

Hoop Genius

HOW A DESPERATE TEACHER AND A ROWDY GYM CLASS INVENTED BASKETBALL

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

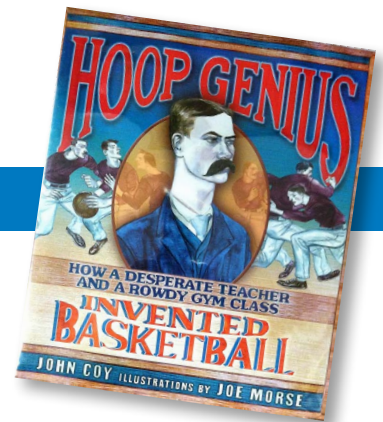
Themes: Sports, Inventions, Exercise, History

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



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, make predictions: Why do you think the game of basketball was invented? What age group first began playing? When do you think the game was invented?

While reading, make connections: Have you ever been bored doing the same things over and over? What sports do you like to play? Have you ever been called for a foul or penalty? How did that make you

feel? Do you enjoy watching basketball games or other kinds of sports?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ What was James Naismith's biggest challenge?
- ◆ How did a previous game he had played inspire the invention of basketball?
- ◆ Why would sitting out until the next goal be such a big deal during the game in 1891?
- ◆ Why are rules necessary?
- ◆ Explain why a soccer ball was used to play the game.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

BASKET OF BALLS

Set out a tasty treat of "balls" in a basket for family and friends to snack on. To make the balls, use a black permanent marker to draw ball lines on clementines or oranges. Once the lines are drawn, place the fruit in a basket for all to enjoy!

DESIGNER KICKS

You have been asked to design a new pair of basketball shoes for your favorite college, NBA, WNBA, or NWBA team. Create a concept board that shows your shoe design. It should have side views of the shoe, a back view, and a picture of the sole.

What characteristics from the team or mascot influenced the design of the shoe?

RUN THE ROCK

Take a look at the 13 original rules of basketball on the inside covers of the book or at http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/blbasketball_rules.htm. Get two teams together and try to play a game by the original rules. Do you notice that players did not dribble or run around holding the ball? How do the original rules change the game that you are familiar with? How challenging is it for you and your friends to play another way? If you could make one change to modern basketball rules, what would it be?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT SPORTS

Touch the Sky, Ann Malaspina (2011)
Pelé, King of Soccer, Monica Brown (2008)
Louis Sockalexis, Bill Wise (2005)



Reading Is
Fundamental