

# Sports



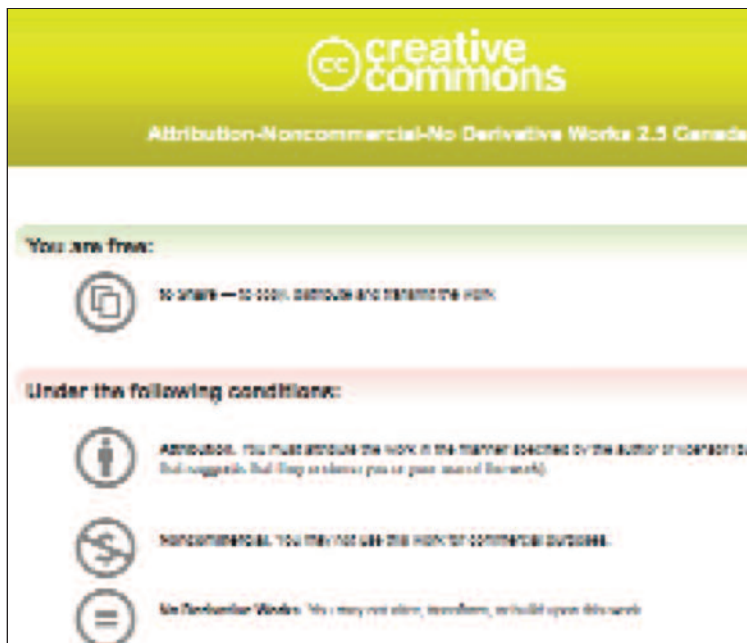
**Joan Acosta**

bestofthereader.ca

Best of the Reader series of books by Joan Acosta is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 2.5 Canada Licence.

joan@joanacosta.ca

Copyright 2019



# Contents

Welcome . . . . .	4
 Swedish twins are hockey players . . . . .	5
 Joannie is an Olympic athlete . . . . .	8
 Josh is a Paralympic athlete . . . . .	10
 Grey Cup . . . . .	12
 Gold medal winners . . . . .	14
 Two Brazilian soccer players . . . . .	16
 Olga is a track star at 90 . . . . .	20
 Steve Nash is a basketball star . . . . .	22
Find it . . . . .	25
Answers for exercises . . . . .	26

# Welcome


This e-book is part of a series called Best of The Reader. The stories in the e-books are from *The Westcoast Reader*. It is a newspaper for adults who are improving their English reading skills.


## To the reader


- ✓ You can use this book in a classroom, with a tutor, or on your own.
- ✓ Each story has exercises to go with it. These exercises can help you improve your English and reading skills.
- ✓ You can check your answers at the end of the book.

## Three reading levels

There are three reading levels in this book. Here are the symbols for each level:

Level 1 

Level 2 

Level 3 

## To the teacher

Learners can read the articles and do the exercises individually, in pairs, or in groups.

The topics can be explored further through discussion or follow-up activities.

## Teachers' Guide

The Teachers' Guide on this website has ideas on how to use the e-books with students.

## Acknowledgements

The author gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Capilano University for this project.

A special thank you to the learners and teachers who helped choose the articles for this book.

All of the material in this book first appeared in *The Westcoast Reader* (1982 to 2009). Some of the articles have been updated. Most of the exercises and activities for learners are based on material from *The Westcoast Reader Teachers' Notes* (1982 to 2009).

## Credits

### Photos

Front cover—Chantal: AP (Mark Baker), Sedins: *The Vancouver Sun*, Olga: *The Province*

Page 5—top: *The Vancouver Sun*, bottom: *The Province*; Page 6: *The Province*; Page 7: Mathias Family; Page 8—Joannie: *Wikimedia Commons*; Page 10: *The Vancouver Sun*; Page 12—top: *The Vancouver Sun*, bottom: *The Province*; Page 14—Carol: AP (Ed Wray), Chantal: AP (Mark Baker); Page 16—Kaká: Fotopollex, Marta: *The Vancouver Sun*; Page 17—left: ; right: Agencia Brasil *Wikimedia Commons*; right: *The Vancouver Sun*; Page 20—left: *Northshore News* (Paul McGrath), right: *The Province*; Page 22—left: *The Province*, right: Steve Nash Foundation; Page 24: Basketball Canada

