beat win opponent*

1. Who do you think will.....?
2. Sweden..... Portugal 2-0.
3. She's a very difficult .....
4. What was the final.....?
5. It's an incredible time – I think he has broken the world .....
6. It's a five-day.....

### Exercise 4:

Complete the following phrases with either *win* or *beat*.

- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. ...a medal      | 6. ...a competition         |
| 2. ...a trophy     | 7. ...the hot favourite     |
| 3. ...your rival   | 8. ...by two seconds        |
| 4. ...a race       | 9. ...the first round match |
| 5. ...the champion | 10. ...the championship     |