

Grade VII

Lesson 10. The story of Cricket

PROSE

Soul of the Chapter

History of Cricket

Cricket is one of the forms of the many games played with a ball and bat in England from past 500 years. It evolved as a distinct game around 17th century. Initially, during the mid of the 18th century, the bat used to be like the hockey stick curving outwards. The test matches played in cricket are the only format of any game that is played for five days and can still end in a draw. Another interesting aspect of cricket is that the length of the pitch is 22 yards, but the size of the ground remains unspecified. There are oval as well circular grounds.

Rules of Cricket

Rules about cricket were first written around 1744. It gave the umpires the power to resolve any dispute. It specified the stumps to be 22 inches high and the bails across them to be six inches. The ball weight about five or six ounces and the distance between the two set of stumps was 22 yards. The first cricket club came into existence in Hambledon in 1760s. The first leg-before law was published in 1744 and it was around the same time that the third stump became popular. By 1780 the matches were played for around three days and the first six-seam ball was also created in the same time.

Cricket Equipment

The most important equipment associated with cricket continues to be handmade still today. They are made up of natural and pre-industrial materials. The bats are handmade of cork, leather and twine. Only the protective equipment like the pads, gloves and helmets synthetic materials like vulcanised rubber etc are used. Cricket was first played in India in Bombay by the Zoroastrian or Parsi community. The Oriental Cricket Club found in Bombay in 1848 was the first Indian cricket club. The Parsis had to open built their own Gymkhana following a quarrel with the whites for the Bombay Gymkhana. In 1889 The Bombay Gymkhana team was defeated by the Parsi team.

Modern Cricket and Use of Technology

Modern cricket is dominated by Test and one-day internationals format. Some of the great players whom we all fondly remember are the ones who have played in the Test cricket. CK Nayudu is one such great player. He was also the first Test captain of India. India became a Test playing nation in 1932, many years before it got its independence. Test cricket initially was played among various parts of the British Empire and not between Sovereign states, The first Test was played between England and Australia.

Television coverage has brought cricket to every household. With the satellite television, it is now possible to catch live updates of match played anywhere across the world. India has the largest viewer-ship of the game and is the largest market for cricket. One hundred and fifty years ago our Parsi ancestors had to struggle to play the game, but today, Indian cricket players are the best-paid and the most famous in the world.

NCERT Folder

Check 1

1. Cricket is originally a/an

- (i) Indian game (ii) British game. (iii) International game.
(ii) a British game.

2. "There is a historical reason behind both these oddities." In the preceding two paragraphs, find two words/phrases that mean the same as 'oddities.'

- (i) Peculiarities (ii) Curious characteristic

3. How is a cricket bat different from a hockey stick?

A cricket bat is thick and flat while a hockey stick is bent at the bottom.

Check 2

1. Write True or False against each of the following sentences.

- (i) India joined the world of Test cricket before independence.
(ii) The colonisers did nothing to encourage the Parsis in playing cricket.
(iii) Palwankar Baloo was India's first Test captain.
(iv) Australia played its first Test against England as sovereign nation.
(i) True (ii) True (iii) False (iv) False

Check 3

1. A 'professional' cricket player is one who makes a living by playing cricket. Find the opposite of 'professional' in the last paragraph.

Amateur

2. In "the triumph of the one-day games", 'triumph' means the one-day game's

- (i) Superiority to Test cricket
- (ii) Inferiority to Test cricket
- (iii) Achievement or success over Test cricket.
- (iv) Popularity among viewers.

(iv) Popularity among viewers

3. " _____ The men for whom the world is a stage."

- (i) It refers to the famous cricket fields in the world.
- (ii) It means that there are many cricket playing countries in the world.
- (iii) It implies that cricketers are like actors and every crickets ground is like a stage on which the drama of cricket is enacted the world over.

Mark the right answer.

(iii) It implies that cricketers are like actors and every crickets ground is like a stage on which the drama of cricket is enacted the world over.

Working with the text

1. Name some stick-and-ball games that you have witnessed or heard of.

Hockey, Polo, Squash, Golf.

2. The Parsis were the first Indian community to takes to cricket. Why?

Parsis were in the close contact with the British because of their interest in trade. They were the first Indian community to westernise and went up taking up the game of cricket.

3. The rivalry between the Parsis and the Bombay Gymkhana had a happy ending for the former. What does 'a happy ending' refer to?

'Happy ending' refers to the defeat of the Bombay Gymkhana by the Parsis club in a cricket match held in 1889.

4. Do you think cricket owes its present popularity to television? Justify your answer.

Yes, cricket owes its popularity to television. It has expanded the audience of the game by taking cricket to villages and small town. Children from these places now had the chance to learn the game seeing the international games and imitating their favourite cricketers.

5. Why has cricket a large viewership in India, not in China or Russia?

Cricket is not played in communist countries like China and Russia so it has less viewership there. India is one of the oldest cricket playing nation which further adds to its large viewership in the country.

