Soccer or Football, one of the most popular games worldwide since the 1800s, has a long history. It has been played since ancient times.

The most relevant of these ancient games to our modern game is the Chinese game of 'Tsu-Chu' or 'kick ball' as it translates. Records of the game begin during the Tsin Dynasty (255-206BC) and represent a game in which soldiers competed in a training activity kicking a leather ball filled with feathers into a net strung between two poles. The main difference between Tsu-Chu and soccer was the height of the goal, which hung about 30 feet from the floor.

Soccer-like games were also played in Japan and the Pacific Islands where they used coconuts, large oranges and animal bladders as footballs.

The ancient Greeks and Romans trained their soldiers for war with a game similar to football.

A game called *ulama* was played across South and Central America before the arrival of European conquerors. The Aztecs played with a rubber ball .The Mayans also played a kind of football. Ancient courts measuring up to 459 feet by 114 feet have been found. This game had religious significance and sometimes involved human sacrifices.

Football as we know it began to develop in modern Europe from the 9th century onwards in England. The game used to be brutal – so brutal that it was sometimes forbidden. King Edward, who reigned in the early 1300s, made it illegal. King Henry IV and Henry VIII also passed laws to prevent the violent competition. Queen Elizabeth I ordered jail time and church penance to those caught playing the game.

The codification of football began in the public schools of Britain at the beginning of the 16th century. Within the private school system football was a game in which the hands were used during periods of play and grappling allowed but otherwise the modern shape of the game was being formed. Two barless goals were placed at each end, goalkeepers and tactics were introduced and high tackles outlawed.

The rules and regulations continued to develop in Britain and by the 1700s football clubs began to emerge, playing matches against one another. During this time the players were still allowed to use their hands during the game and were only permitted to pass the ball backwards

LIVEWORKSHEETS

It was finally the Football Association who attempted to bring together the different codes and systems across Britain to form one accepted set of rules in 1863. Soon after the FA rules were agreed, the first official football match took place in Battersea Park, London, featuring many of the top players.

From that point on football flourished in Britain, with the Football Association Cup being introduced 12 years later and the foundation of the Football League in 1888. At the same time clubs began to spread throughout Europe, with Denmark, Belgium and Switzerland all having Association football clubs by 1880. By the turn of the 20th century many European countries had formed their own football leagues and competed in international games between rivaling nations.

The International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) reflected an international agreement between codes and countries and was formed in 1904. In 1930 the first ever FIFA World Cup was held in Uruguay and has remained the pinnacle of the football world ever since.

Answer true or false and correct the false ones.

1. Football has been played since Prehistoric times. ( )
2. It has always been played with a leather ball. ( )
3. The Chinese solders played football to train for war. ( )
4. For the Aztecs and Mayas it was a game for recreation. ( )
5. King Edward forbade the game in England because he didn't like sports. ( )
6. Football started to develop firstly in England. ( )
7. In the 16th century, the game was played as it is played today. ( )
8. The first clubs emerged in the 18th century. ( )
9. The first official game took place in England. ( )
10. The first World Cup took place in England. ( )

Answer the questions.

1. How did the ancient Chinese play football?

.....

2. What kind of material were the balls made of?

.....

3. Why was football illegal in England for some time?

.....

4. How was football in the 17th century different from football today?

.....

5. Who made the rules for football?

.....

6. What was an important role of the Football Association?

.....

7. When did the first official game take place?

.....

8. How long did it take to introduce the Football Association Cup?

.....

9. What is to role of FIFA?

.....

10. What happened in 1930?

.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS