Listen and read







THE MUSEUM OF FOOTBALL

1 Henry VIII (1491–1547) was the famous British king with six wives. We know that Henry was mad about sport. He was particularly good at horse-riding and at tennis. But he was a football player, too! In King Henry VIII's papers there was an order for a pair of football boots. This is unusual because in King Henry VIII's time football wasn't a sport for gentlemen. Traditionally, there was only one football match a year. It was usually violent and dangerous. Henry was very competitive. Because he was the king, he was probably always the winner!

2 The British school Eton was important in the invention of modern football. A game called the Field Game was popular there. It was quite similar to modern football. Eton was the first place in the world to write down football rules. The rules are not the same now, but they were important in the creation of today's football. For example, before the Eton rules of 1845 there weren't any referees. So school football was really the origin of modern, professional football.

3 During the First World War, in December 1914 the British and German armies were very near to each other in Ypres, Belgium. The fighting was terrible and there were many dead soldiers. But at Christmas, something incredible happened. Between the British and German soldiers, there was a space called No-man's Land. One of the soldiers had a ball. Suddenly there wasn't any fighting. There was a football match! For a while all the soldiers were friends. But the British and German generals weren't happy. Soon, there were orders from the generals to stop playing football and start fighting again.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Read the text again. Are these sentences True (T) or False (F) or is the information Not Mentioned (NM)?

1 In King Henry VIII's time football matches were very common. T/F/NM

2 King Henry VIII's boots were very beautiful. T/F/NM

3 King Henry VIII was interested in doing different sports, but winning wasn't important to him. T/F/NM

4 The rules of modern football are exactly the same as the rules of the Eton Field Game. T/F/NM

5 There were referees at Eton in 1845. T/F/NM

6 Thanks to football, the British and German soldiers were friends for a short time at Christmas in 1914. T/F/NM

7 The British soldiers were the winners of the football match. T/F/NM

8 The football match between the British and German Armies was the idea of the generals. T/F/NM

LIVEWORKSHEETS