### Illustrations

Page 12, 14: Nola Johnston; Page 8, 9, 10, 11, 20, 21: Guy Parsons



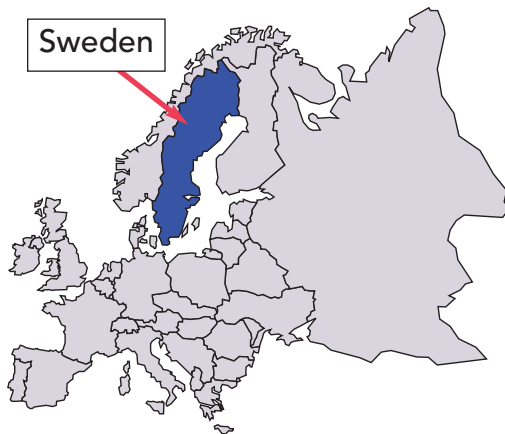
## Swedish twins are hockey players



Daniel (left) and Henrik in 2000

Daniel and Henrik Sedin are hockey players. They played for the Vancouver Canucks from 2000 to 2018.

The Sedins are twins. They were born in Sweden.



Sweden is in northern Europe.

### Played in the Olympics

The Sedin twins also played for Sweden. They won a gold medal at the 2006 Olympic Games.



Henrik (left) and Daniel in 2014

■ Henrik was voted the most valuable player in the National Hockey League (NHL) in 2010.

■ Henrik and Daniel retired from hockey in 2018.



*The Westcoast Reader 3/2006, updated 2018*

## What's the word?

Unscramble the letters and write the words on the lines.

1. Daniel and Henrik Sedin are \_\_\_\_\_ players.  
yekcoh
2. They played for the \_\_\_\_\_ Canucks.  
cavuVoren
3. The Sedins are \_\_\_\_\_.  
sitnw
4. They are from \_\_\_\_\_.  
deenwS
5. The Sedins were 19 \_\_\_\_\_ old in 2000.  
sarey

## Canada's NHL teams

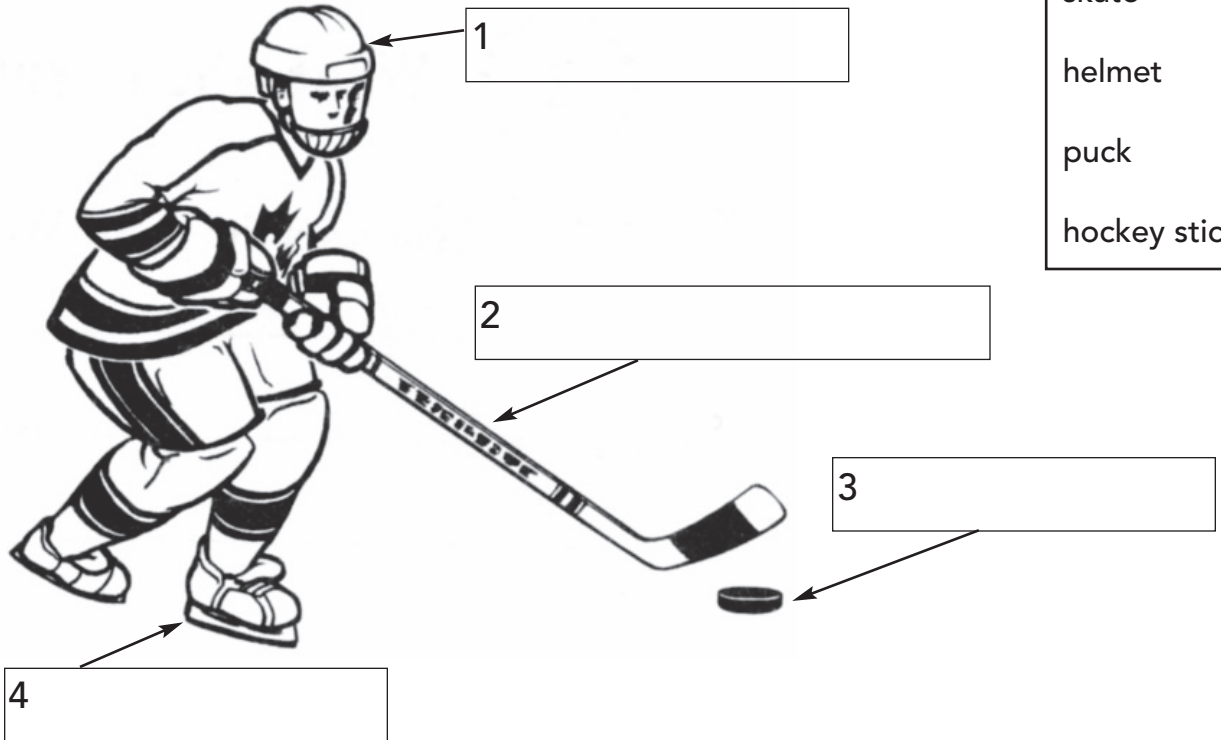
The National Hockey League (NHL) has 32 teams. There are 25 teams in the U.S. and seven in Canada. Match the Canadian cities with the teams.