6. What do you understand by the game's (cricket) 'equipment'?

The accessories like bat, ball, stumps and bells are the equipment used in playing the game. Pads, helmets and gloves are protective equipment used while playing cricket.

7. How is Test cricket a unique game in many ways?

Test cricket is unique because it can go on for five days and still can end with a draw. No other game requires even half of this time to finish. A football match is played for 90 minutes.

Even nine innings of a baseball match gets over less than what it takes to finish a one-day match.

8. How is cricket different from other team games?

Cricket is different from other team games because in cricket, the length of the pitch is mentioned as 22 yards however, the shape of the ground could be oval or circular. There is no specific measurement for the size of the ground as well.

It is the only game played for five days and can end without a specific result. Unlike cricket, many other popular games like hockey or football follows certain specification for grounds.

9. How have advances in technology affected the game of cricket?

Advancement in technology has been used in manufacturing protective equipment in cricket. The newly invented vulcanised rubber was used in pads and gloves. The helmets are made up of metal and lightweight synthetic materials.

10. Explain how cricket changed with changing time and yet remained unchanged in some ways.

Do it yourself.

Working with Language

1. Word search

- Twelve words associated with cricket are hidden in this grid.
- Six can be found horizontally and remaining six vertically."
- Two words have been found for you.

Clues to the hidden words are given below.

Horizontal six deliveries, four runs, attacked while out of arena, no result, stumps, fielder to the off-side of the wicketkeeper.

Vertical stumps flying, back to the pavilion, a lofty one, mid-air mishap, not even one out of six, goes with bat

A	O	V	E	R	D	C	Q	A	M
Z	B	S	M	F	C	X	E	O	A
B	O	U	N	D	A	R	Y	N	I
A	W	O	S	T	U	M	P	E	D
L	L	U	I	P	G	L	J	R	E
L	E	T	X	L	H	K	A	Z	N
X	D	R	A	W	T	Y	P	F	D
W	I	C	K	E	T	S	L	I	P

Horizontal Over, Wicket, Boundary, Slip, Stumped, Draw **Vertical** Six, Ball, Out, Maiden, Bowled, Caught

2. Add -ly to the italicised word in each sentence. Rewrite the sentence using the new word. See the examples first.

- He runs between wickets as if his legs were *Stiff*.
He runs between wickets stiffly
- Why did the batsman swing the hat in such a *violent* manner?
- Why did the batsman swing the bat so *violently*?
 - (i) It is obvious that the work has not been done in a *proper* way.
 - (ii) He made the statement in a *firm* manner.
 - (iii) The job can be completed within a week in an *easy* way.
 - (iv) You did not play in a *serious* manner or else you would have won the match.
 - (v) She recited the poem in a *cheerful* manner.
 - (i) properly (ii) firmly (iii) easily (iv) seriously (v) cheerfully

3. Use the following phrases appropriately in place of the italicised word in the sentences given below.

as a matter of fact we had better see to it by accident
as well

- (i) Actually, I didn't intend to come to your place. I reached here *without planning*.
- (ii) Sunil, there's a letter for you in today's post. There's one for me *also*.
- (iii) Everybody thought I had composed the poem. The *truth* is my younger sister did it.
- (iv) The doctor told the patient to *make sure* that he took his pills on time.
- (v) *It will be better* for us to plan our trip before setting out.
 - (i) by accident (ii) as well (iii) as a matter of fact
 - (iv) see to it (v) we had better.

Speaking and writing

1. Complete each of the following words using gh, ff or f.

Then say each word clearly after your teacher.

(i) E____ort (ii) ____act (iii) con____ess (iv) lau____ing

(vi) (v) enou____hal____ (vii) scru____ (viii) rou____ (ix) sti____ly

(x) di____erence (xi) sa____ety (xii) ____lush

(i) effort

(ii) fact

(iii) confess

(iv) laughing

(v) enough

(vi) half

(vii) scruff

(viii) rough

(ix) stiffly

(x) difference

(xi) safety

(xii) flush

2. Write two paragraphs describing a bus ride to watch a cricket match in a village.

Use the following points. Add some of your own.

- Two hour journey by bus
- An old and crowded bus
- Friendly passengers
- Visit to a village fair where the match is to be played
- The match between two village teams
- Make shift stumps, rough pitch and a rubber ball.
- The match was enjoyable, but the trip was tiring.

A cricket match was organised in Muzaffar nagar last week. I went to watch the match along with my friend. I live in Modinagar and Muzaffarnagar is two

hours bus journey from my place. We caught a bus of Uttar Pradesh transportation from the bus depot near my place. It was an old and crowded bus. We didn't get any seat and had to keep standing all through the journey. The passengers were mostly farmers from the nearby villages.

They were very simple and friendly. We were chatting with each other and cracking jokes. It was a long journey and the roads were very bad.

