

Cricket

A Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Book
Word Count: 399

Connections

Writing

Which position would you like to play on a cricket team? Why? Draw a picture and write about it.

Social Studies

On a map of the world, label the ten countries with teams that play cricket in Test matches. Include a compass rose on your map.

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LEVELED BOOK • J

Cricket



Written by Tom Rosenstiehl

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Glossary

championships (n.)	contests to decide a winner (p. 12)
matches (n.)	contests or games (p. 12)
popular (adj.)	accepted, liked, or enjoyed by many people (p. 15)
professionals (n.)	people who earn money for taking part in an activity, rather than doing it purely for pleasure (p. 11)
protects (v.)	guards or defends from harm or danger (p. 9)
swaps (v.)	trades or exchanges something (p. 9)

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Focus Question

What makes cricket an interesting sport?

Words to Know

championships	professionals
matches	protects
popular	swaps

Front cover: A boy hits a cricket ball with a bat.

Back cover: A huge crowd watches a cricket game.

Title page: A cricket ball and bails

Page 3: Children playing cricket in India

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Cricket
Spectacular Sports
Level J Leveled Book
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Correlation

LEVEL J	
Fountas & Pinnell	J
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Children everywhere enjoy cricket.
These boys play a game in Asia.

That's Cricket!

Since its start as a children's game, cricket has been **popular**.

Today, it is followed by billions of fans around the world.

You can enjoy cricket, too!

Cricket Around the World

Today, people play cricket around the world.

Ten countries have teams that play in Test matches.

Test-Level National Teams



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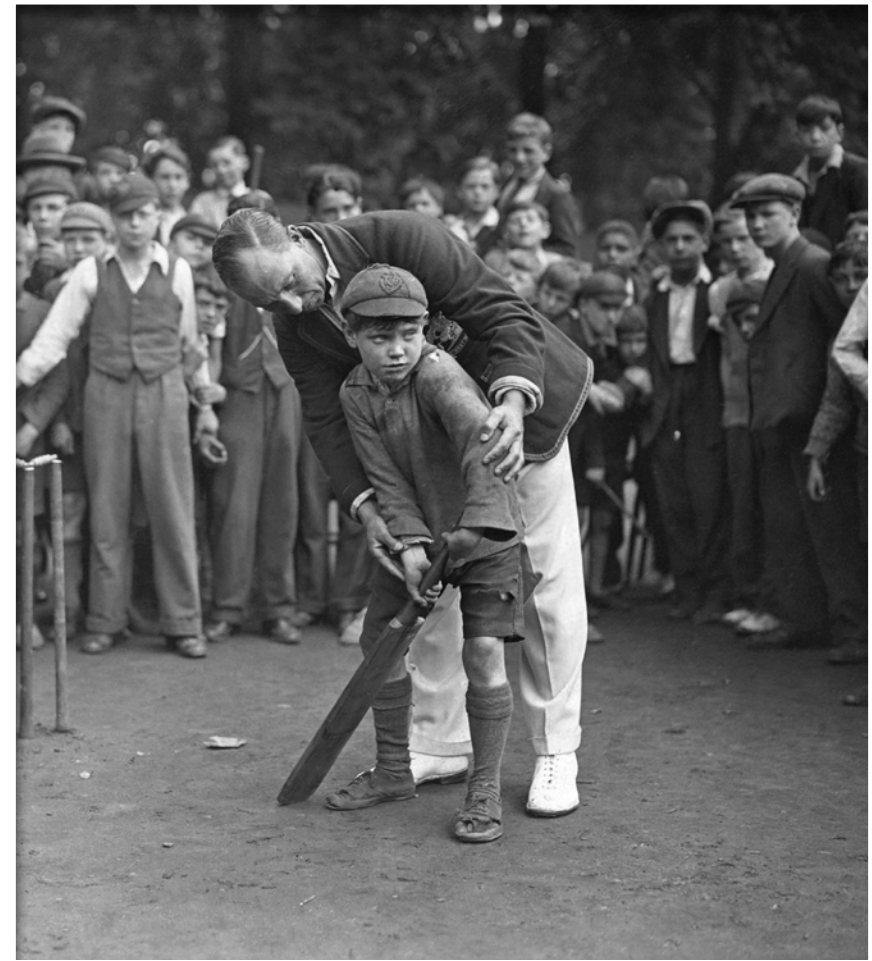
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An Australian player gets down on one knee to bat a low ball.