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| ___ 1. Edmonton  | a. Jets        |
| ___ 2. Montreal  | b. Flames      |
| ___ 3. Winnipeg  | c. Canadiens   |
| ___ 4. Toronto   | d. Oilers      |
| ___ 5. Vancouver | e. Senators    |
| ___ 6. Calgary   | f. Canucks     |
| ___ 7. Ottawa    | g. Maple Leafs |



## Label the hockey player

Fill in the blanks with words from the box.



skate  
helmet  
puck  
hockey stick

## Babies

Sometimes a mother gives birth to two or more babies. What do we call these babies? Match the words with the number of babies.

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. twins ____       | a. three babies |
| 2. triplets ____    | b. five babies  |
| 3. quadruplets ____ | c. six babies   |
| 4. quintuplets ____ | d. two babies   |
| 5. sextuplets ____  | e. four babies  |

6. These four sisters are  
qu \_\_\_\_ dr \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ l \_\_\_\_ ts.





## Joannie is an Olympic athlete



Photo: David W Carmichael • CC-BY SA Wikimedia Commons

Joannie Rochette is 23 years old.  
She is from Quebec.  
Joannie is a figure skater.  
She says, “My dream is to win a gold medal at the 2010 Olympics.”

### How do you say it?

Joannie (say: zho-ann-ee)  
Rochette (say: roh-shet)

*The Westcoast Reader 3/2009*

### Joannie won a medal

Many people will remember Joannie. Her mother died during the Olympics. Joannie was brave. She skated and won a bronze medal.



### Did you know?

- The 2010 Winter Olympics were in Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia.
- The 2022 Winter Olympics will be in Beijing, China.

Photo: David W Carmichael • CC-BY SA Wikimedia Commons



# What's the sport?

Write the name of the Winter Olympic sport on the lines under the clue.

1. Athletes wear helmets in these four sports.

---

---

---

---



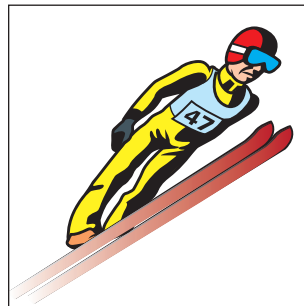
figure skating



snowboard

2. Four athletes slide down a course together in this sport.

---



ski jumping



hockey

3. In this sport, athletes stand with both feet on a board.

---



bobsleigh  
(bobsled)



speed skating

4. Athletes wear skates in these three sports.

---

---

---



## Josh is a Paralympic athlete



Josh Dueck is 28 years old.  
He is from British Columbia.

Josh had a skiing accident  
in 2004.

He broke his back.

Josh cannot move his legs.

