



History of Basketball

Match

1	invent	A	A goal or purpose.
2	Objective	B	The act of bouncing the ball while moving.
3	Opposite team	C	The area where basketball is played.
4	Dribbling	D	Having a natural ability to do something well.
5	court	E	An organized group of sports teams that compete against each other.
6	professional	F	To start or set up something.
7	league	G	The team you are competing against.
8	establish	H	Something given or added to help achieve something.
9	talented	I	To create or design something that has not existed before.
10	contribution	j	Someone who is skilled and earns money from their skill.

B. Fill in the blanks with the correct words:

1. Dr. James Naismith _____ basketball in 1891.
2. The _____ of the game is to score points by getting the ball into the basket.
3. In basketball, you need to play against the _____.
4. _____ is an important skill in basketball.
5. The basketball _____ should be smooth and well-maintained.
6. The NBA is a _____ basketball league.
7. Many countries have their own basketball _____.
8. The NBA was _____ in 1949.
9. Michael Jordan is considered one of the most _____ basketball players.
10. LeBron James has made significant _____ to the sport of basketball.



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The History of Basketball

Basketball is a popular sport played all around the world. It was invented by Dr. James Naismith in December 1891. Dr. Naismith was a physical education teacher in Springfield, Massachusetts, USA. He wanted to create a new game to keep his students active during the winter months.

The First Game

The first basketball game was played with a soccer ball and two peach baskets as goals. The baskets were nailed to the balcony of the gym, and the objective was to throw the ball into the opposing team's basket. The first game had nine players on each team. The final score was 1-0, and the only point was scored by William R. Chase.

Early Rules

Dr. Naismith wrote 13 basic rules for the game. Some of these rules are still in use today, while others have changed. For example, the original rules did not allow dribbling, and players could only pass the ball to move it across the court. Over time, dribbling became an important part of the game.

Growth and Development

Basketball quickly became popular in schools and colleges across the United States. In 1898, the first professional basketball league was formed, called the National Basketball League (NBL). Although the NBL did not last long, it helped to increase the popularity of the sport.

The NBA

In 1949, the National Basketball Association (NBA) was established. The NBA grew rapidly and became the premier professional basketball league in the world. Many talented players, such as Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, and LeBron James, have played in the NBA and made significant contributions to the sport.



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International Popularity

Basketball is now played and enjoyed by people in many countries. It became an official Olympic sport in 1936 at the Berlin Games. Today, countries like Spain, Argentina, China, and Australia have strong basketball teams and leagues.

Conclusion

Basketball has a rich history that spans over 100 years. From its simple beginnings with a soccer ball and peach baskets, it has grown into a global sport enjoyed by millions. The game continues to evolve, and its popularity shows no signs of slowing down.

Comprehension Questions

1. Who invented basketball and when?

2. What were used as goals in the first basketball game?

3. How many players were on each team in the first game?

4. What was the score of the first basketball game?

5. Name one of the original rules that has changed over time.

6. What was the name of the first professional basketball league?

7. When was the NBA established?

8. In which year did basketball become an official Olympic sport?

9. Name two countries, other than the USA, that have strong basketball teams.