

Научно-исследовательская работа

Английский язык

FOOTBALL, RUGBY AND CRICKET

THE MOST POPULAR SPORTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

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Introduction

It is interesting how many of today's sports games are popular in Commonwealth countries – football, rugby, cricket among them. Of course, horse racing was popular with the Greeks and Arabs long before the British began to put it into practice; and people had been playing football in one form or another for thousands of years all over the world. But it was the British who created special rules for these sports and sports games.

A similar story can be told about some other sports. Why did this happen in Britain before other countries? There are some possible explanations: after the Norman invasion of 1066, Britain was quite a peaceful country. As a result, people had time to develop sports. Later, after Britain's industrial revolution, English factories were based on highly organized work and strict time keeping. The same discipline was applied to sport. So uniforms, referees and punishments were introduced football and other games. British authorities thought that team games were good training for future military and industrial careers.

Chapter 1: Football

Football is a good example. In the Middle Ages people in Europe, Japan and Asia all played some forms of the game. A sort of football was also very popular in England, especially as a contest between villages. But at that time there were very few rules. When the students of English schools started to play football, rules then became necessary. They were changed several times and by the middle of the 19th century football had become the game that we know and like today. By the way, the first serious football rules were written at Cambridge University.

Football is the most popular game played in the U.K. and follows a traditional league system which consists of more than one hundred teams. The most popular league is known as the Premier League and consists of the 20 best teams from all over the U.K. The most popular of these teams are Manchester United, Liverpool and Arsenal. Football in the U.K. is governed by the Football Association which is one of the oldest governing bodies in the entire world. The two most famous Football Championships in the U.K. are the FA Cup and the Capital One Cup. There are 92 professional football clubs that participate in each of these tournaments each year.

Football was for a long time a British phenomenon, but it gradually spread to other European countries. The spread of football outside the UK was slow at first, but it soon reached every corner of the world. The Netherlands and Denmark formed their own football associations in 1889, followed by New Zealand in 1891, Argentina in 1893, and Chile, Switzerland and Belgium in 1895. Italy was next, forming its association in 1898. The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) was founded in 1904 and a foundation act was signed by representatives from France, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. England and the other British countries did not join FIFA from the start, they had invented the game and saw no reason to subordinate to an association.

Football consists of two kinds in Britain: association football(soccer) and rugby. Soccer played almost in all countries remains one of the most popular games in Great Britain.

Chapter 2: Rugby

Rugby is one of the most popular professional and recreational team sports in the U.K. and is divided into Rugby Union and Rugby League. The two sports are different in rules such as the number of players and in ways to advance the ball. The Rugby Football League acts as the governing body of Rugby League in the U.K. Based at Red Hall in Leeds, it administers the England Rugby League Team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the Championships which form the professional and semiprofessional structure of the game in the U.K. The Rugby Football Union continues to be the governing body for Rugby Union in the U.K. This organization promotes and runs the sport, organizes international matches for the England national team and educates and trains players and officials.

Rugby is a popular sport in England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and France. In recent years Italy has become a great rugby nation. It competes with England, Wales, Scotland, France, and Ireland at the Six Nations Championship. It's an annual rugby competition. All these teams are dreaming of Grand Slam. The Grand Slam means to win all the matches of the competition.

Rugby football was originated at Rugby public school. In this game players may carry the ball. Rugby is played by teams of 15 players with an oval ball.

Chapter 3: Cricket

Cricket is the national sport of the U.K. and became popular in the U.K. in the 17th century. Today there are 18 professional county clubs in the U.K. with all of them being named after historic counties. Each summer these county clubs participate in the First Class County Championship, which consists of two leagues of nice teams in in which matches are played over four days.

Cricket is an important part of English summer life. You can watch it all day on TV or even listen to it on the radio. News programmes keep you up-to-date with the score. Men, when they meet, always exchange a few words about the state of the game.

Throughout the 19th century, it spread throughout the world. Cricket is extremely popular in the present and former members of the Commonwealth in India, England and Australia as well as in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, West Indies, Bangladesh, South Africa, etc

One of cricket's distinguishing features is that the games are very long. In an ordinary game at a boys' school it takes up to a whole afternoon. But the big international games are up to five days long. The Champions Trophy, Asia Cup, World Cup, international Test Championship, T20 World Cup and are just a few of the major competitions in the sport.

There are two teams of 11 players each on a pitch with a wicket at each end. The bat, ball, and wickets and are the three main elements utilized in this game. The person who strikes the ball is known as a Batsman, whereas the person who bowls is known as a Bowler, the person who is stand behind of the wickets is known as wicketkeeper.

Conclusion

Sport is a main part of the British life and culture. Sports is on the programme of all state and private schools and universities. The government believes that team games develop character and team spirit. Nearly all schools have sports grounds, swimming pools and tennis courts. There are a lot of sports programmes on TV. The British are proud that many sports were invented in their country and spread throughout the world.

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