

Basketball begins in Springfield

1891 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

Words to know

invent — create a new tool, process, or idea

rule — an instruction about what is allowed

adapt — change to meet a new situation

Look closely



James Naismith holding a basketball and basket.

Read the story

James Naismith created basketball in Springfield. He wanted an indoor game for students during cold weather. The first version used peach baskets. The rules and equipment changed as more people played.

Think, talk, and show evidence

1. What happened in this reading? Tell one fact.
2. Who or what is this reading mostly about?
3. Choose a word from the word bank. Explain it in your own words.
4. Look at the picture and its caption. What does it help you notice? Is it from the time of the event?

Follow-up reading: The Lizzie Borden case

1892

Lizzie Borden was accused of killing her father and stepmother in Fall River. The case drew great public attention. She was tried and acquitted in 1893. Being accused is not the same as being found guilty.

How are the two readings alike or different? Tell a partner one connection. Which event came first?

Teacher guide & source trail

Original classroom adaptation. Suggested reading levels are instructional choices, not standardized readability certifications. Use professional judgment and learner feedback.

ELA practice: RI.2.1: ask and answer questions; RI.2.2: identify a main topic; RI.2.7: use images and words; W.2.2 and SL.2.1: explain and discuss.

These tasks support selected skills in the [Massachusetts 2017 ELA framework](#); they do not establish mastery of an entire standard.

Answer guidance

Factual anchor: James Naismith created basketball in Springfield. He wanted an indoor game for students during cold weather. The first version used peach baskets. The rules and equipment changed as more people played. An invention's first form can differ from its modern version. Basketball spread through educational and community networks. Study early rules before assuming today's game existed from the beginning.

Accept accurate main ideas and explanations supported by the text. Vocabulary meanings are in the opening word bank. For picture questions, use the caption and credit below; distinguish what is visible from what is inferred. For comparison, accept a specific connection supported by both readings. Do not require personal accounts of trauma.

Continue the inquiry

[Research source for this event ↗](#)

[Research source for follow-up ↗](#)

[Event page, accessible HTML reading, and vocabulary game ↗](#)

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[Image source and rights record ↗](#)

The PDF contains selectable English text and embedded fonts. For adjustable text and browser reading tools, use the event's [HTML page](#). External sources may need adult guidance.