

Learning activity:

What is the AFL?

COMPREHENSION ACTIVITY



Student name _____

Read and learn about the AFL. Answer the questions to show your understanding.

What is AFL?

AFL stands for Australian Football League and the sport is commonly referred to as 'Footy' or 'Aussie Rules'. It is an indigenous sport that originated in Australia that has been played for over 150 years, and features elements from many different sports to create a unique and exciting game.

The game

Played over 4 separate quarters of approximately 20 minutes each, the game is fast-paced with plenty of high scoring and action! A match is played between two different teams and the objective is simple – kick the football between the two tall, inner posts (the goalposts) to kick a 'goal' and score 6 points for your team. If you kick the ball between the goalpost and either of the shorter outer posts (the behind posts), a behind is scored which is worth 1 point – at the end of the game, the team with the highest score wins!



The game is played with a unique ball that is oval shaped, resulting in a high degree of unpredictability around which way the ball will bounce.

The team

At the elite level, there are 18 players on the ground from each team at one time in the Men's competition, and 16 players on the ground from each team at one time (32 in total) in the Women's competition, plus an additional amount of substitutes that start on the bench, although this number can vary at junior levels where player numbers are reduced to suit the size of the ground. Generally, a team is evenly split between forwards, midfielders and defenders, and across all positions, players range in height and weight in line with the requirements of each position.

The rules

Players can:

- Pass with their feet (kick), or hands (handball)
- Mark (catch) the ball directly from the kick of another player
- Kick a goal from anywhere on the ground
- Tackle the opposition when they have the ball

Players cannot:

- Throw the ball
- Tackle above the shoulders or below the knees
- Push an opponent in the back
- Run with the ball for too long without bouncing it

The finals

In September each year, the top eight teams on the ladder of the men's game play off in a final's series. This culminates in the AFL Grand Final. The final is held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). The winning team at the Grand Final are called the premiers. The winning team is awarded the Premiership Cup.

1. What does AFL stand for?

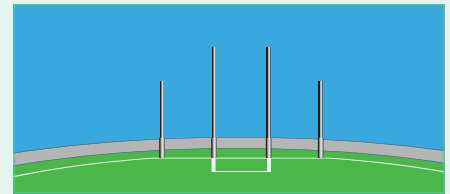
Tick the right box.

- Australian Rules Football
- Australian Football League
- Australians feed lions
- American Football League

2. How long does a quarter go for?

3. How many points do you get for kicking a goal?

Draw a picture of where the ball goes when you score a goal.



4. How many men play on one team?

How many male players are on the field altogether?

5. How many women on one team?

How many women players are on the field altogether?

6. Can you list any new or AFL-specific vocabulary?

7. Using the information you have read about, can you create a Venn Diagram comparing the AFL with another sport.