Hockey

When athletes come together from around the world to compete in the Olympic and Paralympic Games, they are fulfilling their dreams and competing at the highest level. Billions of people across the globe join in: watching, listening to and reading about the greatest global celebration of sport. To celebrate the London 2012 Games, the British Council is making a wide range of classroom resources available for learners of English worldwide.

Hockey is the oldest known game played with a ball and stick. It was played in Persia more than 4,000 years ago and has been an Olympic sport since 1908. Do you know where the name ‘hockey’ comes from? Have you ever played hockey? Do you know the rules?
1. Vocabulary

a. Write the correct words in the spaces provided.

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Goalkeeper</td>
<td>b. Penalty corner</td>
<td>c. Defenders and goalkeeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Attackers</td>
<td>e. Shooting circle</td>
<td>f. Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Hit</td>
<td>h. Shin pads</td>
<td>i. Head (of stick)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Centre line</td>
<td>k. Pitch</td>
<td>l. 22 mm line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. The rules of hockey

- Hockey is like football with sticks. Two teams of 11 players play on a pitch with a goal at each end.
- The aim is to score more goals than the other team. Players can only score "field goals" from inside the circle.
- Every player has a hooked stick. One side of the head is flat. You can only touch the ball with the flat side.
- Using the stick, players can "push" the ball along the ground, "hit" it like golf, or "flick" or "scoop" the ball up in the air.
- Only the goalkeeper can touch the ball with their hands or feet, and no one can use their stick to touch other players or their sticks. If any player does these, it is a foul, and the other team gets a free hit or a penalty corner.
- At penalty corners, some defenders stand behind the goal-line, and the attackers wait outside the circle to hit the ball.
- If there is a foul in the circle, the attackers get a penalty stroke. The penalty taker must use a flick or a push.
- Hockey uses cards: a green is a warning; a yellow – you miss 5 minutes; a red – you are off!

a. Match the words in the table with their definitions below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) back-line</th>
<th>b) circle</th>
<th>c) goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d) flick</td>
<td>e) penalty corner</td>
<td>f) yellow card</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. You have to be in this area if you want to shoot.
2. A sign held up to indicate an official suspension.
3. A line that indicates the end of the pitch.
4. When you take this, no attacker is allowed to be inside the circle.
5. Moving the ball by putting the end of your stick under the ball and lifting.
6. You win the game if you score more of these.
3. Questions & Answers

**Why is it called hockey?**
Ah, you see the name comes from the French "hoquet" or a hooked stick.

**But it can't be French? I thought, like most games, the British wrote the rules, the French created an intentional association and the headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland?**
Almost correct! Yes, the rules were written by England, Ireland and Wales in 1900, and, yes, the Fédération Internationale de Hockey was formed by Frenchman Paul Léauteis in 1924. The headquarters is actually in Lausanne, Switzerland.

**So it is quite a recent sport then?**
Not at all! Ball games played with sticks have a long history – records show similar games played by the Egyptians, Greeks, Persians and Aztecs, as well as lacrosse or baggatawy in North America. But this one came from the British Isles. Ireland has hurling, Scotland has shinty, Wales has banty and England had hockey.

**That ball looks very hard. Do people get hurt?**
The goalkeeper has to wear special protection called padding. Also the ball shouldn't go above shoulder-height.

**I'm still scared. I've heard there are bullys in hockey.**
There are, but it's not what you think. It doesn't mean some players frighten or scare others. In hockey “a bully” is when a player from each side touch sticks before they restart the game.

**Those sticks still look scary to me. Don't the people with the biggest sticks always win?**
No! In fact, in the 1920s the Indians created much better sticks where the heads were smaller and rounder. This allowed them to dribble – to run with the ball.

**And that was better because ...?**
Well, India won Olympic gold in 1928, and then won every Olympics after until Pakistan beat them in 1960.

**Hey, how does a hockey player say "Yes"?**
That's an old joke: "Ho-kay"!
a. Decide if the following statements are true or false according to the text.

1. Hockey is a French game.  
   a. True  
   b. False

2. The Aztecs played hockey.  
   a. True  
   b. False

3. The British Isles have four different stick-and-ball games.  
   a. True  
   b. False

4. The shoulder is where your arms join your body.  
   a. True  
   b. False

5. A bully is the player who restarts the game.  
   a. True  
   b. False

6. The traditional sticks were bigger than the Indian sticks.  
   a. True  
   b. False

7. "Dribbling" means running and keeping the ball close to you.  
   a. True  
   b. False

8. The Indians lost the 1960 final.  
   a. True  
   b. False

b. Choose the right form so the sentences mean the same.

1. The Indians created better sticks  
   Better sticks ... by the Indians in the 1920s.  
   a. are created  
   b. was created  
   c. were created  
   d. have been created

2. People have played ball games with sticks for centuries.  
   Ball games with sticks ... for centuries.  
   a. is played  
   b. was played  
   c. were played  
   d. have been played

3. They play the game on synthetic pitches these days.  
   The game ... on synthetic pitches these days.  
   a. is played  
   b. was played  
   c. were played  
   d. have been played

4. The goalkeeper can wear padding.  
   Padding ... by the goalkeeper.  
   a. can wear  
   b. can be wear  
   c. is worn  
   d. can be worn

5. You can't "hit" a ball into the air.  
   The ball ... into the air.  
   a. can't hit  
   b. can't be hit  
   c. is hit  
   d. can't have hit
4. Solution

Exercise 1a
1. h; 2. g; 3. c; 4. b; 5. a; 6. d; 7. e; 8. f; 9. i; 10. l; 11. j; 12. k

Exercise 2a
1. b; 2. f; 3. a; 4. e; 5. d; 6. c

Exercise 3a
1. False (F); 2. F; 3. True (T); 4. T; 5. F; 6. T; 7. T; 8. T

Exercise 3b
1. c; 2. d; 3. a; 4. d; 5. b