

# Basketball begins in Springfield

1891 | Grade 4 · Explain with evidence

## 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.

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.

## Think, talk, and show evidence

1. State the main idea. Support it with two details from the reading.
2. Explain a change or challenge described in the text. Which words support your answer?
3. Use one vocabulary word in a new sentence about this event.
4. What can the image and caption help explain? What can they not tell you?

## 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.

Newspaper coverage shaped public opinion. A rhyme or legend is not reliable evidence. Study the difference between accusation, testimony, verdict, and unresolved historical questions without graphic details.

Compare the two readings. Explain one similarity or difference using a detail from each. Their order does not prove that one caused the other.

# 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.4.1: refer to details; RI.4.2: main idea and summary; RI.4.3: explain events; RI.4.7: interpret visual information; W.4.2 and SL.4.1: 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 ↗](#)

**Image:** Unknown photographer · Public domain

[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.