

No grassroots but lots of scaffold: a peek inside New York's cricket scene

Level 2: Intermediate

Article summary: The article describes the attempt to make cricket popular in the USA. The cricket World Cup is taking place in the Caribbean and some matches are being played in the USA, including the big game between India and Pakistan.

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: vocabulary

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. The purpose of this activity is to encourage students to guess where certain sports (including cricket) originated. This is a general-knowledge activity, which may promote some discussion, even argument, among students. There is some uncertainty about the origin of polo (the sport played on horseback) as some believe it may have its roots in Persia (modern-day Iran). References to polo, however, date back as far as 600BC in China. The first triathlon competition was held in San Diego, California in the 1970s.

Key:

1. d
2. e
3. a
4. c
5. f
6. b

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. The term *grassroots* (used as an adjective) is often used to refer to any activity in which ordinary people participate, e.g., *grassroots politics*, *a grassroots movement*, or *grassroots sport*. The word *peek* (in the headline of the article) means *a quick look*. A *scaffold* is a temporary structure outside a building to enable work on it safely.

Key:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. revenue | 6. temporary |
| 2. immigrants | 7. grassroots |
| 3. backdrop | 8. hosting |
| 4. venues | 9. collaborating |
| 5. pitches | 10. launch |

- b. Ask students to work in pairs again, this time to complete the sentences using words from the previous task.

Key:

1. pitch
2. revenue
3. penthouse
4. grassroots
5. set-up

3. Comprehension check

- a. The answers given are only suggested answers, and students may correctly answer the questions in different ways, e.g., in item 2, they may say, 'They live in different places in the USA' or similar.

Key:

1. False. It was built in six months.
2. False. The 5.5 million are scattered across the USA.
3. True
4. False. It's the other way round.
5. True
6. False. It is a temporary facility.
7. True
8. False. Games are also being played in Grand Prairie.

4. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs. Encourage them to do the exercise without looking at the text but to check their answers in the text.

Key:

- | | |
|-------|------------|
| 1. on | 4. on |
| 2. up | 5. between |
| 3. at | 6. for |

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- b. Students use the expressions from task A to complete the sentences.

Key:

1. *on a par with*
2. *get more for your money*
3. *up to standard*

5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their ideas about each statement and encourage them to say why they agree or disagree with each one.

6. In your own words

- a-b. This task can be assigned as homework individually or in pairs. Ask students to use an internet search engine to find information about ice hockey, polo, or triathlon (or any other sport they may be interested in.

They will learn where these sports are played, how many people participate in them, and any additional interesting facts.

Then present their findings to the class.