But he still skis.

He uses a sit-ski.

Josh says, "I want to ski  
in the Paralympic Games."

**How do you say it?**  
Dueck (say: DEW-ik)

*The Westcoast Reader 3/2009*

- The 2010 Paralympic Games were in Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia.
- More than 500 athletes with disabilities competed in five sports. For example:

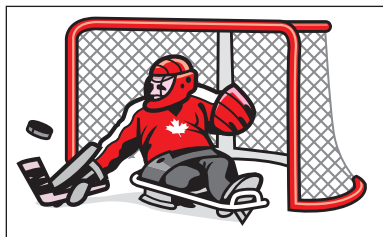


### Update

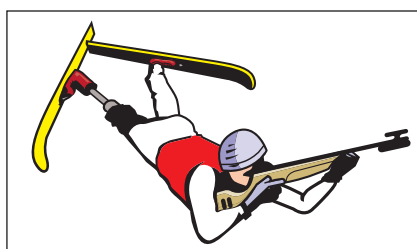
- Josh won a silver medal at the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver.
- He won a gold medal and a silver medal at the 2014 Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

# What's the sport?

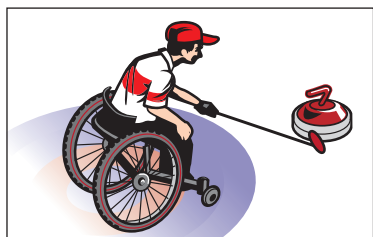
Write the names of the Paralympic sports on the lines under the clues.



ice sledge hockey



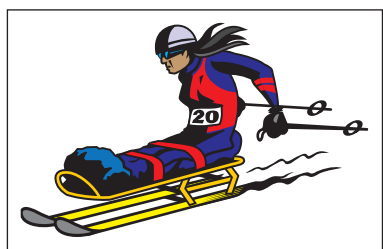
biathlon



wheelchair curling



alpine



cross-country skiing

1. Athletes throw a rock and use a broom in this sport.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. In this sport, athletes use a curved stick to pass and shoot a puck.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Athletes wear helmets in these two sports.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Athletes cross-country ski and shoot a rifle in this sport.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. This sport has short, medium, and long ski races.


\_\_\_\_\_

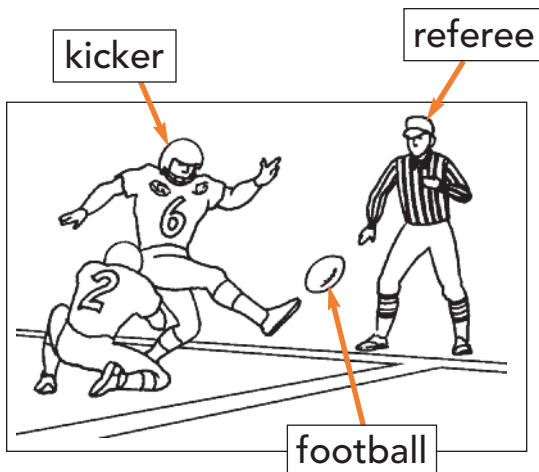
■ Canada won eight gold, four silver, and 16 bronze medals at the 2018 Paralympic Games.

# Grey Cup



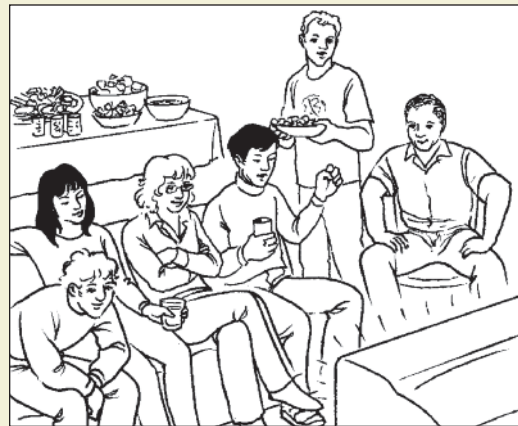
A football player runs with the ball.