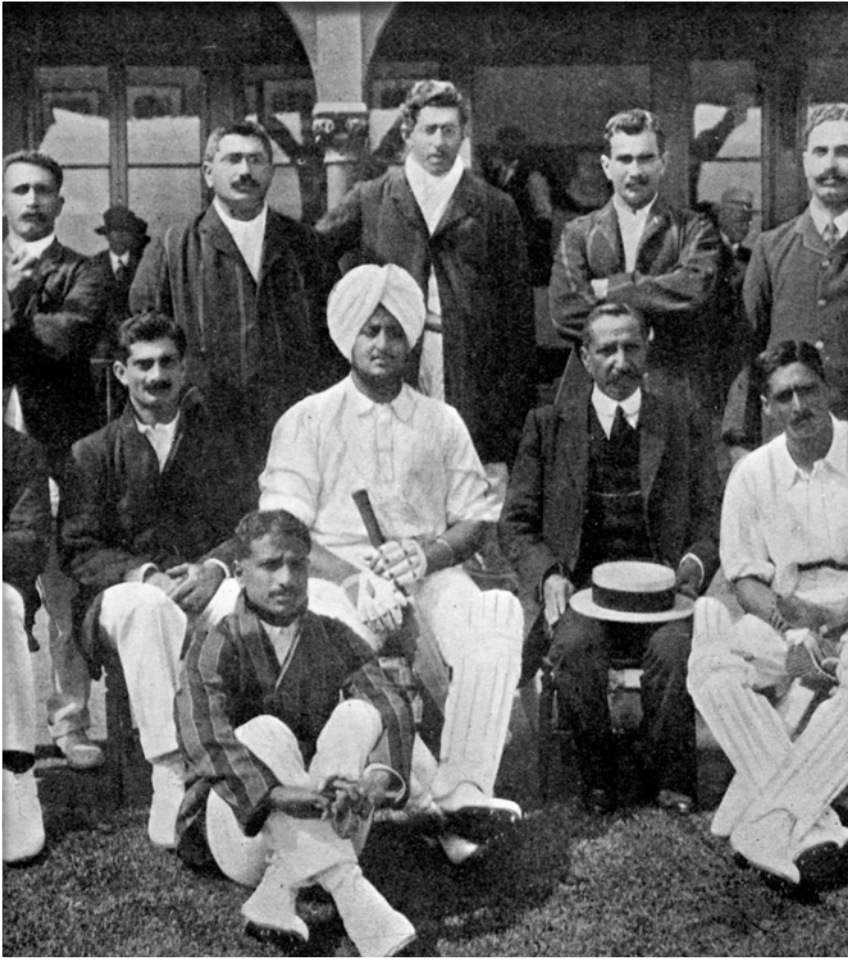
A Fun Sport

People around the world play an exciting sport called *cricket*. In cricket, a batter hits a ball with a large flat bat. The ball is about the same size as a baseball.



A boy from England gets a lesson from a player in 1931.

Cricket teams played once at the Olympic Games in 1900. Some fans hope cricket teams will one day play in every Summer Olympic Games.



The cricket team of India poses for a photograph in 1911.

Soon, cricket teams formed outside England as well.

Then, people created longer cricket **matches** called Tests for world **championships**.

