

History of Hockey

Read about the history of hockey and then answer the questions below.

Games played with balls and sticks have been played for thousands of years. Because of this, no one knows for sure when hockey first started being played. Some people think that it is like an Irish game called hurley. Other people think that it is like field hockey from England or lacrosse that came from Native Americans. In the early 1800's, a game like hockey was played by the Mi'kmaq (Micmac) Indians in Canada. This game spread through Canada as people moved. Different parts of the game were added as time went on and more people played.

Early hockey games had as many as 30 players on each team. The goals were two rocks and were frozen into the ice. Instead of a puck, balls were used to play hockey. Starting around 1860, pucks started to be used.

The first time it was written down that there was a public ice hockey game was in 1875. During this time, hockey was violent. There was a lot of fighting and players got hurt. In 1877, the first organized team, the McGill University Hockey Club, wrote rules and decided that there should only be 9 players on each team.

Hockey became the most played sport in Canada. In the early 1900's, hockey sticks started being made, shin pads were worn and goalies started to wear chest protection (just like in baseball). In 1893, Frederick Arthur, Lord Stanley of Preston, who was the Canadian governor-general, donated a cup to be given to the best team in Canada. Starting in 1926, this became the Stanley Cup, which is still given to the winner of the National Hockey League every year.

(From: <https://www.britannica.com/sports/ice-hockey>)

1. How long have people been playing hockey? _____

2. What sports is hockey like? _____

3. What was hockey like when it first started being played in Canada in the early 1800's?

Give specific details. _____

4. Who was the first organized hockey team? _____

5. Who was Frederick Arthur, Lord Stanley of Preston and what did he give to hockey?

Give specific details. _____