 The Canadian Football League (CFL) has nine teams. The teams are divided into two divisions. Every November, the top team from each division plays in the Grey Cup championship game.



## Grey Cup parties

Many Canadians have Grey Cup parties. They get together to eat snacks and watch the Grey Cup game on TV.



## Grey Cup trophy

Every year, one CFL team wins the Grey Cup trophy.



Grey Cup trophy

*The Westcoast Reader 11/2007 • Update 2015*

# Grey Cup

Fill in the blanks with words from the boxes.

The Canadian Football League (\_\_\_\_\_) has \_\_\_\_\_ teams. The teams are divided into two \_\_\_\_\_. Every \_\_\_\_\_ the top \_\_\_\_\_ from each division plays in the \_\_\_\_\_ Cup championship \_\_\_\_\_.

- Grey
- team
- CFL
- divisions
- November
- game
- nine

# CFL teams

Fill in the name of the city or province that goes with each team's name. Use the words in the box.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Lions
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Stampeders
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Argonauts
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ Eskimos
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ Roughriders
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_ Alouettes
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_ Blue Bombers
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_ Redblacks
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_ Tiger-Cats

- Toronto
- Edmonton
- Winnipeg
- Ottawa
- Saskatchewan
- BC
- Calgary
- Montreal
- Hamilton

## Gold medal winners

### Carol Huynh



Carol Huynh celebrates after winning the gold medal.

☞ Carol Huynh won a gold medal in wrestling at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

Carol is from Hazelton, B.C. Her parents came to Canada from Vietnam in the 1970s.

#### Bronze medal in 2012

Carol won a bronze medal in the 2012 Olympic Games in London, England.



### Chantal Petitclerc

☞ Chantal Petitclerc is from Montreal. She is a wheelchair athlete.

Chantal won five gold medals at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing, China.

She won the medals in five different wheelchair races.



Chantal Petitclerc wins a race.

■ Chantal lost both her legs in an accident when she was 13 years old.

*The Westcoast Reader 4 & 9/2008*

## All about gold

Put a circle around the correct answers.


- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. At the Olympic Games, athletes receive gold, silver, and ___ medals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. copper</li><li>b. bronze</li><li>c. brass</li></ul> <p>2. If something is worth its weight in gold, it is ___ .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. valuable</li><li>b. heavy</li><li>c. unusual</li></ul> <p>3. The Golden Gate Bridge is in this city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Sidney</li><li>b. Brooklyn</li><li>c. San Francisco</li></ul> | <p>4. Thousands of miners came to B.C. to look for gold in the ___.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. 1600s</li><li>b. 1930s</li><li>c. 1850s</li></ul> <p>5. If a person has a heart of gold it means he or she is ___ .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. romantic</li><li>b. kind</li><li>c. dull</li></ul> <p>6. A golden wedding anniversary celebrates ___ years of marriage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. 25</li><li>b. 50</li><li>c. 75</li></ul> |
|--|---|

## Silent letters

Many words in English have silent consonants. For example, the “w” in “wrestling” is silent. Write the silent consonant in each word on the line next to the word.

- |                 |                 |                    |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. listen _____ | 5. half _____   | 9. wrap _____      |
| 2. salmon _____ | 6. island _____ | 10. answer _____   |
| 3. whole _____  | 7. hour _____   | 11. cupboard _____ |
| 4. comb _____   | 8. knife _____  | 12. scissors _____ |

## Two Brazilian soccer players

 Kaká (say: kah-KAH) and Marta are soccer players. They are from Brazil.



Kaká scored 32 goals for Brazil.

### Kaká

Kaká's full name is Ricardo Izecson dos Santos Leite. Kaká is a nickname. How did he get his nickname? Kaká's little brother couldn't pronounce "Ricardo." He called his brother Kaká.

Kaká is 42 years old. He has played soccer for teams in Brazil, Italy, Spain, and the United States.

Kaka retired from soccer in 2017.

- Kaká won the FIFA Men's Player of the Year in 2007.
- Marta won the FIFA Women's World Player of the Year five years in a row (2006 to 2010).

