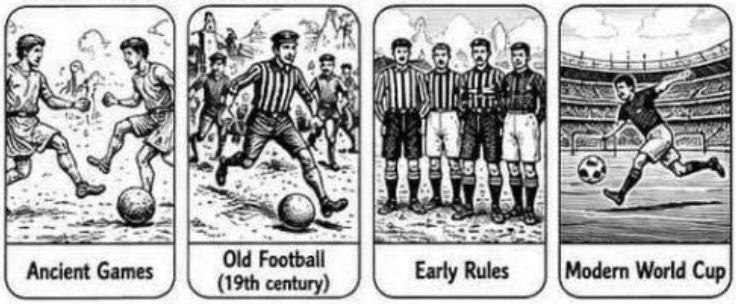
Name: _____ Date: _____

From Ancient Games to the Modern World Cup

The History of Football

A. BEFORE READING – Predictions

Look at the pictures and answer the questions.



1. Did football always look the same? _____
2. Did people use their hands in the past? _____
3. Which picture looks more dangerous? Why? _____
4. Where do you think football started? _____

B. READ THE TEXT

Football is one of the most popular sports in the world today. However, the game looked very different in **ancient times.** Early forms of football **were played** in China, Greece, and Rome thousands of years ago.

In the past, players sometimes **used** their hands and feet. The games **were** often violent and there **were** very few rules. During the 19th century, football **became** popular in English schools.

Different schools played different versions of the game. Some students used their hands while others only **used** their feet. Later, official rules were **created** and football slowly became the modern sport we know today.

Today, football **is played** all around the world and millions of people watch tournaments such as the FIFA World Cup.

C. TRUE or FALSE

Write T (True) or F (False).

1. Football started in South America. _____
2. Ancient football games were sometimes violent. _____
3. All schools used the same rules. _____
4. Official rules were created later. _____
5. Football is popular around the world today. _____

D. SKIMMING

What is the text mainly about? Tick (✓).

- ☐ Famous football players.
- ☐ The history of football.
- ☐ Football stadiums.

E. ORDER THE EVENTS

Put the events in chronological order (1–5).

____ FIFA organized international competitions.

____ Ancient people played football in China.

____ English schools created official rules.

____ Players used their hands and feet.

____ Football became popular around the world.

F. FILL IN THE GAPS

Complete with the verbs in the box in the past.

play	use	become	create	organize

1. Ancient people _____ football in China.
2. Players _____ their hands and feet.
3. Schools _____ official rules.
4. Football _____ a global sport.
5. FIFA _____ international competitions.

G. COMPARE: OLD FOOTBALL vs MODERN FOOTBALL

Complete the chart.

OLD FOOTBALL (then)		MODERN FOOTBALL (now)
_____	Rules	_____
_____	How players used the ball	_____
_____	Safety	_____
_____	Referees	_____
_____	Competitions	_____

H. GRAMMAR SPOT: Find examples in the text.

Past Simple	
Used to	
Passive Voice	
Present Perfect	

I. THINK & ANSWER

1. Would you like to play old football? Why (not)? _____
2. Which version is more interesting: old football or modern football? Why? _____
3. What rule from the past would you keep today? Why? _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS