Fancy a game of football?

In different parts of the world the word *football* is used to describe some very different games. The only things they have in common is that they are all team games, they are played with a ball and they are related to games played in medieval times.

Most people think that *football* got its name from the fact that the players kick the ball, but that's not true. Different medieval games became known as *football* because people played them on foot and not on horseback.

The game the British know as football is officially called *Association Football*. People in Australia and the USA call it soccer. In this game, players can only use their feet, except for the goalkeeper who can use his hands too.

In the USA, football is something different. In *American Football*, players mostly use their hands. Players can score points by carrying the ball to score a touchdown or they can kick a field goal through the upright posts.

Football for Australians is *Australian Rules Football* or *Aussie Rules* and players use their hands and feet to kick, pass and shoot. *Aussie Rules* began as a way for cricket players to keep fit during the winter. It is played on cricket pitches, which are oval and much bigger than those used for other types of football.

The one thing that all football games have in common is that fans are crazy about them. In England in 1349, King Edward III banned football because it was making people practise archery less. Just imagine if someone tried to ban football today!

B. Read again and write T for True or F for False.

1. We call the sport football because players kick the ball. ◯
2. Football is called soccer only in the USA. ◯
3. In both American Football and Aussie Rules players can use their hands. ◯
4. Aussie Rules is played on a pitch that is bigger than most football pitches. ◯
5. People were not allowed to play football in England in 1349. ◯

C. Read again and answer the questions.

1. Why were different medieval games called *football*?
2. What do people from the USA call *Association Football*?
3. How do you score a *field goal*?
4. What do Australians mean by *football*?
5. Where do Australians play *Aussie Rules*?

LIVEWORKSHEETS