### Marta

Marta uses only her first name. Her full name is Marta Vieira da Silva.

Marta is 38 years old. She has scored 119 goals for Brazil. She plays for the Orlando Pride, a women's professional soccer team in the United States.



Marta played in six Olympics.

The Westcoast Reader 2/2008 • Updated 5/2018



# FIFA World Cup

Every four years, the top men's soccer teams in the world meet in the FIFA World Cup.

The World Cup tournament lasts for about a month. There are 32 teams in the tournament. The teams play 64 games. Millions of people watch the games on TV.

## 2018 World Cup

The 2018 World Cup was in Russia. The final game was on July 15. France beat Croatia, 4-2.



World Cup trophy

The French team celebrates.

- The 2022 World Cup was in Qatar.
- Brazil has won the World Cup five times.
- The Women's World Cup will be in Brazil in 2027.

# FIFA's top10

Here is FIFA's list of the top 10 men's soccer teams in July 2024.

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1 Argentina | 6 Belgium     |
| 2 France    | 7 Netherlands |
| 3 Spain     | 8 Portugal    |
| 4 England   | 9 Colombia    |
| 5 Brazil    | 10 Italy      |

Source: [www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com) •07/2024

- FIFA is the largest soccer association in the world.
- In many countries soccer is called football.

# Soccer in Canada

There are more than 860,000 registered soccer players in Canada. About 47 per cent are females.



Christine Sinclair scored 190 goals for Canada.

## What's the number?

Finish the sentences. Use the numbers in the box.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>1</b>       | 1. Canada has more than _____ registered soccer players. |
| <b>4</b>       | 2. The _____ World Cup was in Qatar.                     |
| <b>5</b>       | 3. The World Cup tournament lasts for about _____ month. |
| <b>47</b>      | 4. Brazil has won the World Cup _____ times.             |
| <b>64</b>      | 5. There are _____ games in the World Cup tournament.    |
| <b>2020</b>    | 6. The FIFA World Cup is every _____ years.              |
| <b>860,000</b> | 7. About _____ % of Canada's soccer players are females. |

## Correct the errors

There is one error in each sentence. Correct the errors.

1. Christine Sinclair played for the Canadian women's hockey team.
2. Croatia won the 2018 World Cup.
3. In many countries soccer is called rugby.
4. Marta is from Argentina.
5. Kaká is a nickname. Kaká's real name is Carlos.
6. Orlando Fire is a women's professional soccer team in the United States.

## Languages

This chart shows six countries and the language *most* people speak in each country. Fill in the blanks to complete the chart.

Country	Language
1. Brazil	_____
2. Russia	_____
3. Qatar	_____
4. Canada	_____
5. France	_____
6. Argentina	_____

## Sports: How much do you know?

Fill in the blanks with the words in the box.


1. Canada has \_\_\_\_\_ professional ice hockey teams.
2. FC Barcelona is a soccer (football) team in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Roger Federer is a famous \_\_\_\_\_ player.
4. The Toronto Raptors is a Canadian \_\_\_\_\_ team.
5. The 2024 Summer Olympics were in \_\_\_\_\_.

tennis  
Paris  
basketball  
seven  
Spain

# Olga is a track star at 90



Olga trains six days a week.

 Olga Kotelko is amazing. She is a 90-year-old track star. Olga competes in 11 track and field events. For example: high jump, discus, and 100-metre and 200-metre races.

## Retired from teaching

Olga was a school teacher in Burnaby for 30 years. After she retired, she kept busy. She hiked, swam, worked in her garden, did yoga, and played bridge with her friends.

## Started to compete at 77

When Olga was 77 years old she started to compete in track and field events. In the last 13 years she has won more than 500 gold medals.

Olga trains six days a week. She says, “I am healthier now than I was at 80.”

shot



Shot put is one of Olga's events.



## Update

**2013:** A newspaper reporter wrote a book about Olga. It is called “What makes Olga run?”



**2014:** Olga Kotelko died at age 95.

The Westcoast Reader 2/2005 • Adapted from The Province (2005 & 2009): updated 2014

## True or false

Write T if the sentence is true. Write F if the sentence is false (not true).

