



1 SOCCER

Shoes of the Gospel of Peace
Sharing the Good News

Acts 8:26-39



★ factoid ★

RULES OF SOCCER TRUE OR FALSE

(See correct answers below.)

1. If the crossbar (*part of the goal*) breaks during a competition match and there is no way to repair or replace it, the match is canceled.
2. Flags need to be placed at the half-way line.
3. It is permissible to mark the field of play with broken lines.
4. If a referee notices a soccer player drawing marks on the field of play with his foot before the game starts, the player is cautioned for unsportsmanlike behavior.
5. Goal nets are always necessary in competitive play.
6. Making additional marks on the field of play is allowed if the marks help the goalkeeper.

ANSWERS: 1. TRUE; 2. FALSE (Flags are optional.); 3. FALSE; 4. TRUE; 5. FALSE (Although some competitions may require them.); 6. FALSE.



2 BICYCLING

Helmet of Salvation
Making Wise Decisions

Luke 19:1-10



★ **factoid** ★

Did you know that there are organizations that take the bicycles you no longer need or use and distribute them to needy people around the world? One company called Pedals for Progress distributed over 62,000 bicycles in just 11 years. They also gave over six million dollars in spare parts and accessories to charity organizations in 20 different countries. For people in many countries, bicycles are their main mode of transportation. Although these people can't afford cars, many can afford bicycles. Those who can't afford them depend on charity organizations to help them get the bicycles they need to get around. In India, for example, many pastors spread the Gospel on foot.



3 SOFTBALL

Breastplate of Righteousness
Trusting God's Protection

Joshua 1:9



★ factoid ★

- 19.8 million athletes play softball in the United States.
- More people in the United States play softball than football, soccer, hockey, or baseball.
- 72% of these softball players compete in tournament play.
- Softball ranks third overall in participation for team sports in the United States.
- Softball players are estimated to spend 4.3 billion dollars annually to compete!
- Softball fields across the United States are booked April through October, 7 days a week, with teams lined up to play.

[Statistics taken from the World Softball League web site. Used with permission.]



4 FIELD HOCKEY

Sword of the Spirit
Using God's Word

2 Chronicles 34–35



★ **factoid** ★

Did you know that field hockey is one of the world's most popular games? It is also one of the world's oldest competitive team sports! It is thought that the first game played with a ball and stick may have happened over 4,000 years ago in the Nile Valley of Egypt! Other civilizations who may have played the game include: Greeks, Romans, Ethiopians, and Aztecs. Who knows? Maybe a game like hockey was played when Jesus was a boy.

After the sport was introduced to the United States in 1901, the United States Field Hockey Association was formed in 1922. The Olympic Games included men's field hockey for the first time in 1908, and women's field hockey earned a spot in 1980.

The World Cup is held every four years with 16 men's and 16 women's teams competing for the title of World Champion. The first men's World Cup was played in 1971 with the women's event added in 1974.



5 MOUNTAINEERING

Belt of Truth
Telling the Truth

Matthew 26:69-75; John 21:15-19



★ factoid ★

- The best mountain climbers dream about climbing Mount Everest—the highest mountain in the world at 29,035 feet (8,850 meters). It is located in the Himalaya Mountains between Nepal and Tibet.
- A Japanese-run hotel near Mount Everest is the highest in the world at 12,779 feet. Guests fly to an airstrip in the Khumbu region of the Himalayas and then ride a Yak to get to their hotel. Because the hotel is so high, each guest has his or her own oxygen pumped into the room. Even from this height, Everest can only be seen at a distance if the weather is clear.
- The white plume often seen blowing off the top of Everest is the jet stream, a wind current reaching speeds up to 250 mph. To a climber, it sounds like a 747 taking off.
- Mount Everest was named after Sir George Everest. The earliest British climbers wore tweed jackets, wool underwear, and leather boots. Today climbers wear high-tech gear and have the best equipment possible. Of the 1,000 climbers who have summited Everest, more than half have done so in recent years.