

# Kick-off! The Story of Football

Patrick Adams

## A Before Reading

- 1 Students' own answers.
- 2 Students' own answers. Answers might include:
  - People: coach, player, manager, referee, commentator
  - Clothes: boots, shirt, shorts, socks, pads
  - Places: pitch, stadium, terraces, ground, penalty area
  - Positions: defender, midfielder, striker, goalkeeper, winger
  - Verbs: score, shoot, tackle, head, dribble
- 3 Correct answers:
 

The earliest ball games were played in Mexico.

In these early ball games, there were two teams of seven players.

The players were men who had been captured in wars and kept as prisoners.

When Spanish soldiers took one of these early ball games back to Spain, it was soon banned as the Church did not like it.

Records show that the Ancient Greeks also played a kind of football from about 2000 BC.

When the Romans invaded Britain in the first century AD, they played the game there too.

## B While Reading

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Year	What happened?
1314	<i>Football was banned in London.</i>
1865	The FA's rules were used for the first time in a game.
1890	Goal nets were used for the first time.
1891	Penalty kicks were introduced.
1894	Only one referee was needed for every game.
1898	The number of official rules of the game became seventeen.
1913	Goalkeepers had to start wearing different colour shirts from the other players'.
1928	Players wore numbers on shirts for the first time.
1965	Substitutes were allowed if a player was injured.
1992	Shirts with both names and numbers were first worn in a European match.

## 5 Correct answers from the text:

	<p><b>Michel Platini</b>    French, born in 1955    A midfielder who could pass the ball very well and was very good at taking free kicks    Got his first professional contract with AS Nancy in 1976    First played for his country in the World Cup of 1978    Went to play for Juventus in Italy in 1984 – stayed there for five years and scored sixty-eight goals    Was captain of the French national team and helped France to win the European Championship of 1984, scoring nine goals in five games    Retired aged thirty-two    Was coach of the national team    Now president of UEFA</p>
	<p><b>Diego Maradona</b>    Argentinian, born in 1960 in a poor part of Buenos Aires    Powerful and quick, only 1.68m tall    Noticed by a football scout at the age of ten, and was playing professionally before he was sixteen    Won his first medal, for Boca Juniors, in 1981    Moved to FC Barcelona in June 1982 for five million pounds    Moved to Napoli in 1984, and helped Napoli to win many honours    Played in the World Cup of 1982, but best remembered for the World Cup of 1986, when he scored two goals against England    Played in four World Cups and captained the national team sixteen times in that competition    Had problems with drugs and increased weight, but has been strong enough to fight them    Now retired, but works as the Argentinian national coach    Laid the first stone of Calcutta's soccer academy in 2008</p>
	<p><b>David Beckham</b>    English, born in 1975    Very good at taking free kicks    Has won a record number of caps for England    Was signed for LA Galaxy in the USA    Set up the David Beckham Football Academy in London</p>

## C After Reading

6 a Students' own answers.      b Students' own answers.

7 Students' own answers.

8 a Students' own answers. Arguments may include:  
 For: They are major entertainment stars, they have a high level of stress, their careers are short ...  
 Against: Other professions (like doctors and teachers) are more important, they earn a lot of money doing something that most people would do for free, they are greedy ...  
 b Students' own answers.