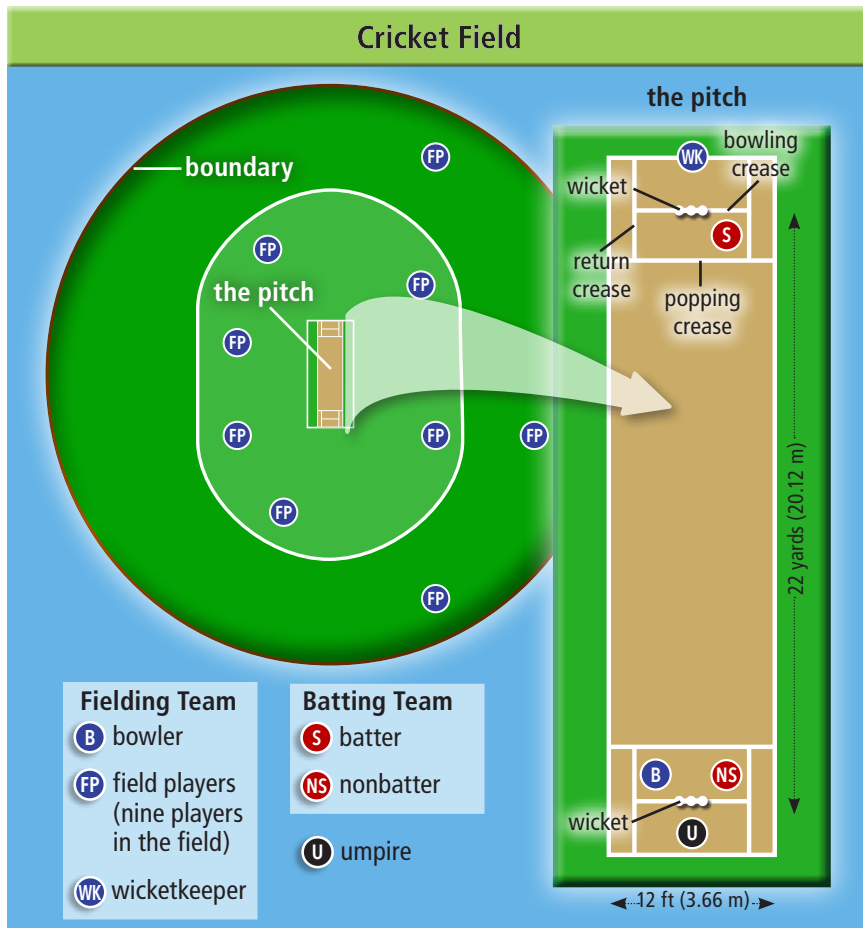
The Basics

Two teams play a game of cricket. Each team has eleven players. They play on an oval field with an area in the middle called a *pitch*.



The batter tries to keep the ball from hitting three posts in the ground.

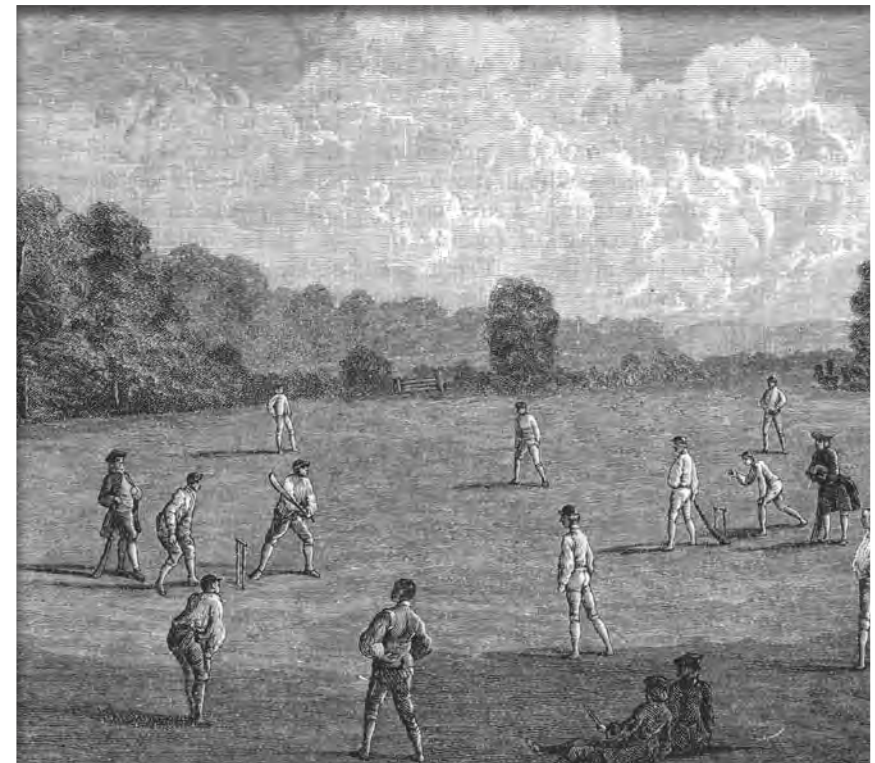
Cricket Field



The teams take turns batting and bowling, or throwing, a ball. Two batters on the batting team stand on each end of the pitch. The team that isn't batting plays in the field.

The History of Cricket

In the 1500s, children in England played cricket.
By the early 1700s, adults started playing as **professionals**.
In 1788, people created the cricket rules still in use today.



People play cricket in England in the 1700s.



Nine players on the bowling team play in the field.

Their job is to get the balls that the batter hits.

They can get the batter out by catching the ball.

They can also throw the ball and hit the wicket to get an out.

After ten outs, the bowling team gets their turn at bat.

At the end of the game, the team with more runs wins.

One player on each team is the bowler.

