**Who Invented Soccer?**

The journey of soccer or association football from a crude sporting event that it was a few hundred years ago, to one of the most-watched sport in the world today. The history of soccer, one of the most-watched sports in the world, is as interesting as the sport itself. Many countries claim that its roots can be traced to their culture, which is true to a large extent, as sports resembling modern-day soccer were played in several countries in the past.  
**Ancient Sports Resembling Soccer**:  
 An ancient text on display at the Munich Ethnological Museum in Germany, refers to a sport resembling soccer being played in China and Japan in 50 BC. Documented ancient texts also mention about a similar sport, known as the Cuju, being played in China somewhere between 476 - 221 BC. The hair filled ball used in this sport was made from leather.  
 Roughly during the same period, the Romans played their own version of modern-day soccer, with two teams, each consisting of 27 individuals, competing with each other. In the absence of proper rules or strategies, it was nothing short of a no-holds barred fest, with several players ending up being hospitalized within an hour for which it was played.  
 In the 14th century, King Edward of England passed a law threatening to imprison any person who played the soccer-like sport that was slowly gaining prominence in the country. The king's proclamation stated the following ...”For as much as there is a great noise in the city caused by hustling over large balls, from which many evils may arise, which God forbid, we command and forbid on behalf of the King, on pain of imprisonment, such game to be used in the city future.” The sport received similar treatment from the successors of King Edward. However, it was this prohibition in Europe that paved the way for its spread to other continents, including Asia and the Americas. **Invention of Modern Soccer**:  
 Modern-day soccer was invented in England in 1860s. Soccer, known as football by the Europeans, became a popular sport in schools and colleges, with various institutes playing each other for prestige. Initially, it was only played by the elite class in various clubs of England. Owing to its inexpensiveness, it didn't take much time for soccer to eradicate the class barrier and become a sport of the masses. The problem cropped up when each team came up with their own set of rules. In 1863, the Football Association (FA) was formed to tackle this problem.  
 The Association came up with a set of rules, which were framed by mutual agreement among all the clubs. This development brought soccer out of schools and colleges. Now, even the working class started taking keen interest in it. The year 1871 marked the introduction of the Football Association Cup (FA Cup). The competition gained vast popularity in England, which led to more clubs joining the Association and adoption of new rules, thus forming the basis of soccer or football as it is being played today.  
**Soccer in America**: Soccer was introduced to the U.S. in 1860s. The first match held in 1869 was played between two universities with 25 players on each side.  The American Football Association (AFA) was formed in 1884. Soccer information from valid sources says that the Association standardized rules for the local soccer teams based in New Jersey and New York. Within two years, it had spread to Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.  The AFA organized the first non-league cup- the American Cup in 1885. Many clubs from Massachusetts and New Jersey competed for the cup. Due to some internal issues within the association, the competition was stopped in 1899 and it was resumed only in 1906. In the beginning, the soccer leagues in the U.S used the name football only. However, confusion between the terms American football and association football led to a widespread use of the term soccer to represent association football. In 1911, American Amateur Football Association (AAFA) was established. Many AFA organizations moved to the AAFA. The United States Football Association was created in 1913, which is presently known as the United States Soccer Federation. The federation governs the sport in the U.S.

Soccer has gained tremendous popularity across the globe. In fact, it is the most-watched sport in the Americas as well. Soccer Information provided by statistical reports show that there are more than 24 million Americans playing soccer. Among them 4.2 million registered with the federation. Although it's difficult to pinpoint the person who invented soccer or trace its origin, it's possible to trace the development of this game from a crude version to a polished one, which we refer to as modern soccer or association football

**Who invented Soccer Read**

1. Circle and write any unfamiliar words
2. Define those unfamiliar words using context clues
3. Underline when reading then write 5 key facts or main ideas
4. Create a timeline for the development and history of soccer.
5. Explain why soccer was once banned. Site evidence
6. Compare and contrast the development of soccer in England to its development in America – you may want to use a Venn Diagram
7. Why do you think soccer is the most watched sport in the world? Justify your answer.

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