

## Reading

## Basketball, Past and Present

Do you ever play or watch basketball? What do you know about it? Is it becoming more popular in your country?

Basketball was invented in the United States in 1891 by Dr. James Naismith.

Naismith was a physical education teacher who wanted his college students to keep exercising during winter.

Naismith used two baskets instead of the hoops we use today. This is why we call the game 'basketball'. These baskets were tied to poles. In the beginning, players had to climb up a ladder to get the ball back from the basket after someone scored. However, people got tired of this. They made a hole at the bottom of the basket so the ball could fall through. In about 1906 the baskets were replaced with metal hoops with backboards.

Many people think that the greatest basketball player ever was Michael Jordan. He helped make basketball more popular in America and around the world in the 1990s. Jordan played for a team called the Chicago Bulls and he led them to six National Basketball Association (NBA) championships (1991–1993, 1996–1998).

Today basketball is very popular all around the world. It is a cheap game to play; you can play it indoors or outdoors, and you don't need much space. It's also an exciting sport and the rules are easy to understand.

## Reading

For questions 1–3 you must answer in complete sentences.

1. Why did Dr. Naismith invent basketball?

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2. When did hoops replace baskets?

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3. How many NBA championships did Michael Jordon win with the Chicago Bulls?

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For questions 4–5 tick (✓) the box.

4. Basketball was invented by a P.E. teacher.

True  False

5. The rules of basketball are not easy to understand.

True  False

6. Find the word in the passage which means the OPPOSITE of:

**worst** (paragraph 3) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Find the word in the passage which means the SAME as:

**inside** (paragraph 4) \_\_\_\_\_