When we finally reached Muzaffar nagar. I felt relaxed. There was a large fair being organised at the place where the match was to be played. There was still time left for the match to begin so we decided to enjoy the fare. There were many stalls of food items and games at the fare and we had great fun.

The match started on its time. It was between two village teams. We were cheering for our team. There was a tough competition between both the teams and finally our village won the game.

The match was very exciting and enjoyable, but the long journey had made us tired. It was a very good day that left behind many sweet memories.

Chapter Practice

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Name one cricket ground that is oval in shape.

Adelaide Oval cricket ground is oval in shape.

2. Mention the year when the cricket rules were written for the first time.

Cricket rules were written for the first time in 1744.

3. State two changes that were seen in the game of cricket around 1780.

By 1780, a Test match was played for average three days. It was also the period when the first six-seam cricket ball was created.

4. The game of cricket traces its origin from where?

The game of cricket traces its origin from rural England.

5. Where and by which community cricket was initially played in India?

Cricket was initially played in Bombay by the Parsi community.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. What are the changes the cricket bat has undergone with time?

Initially the cricket bat was similar to the shape of hockey bat because the ball was bowled underarm. The bowlers then began to pitch the ball through the air rather than rolling it on ground. The curved bats were then replaced by the straight ones. Initially the bat was made by a single piece of wood. These days it consists of two pieces. The blade is made of willow wood while the handle is of cane.

2. CK Nayudu name is recorded in the history of cricket. What are the reasons that make him a legend?

CK Nayudu is revered because he was an outstanding batsman. He was one of the few initial Indian cricketers who got to play the test match cricket. Nayudu created history by becoming the first captain of the Indian Test team.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. During the 1760 and 1770s, it became common to pitch the ball through the air. What changes it brought in to the game of cricket?

Following the above mentioned trend, one immediate change was the replacement of the curved bats by the straight ones. The bowlers got the options of length, deception through air and increased pace because of this. It opened new possibilities for spin and swing bowling. In response to tricks applied by the bowlers, the batsmen had to improve their timings and shot selection.

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2. Explain elaborately India's dominance in the world cricket today.

India has the largest viewership for the game of cricket among all the test playing nations. It is also the largest market in the cricketing world. It has made the centre of gravity to shift towards South Asia from the country it originated.

The ICC headquarters too were shifted from London to Dubai where it is tax-free. The India cricket players are the best paid in the international cricket. They are famous and have got millions of supporters.

Extract based questions

Extract 1

Direction (Q. Nos. 1-6) Read the extract given below and answer the following questions.

Cricket does not. Ground can be oval like the Adelaide Oval or nearby circular like Chepauk in Chennai. A six at the Melbourne Cricket ground need to clear much more ground than it does at Feroze Shah Kotla in Delhi.

1. What does the sentence 'Cricket does not' refers to?

It refers that there is no specification in cricket for the size and the shape of the ground.

2. Explain the phrase 'nearby circular'.

It means that the Chepauk stadium in Chennai is not completely, but almost like the shape of a circle.

3. What are two shapes that a cricket ground can be of?

A cricket ground can be almost oval or circular.

4. A six at the Melbourne Cricket ground need to clear much more ground than it does at Feroz Shak Kotla in Delhi.

(a) Feroz Shah Kotla and Melbourne cricket ground are of same size.

(b) Melbourne cricket ground is larger than Feroz Shah Kotla

(c) Feroz Shah Kotla is large than Melbourne cricket ground.

(d) None of the above

(b) Melbourne cricket ground is larger than Feroz Shah Kotla.

5. 'A six' in the above lines mean
- (a) A ball touching the boundary
 - (b) Ball crossing the boundary without touching it
 - (c) Four runs
 - (d) A boundary
- (b) Ball crossing the boundary without touching it
6. What is Chepauk?
- (a) Cricket stadium
 - (b) Cricket ground
 - (c) An almost circular stadium
 - (d) All of the above
- (d) All of the above

Extract 2

Directions (Q. Nos. 1-6) Read the extract given below and answer the following questions.

If you look at the game's equipment, you can see how cricket both changed with changing times and yet fundamentally remained true to its origin in rural England. Cricket's most important tools are all made up of natural, pre-industrial materials.

1. **Mention one protective equipment used in the game of cricket.**

Helmet

2. **Write one important tool used in the game of cricket.**

Bat

3. **Name the materials through which the cricket's important tools made up of.**

Cricket's most important tools are made up of natural and pre-industrial materials.

4. **What has its origin in rural England?**

- (a) Equipment used in the game of cricket
- (b) Most important tool used in game of cricket
- (c) Game of cricket
- (d) None of the above

(c) Game of cricket.

5. Pre-industrials refer to

- (a) Synthetic materials
- (b) Natural products
- (c) Materials that have been in use before the industrial evolution
- (d) Vulcanised rubber

(c) Materials that have been in use before the industrial evolution

6. Find one word from the above lines that means 'from beginning'

- (a) Remained (b) Pre-industrial (c) Origin (d) Rural

(c) Origin



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