

Winter sports in Canada and around the world

1 Do you like sports? Find 8 different kinds of winter sports below.

ice hockey, sledging, skiing, curling, swimming, ice skating, snowboarding, dog sledding, fishing, biathlon, luge, canoeing, winter sports

ice hockey,

2 The Winter Sports Quiz: Who invented it? Can you match the winter sport with the country?

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. curling | a) the USA |
| 2. ice-skating | b) Canada |
| 3. ice hockey | c) Norway |
| 4. dog sledding | d) Finland |
| 5. snowboarding | e) Scotland |
| 6. ski mountaineering | f) Canada & Norway |
| 7. cross-country skiing | g) Germany, Austria and Switzerland |



Have you tried any winter sports? Why do you think winter sports are popular in Canada?

3a Reading: Winter sports are very popular in Canada. Read Text A and your partner reads Text B on the next page. Can you answer the questions in No. 4?

A

Curling

Although invented in Scotland, curling is one of the most popular winter team sports in Canada. The first curling club was founded in 1807 in Montreal and today there are over 800,000 Canadians who play curling around the country. Usually, two teams play against each other. There are four players in each team. They slide four stones made of granite into a target called the *House*. The winner of the game is the team that has their stones closest to the centre of the *House*. Curling is played on an icy surface called a *sheet*. Each curler needs a set of stones, which weigh up to 20 kilos, a brush to move the stones across the ice, and special curling shoes. Curling was part of the first Winter Olympics in 1924 and since then Canada holds the most world championship titles.



to slide: here: to move smoothly across the ice

Fotos: Skitourengeher © Getty Images/E+/AscentXmedia, Curling © Getty Images/istock/robertprzbylsz

3a Reading. Winter sports are very popular in Canada. Read Text B and your partner reads Text A.
Can you answer the questions in No. 4?

B

Ice Hockey

Ice hockey – or just hockey as the Canadians call it – goes back to the 19th century. First forms were already played by the *First Nations* (Ureinwohner) in Canada. In modern day, hockey is one of the most commonly played sports on the North American continent.

The game is played in teams of 6 players. Two teams play against each other on a big ice rink. The object of the game is to hit a small puck into the goal with a hockey stick. Every time a puck goes into the goal of the other team they score a point. The team with the most goals wins.

Each hockey player needs a hockey stick, ice skates, a face mask, helmet, gloves and a padded outfit. Hockey became an Olympic sport in 1924 and since then the Canadian teams have won 9 gold medals.



ice rink: a large area of ice where you can ice-skate padded outfit: protects your body

4 Summary questions: Answer the questions and interview your partner about his/her text.

1. What's your sport called and how many players are in a team?
2. What kind of equipment do you need?
3. What is the "field" called that the sport is played on?
4. Who is the winner of the game?
5. When did the sport become Olympic?



5 Can you think of a sport or a game that is popular in your country in winter? How is it played? What kind of equipment do you need? Why do people like it? Write notes. Then tell a partner.

6 Interview: Choose two questions and ask a partner.

1. Which of the two sports above would you like to try this winter? Why?
2. Is there any other winter sport that you have tried? What was good about it?
3. Do you like doing sports?
4. When is the best time to do sport? In summer or in winter?
5. Do you prefer doing sports outdoor or indoors? Why?



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KEY

1

(ice hockey,) skiing, curling, ice swimming, snowboarding, ice-skating, dog sledding, ice fishing

2

(1. e) 2. d 3. b 4. f 5. a 6. g 7. c

4

Question:	Curling:	Ice Hockey:
1.	curling; 4 players per team	ice hockey / hockey; 6 players per team
2.	4 stones, a brush, special curling shoes	a puck, hockey stick, ice skates, a face mask, helmet, gloves and a padded outfit
3.	a sheet	an ice rink
4.	the team who has their stones closest to the centre of the <i>House</i>	the team with the most goals
5.	in 1924	in 1924

5/6

Students' own answers.

Source and more information:

<https://worldcurling.org/about/curling/>

<https://www.rulesofsport.com/sports/ice-hockey.html>