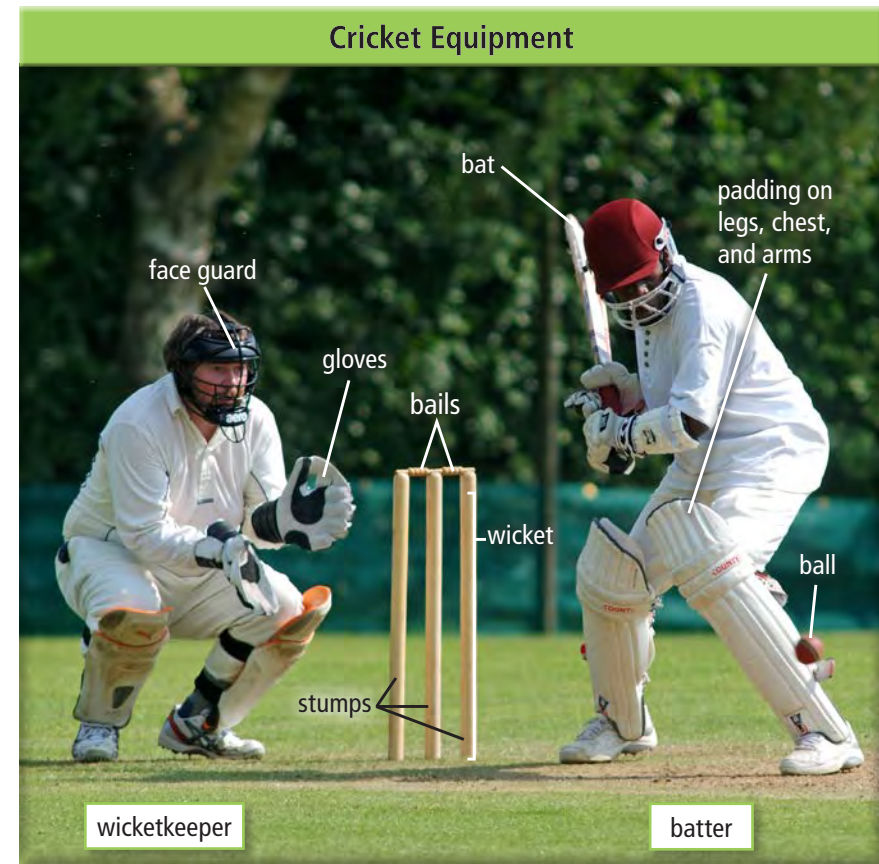
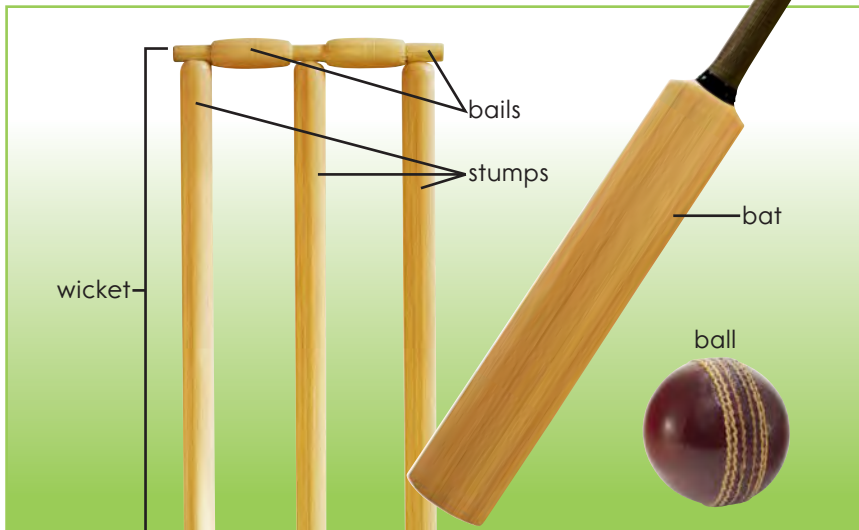
The bowler throws a ball to a batter on the other team.



A batter gets ready to swing her bat to hit the ball. The bowler can throw a very fast ball.

The bowler tries to hit three small posts in the ground near the batter. These posts are called *stumps*. At the top of the stumps are two small pieces of wood called *bails*. Together, the stumps and bails are called a *wicket*.

If the bowler's ball knocks the bails off the wicket stumps, the batter is out.



The batter **protects** the wicket by hitting the ball with his or her bat. If the batter hits the ball, he or she runs down the pitch. If the batter **swaps** places with the other batter, he or she scores one point. The point is called a *run*.