

THE INVENTION OF BASKETBALL

A gym teacher named James Naismith invented the game of basketball in 1891. He needed a game that could be played indoors during the cold winter.

Naismith got his idea from a children's game called "duck on a rock." A small rock called a "duck" is placed on a large rock. Then stones are thrown at the "duck" to knock it off of the rock.

In Naismith's first basketball game, children threw balls into peach baskets. Later, they used iron rings with cloth baskets. The bottoms of the baskets did not have holes. Players had to remove the ball each time they got a point. Finally, Naismith came up with the open net that we use today.

Basketball soon became a popular game. In 1936, Naismith watched basketball being played in the Olympics for the first time!



modern basketball

1. The game of basketball was inspired by which children's game?

- "duck, duck, goose" "duck on a rock"
 "ring around the rosy" "hopscotch"

2. Who invented the game of basketball in 1891?

- Walter Camp Babe Ruth
 Michael Jordan James Naismith

3. In which year did basketball become an Olympic sport?

- 1936 2006
 1836 1906

4. Before iron rings, what did players throw the ball into?

- milk crates laundry baskets
 peach baskets a hole in the ground

5. Why was basketball invented?
