

James Naismith

Activity 1

What do these dates and numbers refer to?

50km _____

50000 _____

1861 _____

9 (two possible answers) _____

1891 _____

3 _____

13 _____



Activity 2

Answer these questions:

Which industry was prevalent in Almonte?

Who mainly live there now?

How many siblings did James Naismith have?

How did his parents die?

What were the two basic principles of the new game?

Who played the first ever game of basketball ?

Which international association helped increase the popularity of the game?

Activity 3

Listen and complete the gaps

Almonte is a small town about 50 kilometres from the capital city of Canada, Ottawa. Once a great centre of the textiles industry, it is now a _____ town with a population of less than five thousand, with the majority of them commuting to the capital to work.

Almonte is also where a certain Mr James Naismith was born. Who was he, I hear you ask? Well, let's just say that without him we would never have seen the likes of Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, Kobe Bryant or Yao Ming. Yes, you _____ it – James Naismith invented the sport of basketball. Here's his story.

Born on the 6th November 1861, he was the oldest of three children to his parents of _____ origins. Sadly, they both died of typhoid fever when James was just nine years old, and then after his _____ death a couple of years later the children went to live with their uncle Peter, a strict but fair man.

James wasn't particularly brilliant at school from an academic point of view, but in physical activities hardly anybody could _____ him. This skill would serve him well in later life.

Moving forward some years, to 1891 to be precise, he found himself as a professor at Springfield College, Massachusetts. It was here that he was given the task of _____ a new sport, but one with two basic principles: "make it fair for all players, and free of rough play". To eliminate the rough play, he made it that the ball could not be _____ or dribbled, having noticed that the rough action in sports such as football, rugby and lacrosse happens so. The only way to move the ball was to pass it from one player to the other. The second way to ensure no rough play was to make the 'goal' in such a way that it couldn't be _____. Again, in football, lacrosse and hockey much of the physical side of the game happens here. In order to do this he put the goals up _____. In order to score, the players had to throw the ball up and land it in the basket, hanging approximately three metres from the _____. So, the name of this game where the object was to put the ball in the basket? Come on, I don't need to spell it out.



The very first match took place in December 1891, between two teams of nine players. James _____ the thirteen rules of the game on the gym wall and the players pretty much just got on with it. It was a huge success. Within a year it was being written about in the _____ newsletter, and another year later had been taken up by the YMCA movement at an international level. The rest, as they say, is _____.

Transcript

Almonte is a small town about 50 kilometres from the capital city of Canada, Ottawa. Once a great centre of the textiles industry, it is now a quiet town with a population of less than five thousand, with the majority of them commuting to the capital to work.

Almonte is also where a certain Mr James Naismith was born. Who was he, I hear you ask? Well, let's just say that without him we would never have seen the likes of Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, Kobe Bryant or Yao Ming. Yes, you guessed it – James Naismith invented the sport of basketball. Here's his story.

Born on the 6th November 1861, he was the oldest of three children to his parents of Scottish origins. Sadly, they both died of typhoid fever when James was just nine years old, and then after his grandmother's death a couple of years later the children went to live with their uncle Peter, a strict but fair man.

James wasn't particularly brilliant at school from an academic point of view, but in physical activities hardly anybody could match him. This skill would serve him well in later life.

Moving forward some years, to 1891 to be precise, he found himself as a professor at Springfield College, Massachusetts. It was here that he was given the task of devising a new sport, but one with two basic principles: "make it fair for all players, and free of rough play". To eliminate the rough play, he made it that the ball could not be carried or dribbled, having noticed that the rough action in sports such as football, rugby and lacrosse happens so. The only way to move the ball was to pass it from one player to the other. The second way to ensure no rough play was to make the 'goal' in such a way that it couldn't be defended. Again, in football, lacrosse and hockey much of the physical side of the game happens here. In order to do this he put the goals up high. In order to score, the players had to throw the ball up and land it in the basket, hanging approximately three metres from the floor. So, the name of this game where the object was to put the ball in the basket? Come on, I don't need to spell it out.

The very first match took place in December 1891, between two teams of nine players. James posted the thirteen rules of the game on the gym wall and the players pretty much just got on with it. It was a huge success. Within a year it was being written about in the campus newsletter, and another year later had been taken up by the YMCA movement at an international level. The rest, as they say, is history.