

SPORT ALL BLACKS

Worksheet 2

Rugby

New Zealand is well known for its love of the game of rugby. Rugby started in England and was first played in New Zealand in the 1870s. In 1884, the New Zealand team wearing blue rugby shirts travelled to Australia for their first international game.

There are 15 players in a rugby team and the object of the game is to get as many points as you can. There are three ways of getting points. The first is called a try. To get a try, a team has to touch the ball on the ground behind the other team's line. A try is worth five points. After a team has got a try, they have the chance to get another two points by kicking the ball over the goal, which looks like a very large 'H'. The third way to get points is to kick the ball over the goal from the field without getting a try first. This is worth three points.

Team members may kick, carry or throw the ball. To a person who doesn't understand the game it can be very confusing. Sometimes it looks like a big fight, but there are strict rules and if the players don't follow the rules, they may be sent off the field. The national side was first called the All Blacks by an English newspaper in 1905. Some people say they were given this name because of their black sports clothes. Others say the newspaper made a mistake and meant to say 'All Backs', because a rugby team is divided into two groups of players, the backs and the forwards. Whichever story is true, to be an All Black is a great honour for a New Zealander.

Rugby is played at all ages. Boys start playing when they are as young as five or six. There are competitions between schools, universities, districts and countries. But is it only men and boys who play rugby? No. Recently women and girls have started to play rugby too.

There are many New Zealanders who would rather read a good book, but for a rugby fan there is nothing better than to go to the sports ground with thousands of other fans. Second best is to watch the game on television from a comfortable chair with some friends. When the All Blacks play a big international game, the whole country stops to watch the game.

Millett, S. (2005) New Zealand Speed Readings for ESL Learners, Book One. (ELI Occasional Publication 19).

Wellington, New Zealand: Victoria University of Wellington, School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies.14

1. Rugby started in:

- a. England
- b. New Zealand
- c. Australia

2. How many players are there in a team?

- a. 25
- b. 20
- c. 15

SPORT ALL BLACKS

Worksheet 2

3. How many ways can players get points?

- a. One
- b. Two
- c. Three

4. How old are children when they start playing rugby?

- a. Five or six
- b. Nine or ten
- c. Thirteen or fourteen

5. The All Blacks got their name in:

- a. the 1870s
- b. 1905
- c. 1954

6. Rugby can be:

- a. easy to follow
- b. confusing
- c. gentle

7. New Zealand's first international game was played in:

- a. Australia
- b. England
- c. France

8. Rugby is played by:

- a. only males
- b. mainly males
- c. mainly females

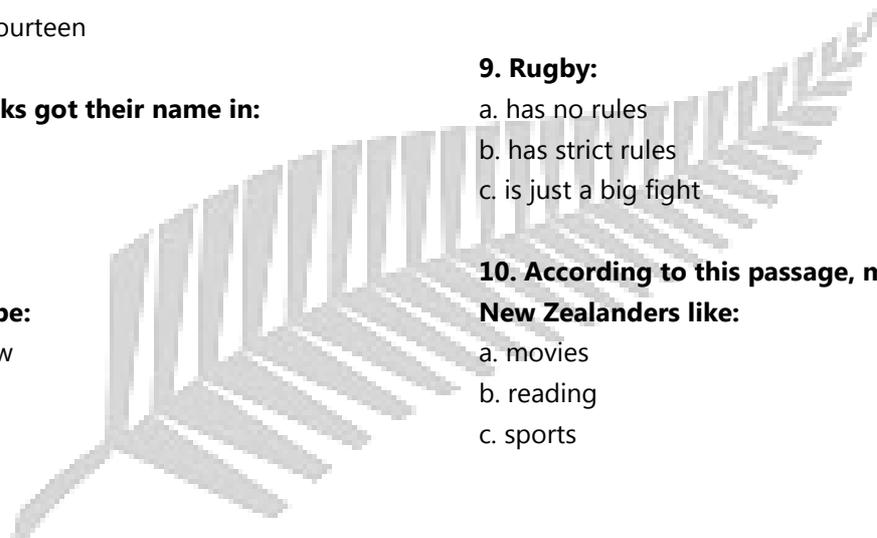
9. Rugby:

- a. has no rules
- b. has strict rules
- c. is just a big fight

10. According to this passage, most New Zealanders like:

- a. movies
- b. reading
- c. sports

<https://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/about/staff/publications/Bookoneall.pdf>



NEW ZEALAND
RUGBY