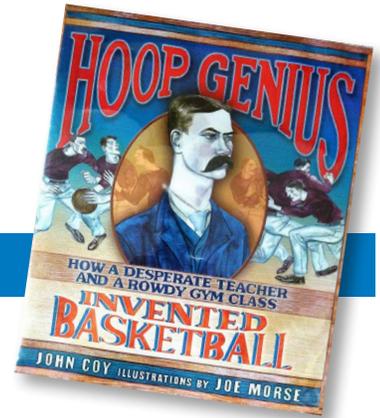


# Hoop Genius

HOW A DESPERATE TEACHER AND A ROWDY GYM CLASS INVENTED BASKETBALL



## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Sports, Inventions, Exercise, History

**Book Brief:** What can you do with a bunch of rowdy college boys in the winter when it's cold outside? James Naismith invented a new game called basketball to keep them active and safe while playing indoors.

**Author:** John Coy

**Illustrator:** Joe Morse

**Content Connections:**  
Social Studies, Math, Science

## TIME TO READ!



### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** Based on the cover illustration, in what time period do you think basketball was invented? Why? Read the title and

subtitle. What do you think is going to happen in the book?

**The Pictures:** Flip briefly through the pictures. How do they show the change of mood in the story?

**Prior Knowledge:** Find out how many students play basketball in the class. How many follow college or NBA/WNBA teams? What players and teams are they familiar with? Who are their favorites? What rules do they know? What equipment do you need to play basketball?

**Vocabulary:** arcing

**Purpose for Reading:** While reading, think about questions you might have about the process of inventing a new game and the impact Naismith's invention has had over the years.

## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Why were the college boys so rowdy?
- ◆ What can you tell about the competitive nature of the students?
- ◆ How do you think Naismith got basketball from the Duck on a Rock game?

- ◆ What might the name have been if boxes had been available?
- ◆ What differences do you notice between the first game and modern basketball?
- ◆ How long did it take before women began playing the sport?
- ◆ How did the game become so popular?

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** What questions came to you as we read the story? How did the invention of basketball impact the world? Can you think of another sport with the same popularity and global reach? Any sports with greater reach?

**Extending Our Thinking:** What challenges did Mr. Naismith face in his new teaching position? Explain why a soccer ball had to be used to play. Why would this sport have been appealing to women? Discuss why a player would be motivated to not foul in the earlier version of the game. Which version do you think is better—the original game or modern basketball? Why?

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is  
Fundamental