1. Olga Kotelko is a 90-year-old rock star. \_\_\_\_
2. She competes in 11 track and field events. \_\_\_\_
3. She has won more than 500 Olympic medals in the last 13 years. \_\_\_\_
4. Olga was a school teacher in Burnaby for 30 years. \_\_\_\_
5. After Olga retired, she hiked, swam, and played poker. \_\_\_\_
6. When Olga was 77 she took up track and field. \_\_\_\_
7. Olga will be 98 in 2014. \_\_\_\_
8. She trains six days a week. \_\_\_\_



## Track and field

Put the track and field events in the box under the correct headings.

Running

Jumping

Throwing

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



discus

100-metre sprint

high jump

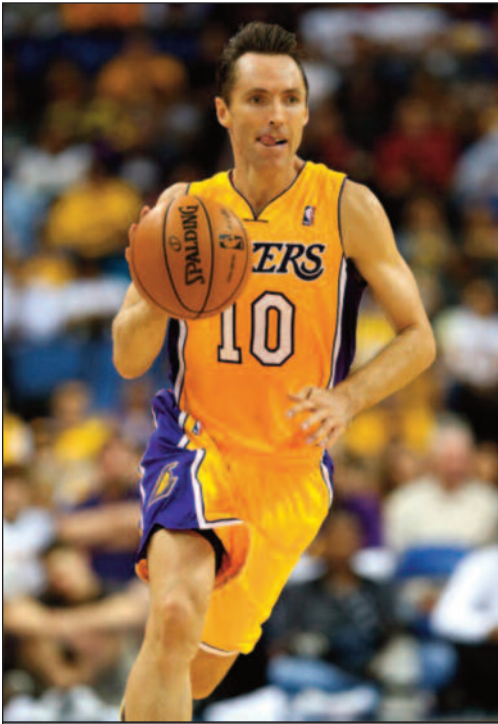
marathon

shot put

pole vault



# Steve Nash is a basketball star



Steve Nash

Steve Nash is one of Canada's best known athletes. He played basketball in the National Basketball Association (NBA) from 1996 to 2015.

## Family moved to Canada

Steve was born in South Africa in 1974. His parents immigrated to Canada when he was a baby. The family settled in Victoria.

Steve has a younger brother and sister. His brother, Martin, is a soccer player. He played for Canada's national soccer team.

## Basketball career

Steve played basketball in high school in Victoria. He got a scholarship to play at a university in the United States.

After he graduated, Steve played for three NBA teams: the Phoenix Suns, the Dallas Mavericks, and the Los Angeles Lakers.

Steve was voted the most valuable player in the NBA in 2005 and 2006.



## Steve Nash Foundation

Steve started a foundation to help kids live a healthy life. His foundation helps many community groups in Canada and around the world.

The Steve Nash Foundation built a hospital for children in Paraguay.



*The Westcoast Reader 2003 & 2006 • Updated 2015*

## Which words go together?

Match the word in the box with the group of words that usually go with it. Some words in the box come before the words in the list and some come after. This symbol (+) shows the position of the word.

play	community	life	school	basketball	world
------	-----------	------	--------	------------	-------

1. \_\_\_\_\_

- + team
- + player
- + game

2. \_\_\_\_\_

- whole +
- around the +
- on top of the +

3. \_\_\_\_\_

- + by ear
- + cards
- + a game

4. \_\_\_\_\_

- summer +
- public +
- high +

5. \_\_\_\_\_

- healthy +
- entire +
- a hard +

6. \_\_\_\_\_

- + college
- + groups
- + centre

## Double letters

Add the missing letters. These words are all on page 22.

