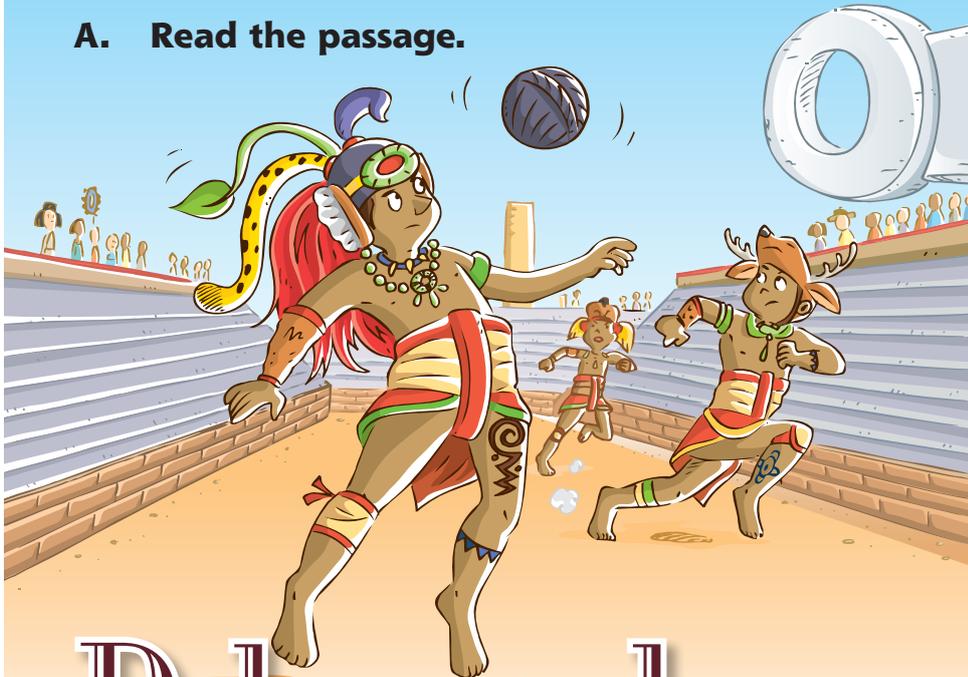


A. Read the passage.



Pok-a-tok

When imagining going to a stadium for a big game, visions of hot dogs, popcorn, cheering,

and players in their team uniforms probably come to mind. Thousands of years ago, the atmosphere on a Mayan playing field in Mexico was much the same, except for one thing. If a team lost, then a human sacrifice was performed and it was usually the captain or coach of the losing team!

In the Mayan game of Pok-a-tok, there were two teams of seven players. All the players were members of the nobility and the spectators were people from different classes.

Archaeologists have found over 600 ball courts of varying shapes and sizes in Mexico. All of the courts have two sloping walls facing each other, with three round disks that probably served as nets of some kind. It seems that the object of the game was for players to keep a ball in the air using every part of their body except for their hands.

Ancient Meso-Americans loved a good show. The ballplayers walked onto the court wearing fine jewellery, animal skins, and feathered headdresses. During the game, however, they wore protective gear that allowed for quick movement. The ball usually weighed as much as an average-sized watermelon. It had the ability to break bones or even kill!

The Meso-Americans believed that by playing this game correctly, they were serving their gods well. They believed that, in return, the gods would provide bountiful crops and good health for their people.



B. Answer the questions.

1. What is the major difference between a Mayan ball game and the ball games that we play today?

2. What evidence do we have that Pok-a-tok was a popular game among the Meso-Americans?

3. What did the players wear as they entered the court?

4. Why was it important for the players to be able to move quickly?

5. Why was Pok-a-tok so important to the Meso-Americans?

C. Rewrite the sentences to make them correct.

In a Pok-a-tok court, there are three baskets on the two straight walls.

The Pok-a-tok players wore fine jewellery during the game in order to show off their wealth.

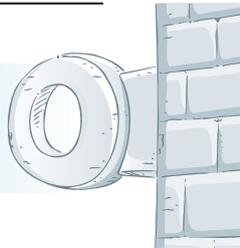
The captain or coach of the losing team would perform a sacrifice by killing a lamb.

- _____

- _____

- _____

*All about
Pok-a-tok*



D. Read the clues and complete the crossword puzzle with words from the passage.



of the distant past



upper class

people who study things of the past

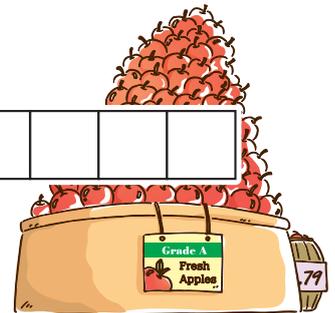
offering to a god



people watching an event

plenty of

local



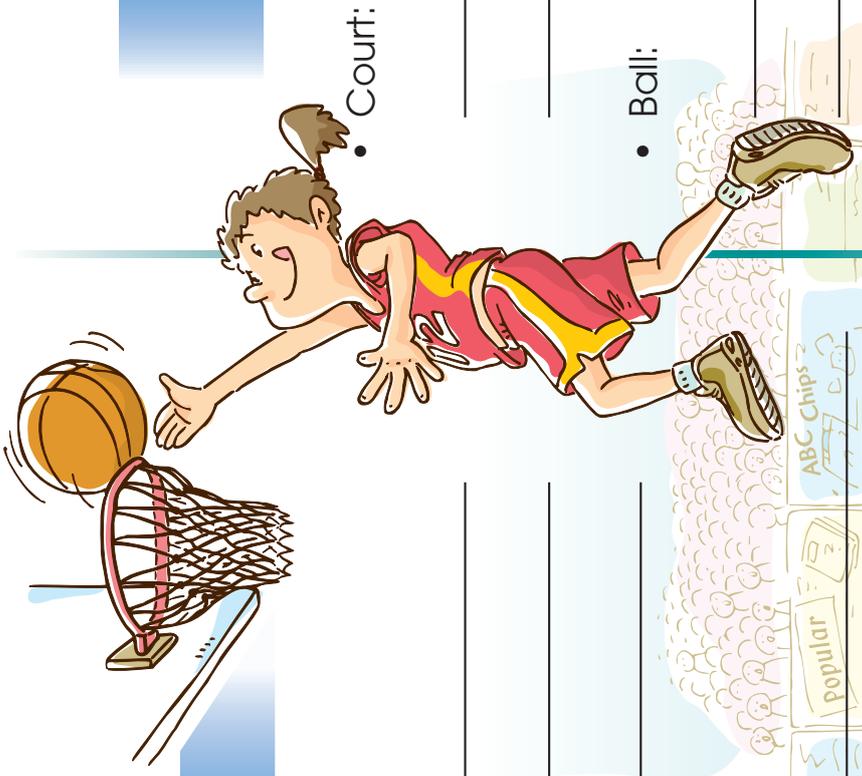
preventing something from harm



E. Write about how a game of basketball is played. Then write the differences between basketball and Pok-a-tok.

Basketball

How It Is Played



How It Is Different from Pok-a-tok

• Equipment:

• Court:

• Ball:

• Rules and Regulations:

• Clothing:
