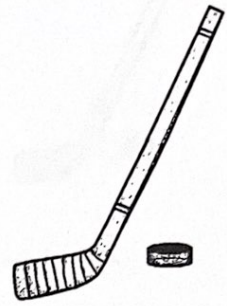


The Origins of Hockey

How and where hockey originated is up for debate. Here are two interesting stories. Which do you believe?



Story One

Hockey in Canada began soon after the early settlers arrived. A man by the name of Pierre Lapin was watching sleds slide across the ice on steel blades. He decided to try something very daring. He strapped rifle bayonets to each of his boots and stepped out onto the frozen lake. He immediately fell flat on his face. He got up over and over again until finally deciding he needed some help. He picked up a crooked stick and used it to make his way across the ice. As he made his way he tripped over a frozen beaver bladder that a trapper had left behind. He used his stick to slide the bladder across the ice and out of his way. Skates, stick and puck - hockey was invented!

Story Two

Sir John Franklin of the British Armed Forces observed a number of his Navy men getting exercise while in the Arctic. He would see them sliding on the ice and smacking at a piece of ice with sticks. He would later run into some people in the Maritimes playing a game like cricket on the ice, smacking at a ball with sticks and sliding around. They called this "cricket" - we call it hockey!

Whichever story you believe, hockey is a national past time in Canada and one of the most highly participated in sports. Hockey became very popular in the late 1800's as a winter activity for football and rugby players. The modern rules of the game were adopted from lacrosse, and have been changed over the years as the game was moved off the pond and onto rinks. The Amateur Hockey League was founded in 1886 in Montreal and a larger league (now the NHL) began in the early 1900s.

Lord Stanley, Governor General of Canada, was very interested in the game and loved the action, so he donated a cup for annual competition in the league. The Stanley Cup is now the most sought after trophy in winter sports.

Name: _____

The Origins of Hockey



1. Which story is more believable? Explain.

2. Why did hockey become a popular sport?

3. Why did Lord Stanley donate a cup for competition?

4. What other Canadian sport is hockey similar to?
