

# The Beautiful Game

Complete the questions at the bottom of the page. Then ask your partner the questions and complete the text.

The game of football was invented by 1)\_\_\_\_\_. Or was it? Certainly today's game follows the rules which were written by a schoolmaster nearly 150 years ago. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1863, a group of London clubs agreed to follow them. This group called themselves 3)\_\_\_\_\_.

So, the rules of today's game were started by the English, but what about the origins of the game itself?

The earliest form of the game was played in **China** in 200 BC. The Chinese called the game *tsu chu*, which means 5)\_\_\_\_\_. The ball, which was made of animal skin, was kicked between two 10-metre bamboo poles to score a goal.

About two hundred years later, in 4 BC, 7)\_\_\_\_\_ enjoyed playing a game which they called *pheninda*. In this game, players could kick, run with and handle the ball.

Soon afterwards came the **Romans**. Their game was called *hapastum*. The object of the game was for teams to kick and throw the ball to each other while moving forward and eventually throw it beyond the opponents' goal-line to score a goal.

In 9)\_\_\_\_\_, **Japanese** Imperial society played *kemari*, which means *kick ball*. Eight players kicked the ball to each other on a square playing ground. There were no goalposts or teams (so no winners and losers) because this was a ceremony for the emperor rather than a competition.

In **Mexico** and **Central America** in 600 AD, the creation of the rubber ball brought about a game played on a court with a tall wall at each end. In the middle of each wall was a 11)\_\_\_\_\_. A goal was scored by kicking or throwing the ball through the ring.

In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Marco Polo visited China. He is thought to have met a Japanese *kemari* player there who explained *kemari* to him. As we know, Marco Polo brought back 13)\_\_\_\_\_ from China, changing the Italian diet forever, but did he also bring back the game of football? Who knows, but we do know a game called *calcio* (from the verb *calcicare* meaning *kick*) was developed in Florence, **Italy** in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

In **England**, although the game was played as far back as the 12<sup>th</sup> century, it was a mob sport and people were often injured or killed. For hundreds of years, 15)\_\_\_\_\_ tried to ban the game, without success. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, public schools like Eton, Harrow, Rugby and Uppingham adopted ball games to encourage team spirit and discipline. The game developed by Rugby school is now named after the school (rugby), but it was the headmaster of Uppingham School, called Edward Thring, who wrote down the first set of football rules. These rules lead to the foundation of The Football Association and today's game is based on them.

So, clearly the rules may have originated in England, but the game has been around for a lot longer.

Write the questions.

- 1 Who \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 3 What \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 5 What \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 7 Who \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 9 When \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 11 What \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 13 What \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 15 Who \_\_\_\_\_ ?

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The earliest form of the game was played in **China** in 200 BC. The Chinese called the game 4) \_\_\_\_\_, which means *kick ball*. The ball, which was made of 6) \_\_\_\_\_, was kicked between two 10-metre bamboo poles to score a goal.

About two hundred years later, in 4 BC, the **Greeks** enjoyed playing a game which they called *pheninda*. In this game, players could kick, run with and handle the ball.

Soon afterwards came the **Romans**. Their game was called 8) \_\_\_\_\_. The object of the game was for teams to kick and throw the ball to each other while moving forward and eventually throw it beyond the opponents' goal-line to score a goal.

In about 500 AD, **Japanese** Imperial society played *kemari*, which means 10) \_\_\_\_\_. Eight players kicked the ball to each other on a square playing ground. There were no goalposts or teams (so no winners and losers) because this was a ceremony for the emperor rather than a competition.

In **Mexico** and **Central America** in 600 AD, the creation of the rubber ball brought about a game played on a court with a tall wall at each end. In the middle of each wall was a stone ring. A goal was scored by kicking or throwing the ball through the ring.

In 12) \_\_\_\_\_, Marco Polo visited China. He is thought to have met a Japanese *kemari* player there who explained *kemari* to him. As we know, Marco Polo brought back pasta from China, changing the Italian diet forever, but did he also bring back the game of football? Who knows, but we do know a game called *calcio* (from the verb *calcicare* meaning *kick*) was developed in 14) \_\_\_\_\_ in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

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- 2 When \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 4 What \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 6 What \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 8 What \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 10 What \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 12 When \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 14 Where \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 16 Who \_\_\_\_\_ ?