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## CLASS 1: Football

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**BEFORE READING** -In pairs/groups, have a look at the pictures of the following text. Tick the best option for the topic of the text. Then, share it with the whole class.



The text is about ...

1. ...The history of the ball
2. ...The rules of football
3. ...Who invented the game

1. **FIRST READING** - Read the **FIRST** paragraph of the text and check your predictions.

## The Origins of Football

**Soccer, football – whatever you prefer to call it, is a game of passion. Over 250 million people play this game today. But who created it? There is evidence that the game started a long time ago...**

The Aztecs were the first players. They played a game using a ball without their hands. They called it 'Tchatali'. The game had religious and political roots.



In 206 BC, in China, the military men played this game to be in shape. They never used their hands. They called it 'Cuju' or 'Tsu Chu'. Teams were often formed by 12-16 players (men, and women too).



Over the years, two types of football appeared around the world, rugby, and football. Football became popular in England, but the rules were not clear.



In 1863, English people decided to define the rules of the game and call it football. Some football clubs created a rulebook and formed the Football Association.

In 1904, they created FIFA. It organizes the World Cup competition every four years. Professional football has become the most popular game around the world.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Text adapted from:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bijBRKgC4WI> and [https://historyofsoccer.info/the\\_history\\_of\\_soccer](https://historyofsoccer.info/the_history_of_soccer)

2. **SECOND READING** – In groups/pairs, read the COMPLETE text and decide if these sentences are **TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)**.

- A. 250 thousand people play football today. T/F
- B. Aztecs played for fun only. T/F
- C. The Chinese teams had women and men. T/F
- D. In the past, before 1863, there wasn't a rulebook. T/F
- E. FIFA started in 1804. T/F

3. **THIRD READING** – Complete the crossword game using the information from the text.

<h3>The Origins of Football</h3>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Across</b></p> <p>4. Who created the first rulebook.</p> <p>6. Aztecs called the game...</p> <p>8. FIFA organizes the ... every 4 years.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Down</b></p> <p>1. Teams were often formed by twelve to ...</p> <p>2. For the Aztecs the game had religious and ... roots</p> <p>3. Another type of football.</p> <p>5. Who was the first players?</p> <p>7. In China played men and...</p>

4. **AFTER READING** - Go back to the text about 'The origins of Football'. What differences or similarities can you find between the way Chinese, Aztecs played, and how we play today? Use the trigram to express it.

