

Football vs. Soccer

Directions: Football and Soccer are popular sports in both America and many other countries. Read the two articles below about the sports. Choose one that you like the best and write an opinion paragraph answering the prompt below.

Prompt: Which sport is the best, football or soccer? Why?

Football: The Great American Sport

The National Football League (NFL) was formed in 1920, but football has been played since 1869. In recent years, football has been named the number one sport in North America. Even though football is the most popular sport in our area, it is not a sport that is played in many other countries.

Football is one of the few sports that can be played at any time during the year. Rain or shine, day or night, hail or sleet. The weather doesn't matter because football can be played and enjoyed no matter what. Football stadiums can be found in many states across the U.S. You can find them from hot and humid Texas all the way to the freezing, snow of Minnesota. Wherever you are from, you have a team nearby to root for.

Football is played at many different levels of profession. It can find teams at high schools, college and even professional NFL teams. The first real football game was actually played at a university against two opposing teams. After many years of college football, the game was becoming very popular. This caused the sport to become one that was formed into a National League.

The most watched televised event in the United States is the super bowl. Most Americans enjoy rooting for a specific team. Many people who watch the super bowl yearly aren't even football fans. They are fans who watch this one important event. The super bowl has become an American pastime. Young and old, rich and poor gather around a t.v. to watch the country's top two teams play for the title of champion.

Football is America's favorite sport and deserves to be at the top.

Soccer: The World's Top Sport

The first recorded game of soccer was played between Scotland and England in 1872. Soccer has been played for more than 3,000 years, but this was first time two international teams played one another. Soccer is one of the only sports played worldwide. According to a 2001 FIFA survey, over 240 million people regularly play soccer in more than **200 countries**, in every part of the world. Soccer is widely thought of as the most popular sport in the world.

The world cup is the largest soccer tournament in the world. It is held every four years in a different country. Billions of people watch the televised games as the national teams from countries around the globe battle it out for the world title. The world cup starts with 31 teams who qualified from the beginning 204 teams who entered. In most countries who play this sport it is known as "football".

Unlike other sports, women also play soccer. Women started playing soccer around the same time men did. However, originally men were the main players in the game. Women's

soccer began to become extremely popular in the 1990's. Women's soccer has its own portion in the world cup. Although, it has only been around for less than 25 years. It was founded in 1991. The first women's world cup was held 61 years after the men's first world cup.

In soccer, two teams play against one another on a field with two goals. Each team is made up of eleven players. The only player position that is specified are goalkeepers. All other players can move around the field into any position or area they need to.

Soccer is a beloved worldwide sport.