

Volleyball begins in Holyoke

1895 | Grade 4 · Explain with evidence

Words to know

invent — create a new tool, process, or idea

cooperate — work together

adapt — change to meet a new situation

Look closely



Portrait of William G. Morgan.

Read the story

William G. Morgan created a game in Holyoke. It was first called mintonette and later volleyball. Players sent a ball over a net. The game changed and spread to many countries.

Morgan developed it at the YMCA. Rules, equipment, and participation evolved. A sport's origin is only one chapter; later players and communities also shape its history.

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 first Boston Marathon

1897

The first Boston Marathon took place in 1897. John J. McDermott won. The race later grew into an international event. Who was allowed to run changed over time.

The original course and distance differed from today's. Women and other excluded athletes challenged limits in later decades. A race history should examine access alongside winning times.

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: William G. Morgan created a game in Holyoke. It was first called mintonette and later volleyball. Players sent a ball over a net. The game changed and spread to many countries. Morgan developed it at the YMCA. Rules, equipment, and participation evolved. A sport's origin is only one chapter; later players and communities also shape its history.

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: Hayes · 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.