1. b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ 11

5. D \_ 11 \_ \_ \_

2. s \_ t t \_ \_ \_ \_

6. \_ a \_ e e \_

3. c \_ m m \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

7. s \_ c c \_ \_ \_

4. s \_ \_ o o \_

8. \_ s s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

## Finish the sentences

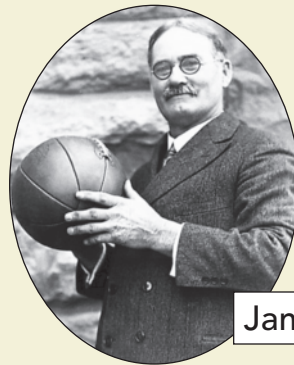
Fill in the blanks with words from the box.

1. Steve Nash was born in \_\_\_\_\_ Africa.
2. He grew up in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Steve has a younger \_\_\_\_\_ and sister.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Nash is Steve's brother.
5. Steve attended university on a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. He played for the \_\_\_\_\_ Mavericks.
7. Steve was voted the most \_\_\_\_\_ player in 2005 and 2006.
8. The Steve Nash \_\_\_\_\_ helps kids live a healthy life.

scholarship • Martin • valuable • Victoria • national  
Foundation • basketball • Dallas • South • brother

## Did you know?

- James Naismith was a Canadian. He invented basketball in 1891.
- The NBA has players from many countries. For example:
  - Kristaps Porzingis— Latvia
  - Dirk Nowitzki — Germany
  - Joel Embiid — Cameroon
  - Marc Gasol — Spain



James Naismith



# Find it

Look through this e-book to find these pictures. Each one is part of a larger picture. Write the title of the story that goes with each one.



1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

## Answers for exercises

### What's the word? (p 6)

1. hockey
2. Vancouver
3. twins
4. Sweden
5. years

### Canada's NHL teams (p 6)

1d 2c 3a 4g 5f 6b 7e

### Label the hockey player (p 7)

1. helmet
2. hockey stick
3. puck
4. skate

### Babies (p 7)

1d 2a 3e 4b 5c — 6 quadruplets

### What's the sport? (p 9)

1. snowboard, ski jumping, bobsleigh, hockey
2. bobsleigh
3. snowboard
4. figure skating, hockey, speed skating

### What's the sport? (p 11)

1. wheelchair curling
2. ice sledge hockey
3. ice sledge hockey, alpine skiing
4. biathlon
5. cross-country skiing

### Grey Cup (p 13)

CFL, nine, divisions, November, team, Grey, game

### CFL teams (p 13)

1. BC
2. Calgary
3. Toronto
4. Edmonton
5. Saskatchewan
6. Montreal
7. Winnipeg
8. Ottawa
9. Hamilton

### All about gold (p 15)

1b 2a 3c 4c 5b 6b

### Silent letters (p 15)

1t 2l 3w 4b 5l 6s 7h 8k  
9w 10w 11p 12c

### What's the number? (p 18)

1. 860,000
2. 2018
3. 1
4. 5
5. 64
6. 4
7. 47

### Correct the errors (p 18)

1. hockey > soccer
2. Croatia > France
3. rugby > football
4. Argentina > Brazil
5. Carlos > Ricardo
6. Fire > Pride

### Languages (p 19)

1. Portuguese
2. Russian
3. Arabic
4. English
5. French
6. Spanish

### Sports (p 19)

1. seven
2. Spain
3. tennis
4. basketball
5. Paris

### True or false (p 21)

1F 2T 3F 4T 5F 6T 7F 8T

### Track and field (p 21)

Running: 100-metre sprint, marathon

Jumping: high jump, pole vault

Throwing: discus, shot put

### Which words go together? (p 23)

1. basketball
2. world
3. play
4. school
5. life
6. community

### Double letters (p 23)

1. basketball
2. settled
3. community
4. school
5. Dallas
6. career
7. soccer
8. association

### Finish the sentences (p 24)

1. South
2. Victoria
3. brother
4. Martin
5. scholarship
6. Dallas
7. valuable
8. Foundation

### Find it (p 25)

1. Grey Cup
2. Steve Nash is a basketball star
3. Gold medal winners: Chantal Petitclerc
4. Two Brazilian soccer players (Kaká)
5. Swedish twins are hockey players
6. Joannie is an Olympic athlete