

Sports in the United States



American sports



- Americans are interested in different sports and activities. The major American sports are ice hockey, baseball, American football and basketball. The large choice of sports in America can be explained by the variety and size of the country, its different climates and the people's love of competitions of any type. The seasons of the "four major sports" often overlap.

American Michael Phelps won an Olympic record eight gold medals



- ❑ **Sports in the United States** is an important part of American culture. The four most popular team sports are ones that developed in North America: American football, baseball, basketball and ice hockey. The major leagues of these sports, the National Football League (NFL), the Major League Baseball (MLB), the National Basketball Association (NBA) and the National Hockey League (NHL) enjoy massive media exposure and are considered the preeminent competitions in their respective sports in the world .

Football

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□ Americans play tennis, hockey and most other international sports but they do not play football in the same way as the rest of the world. The players can run with the ball, touch and push each other. Players wear special clothes for American football with helmets on their heads, because the game can be dangerous. Like international football teams, American teams have eleven players. The field looks different and even the ball is a different shape. American football is very different game.

Football



- American football is a distinct type of football that developed in the United States in the 19th century from soccer and rugby.

Football



- Football is played by school, college and professional teams and is one of the most popular American sports, attracting thousands of participants and millions of spectators annually. American football was made popular by teams representing colleges and universities.

Ice hockey



- Americans love winter sports and ice hockey is the most popular game. This game is very fast and can be dangerous.

Ice hockey



- Originating from North America, the sport is commonly referred to simply as "hockey." In the U.S. the game is most popular in regions of the country with a cold winter climate.

Water Polo



- Water Polo is a team water sport. The playing team consists of six field players and one goalkeeper. The winner of the game is the team that scores more goals. Water polo, therefore, has strong similarities to the land-based game of handball.

Baseball



- Baseball is the most popular summer sport in America. But the first baseball games start in warm, sunny regions like Florida and Arizona in winter. The first American baseball match was held in 1839 in New York. There is an opinion that baseball comes from a much older game, played in Europe for many years. To play baseball, two teams of nine players are needed. The "pitcher" throws the ball, and the "batter" hits it with a bat. Americans start playing baseball young. There are "leagues" which children of eight can join. The top players become big stars.

Baseball



- Baseball is the most popular summer sport in America. The first American baseball match was in 1839 in New York. To play baseball you need two teams of nine players. Americans start playing baseball young. There are "leagues" which children of eight can join. The top players become big stars and earn a lot of money every year.

Basketball



- Basketball was invented in the United States. A schoolteacher designed the rules for a game that his students could play indoors. There are only five players in a basketball team. Usually basketball players are very tall and they show that basketball can be exciting.

Basketball

United States men's national basketball team playing in the 2008 Summer Olympics



- Basketball is a uniquely American sport. It originated in 1891 when James Naismith, a young physical education teacher in Springfield, Massachusetts, was instructed by his boss to invent a new game that could be played indoors during the cold winter months to keep the students occupied and out of trouble.

Basketball



- The first professional basketball league was formed in 1898. Today, the National Basketball Association (NBA) is the major professional basketball league in the world, with teams in the United States and Canada. The NBA now has 29 teams competing in two conferences, the Eastern and Western, in four separate divisions.

Basketball



- Since its invention, basketball has also been a popular sport for women. Basketball was also a popular sport for women. Women's basketball came of age with the gold-medal victory of the American women's basketball team at the 1996 Olympics, increased media attention to women's college basketball tournament, and the establishment of professional women's basketball leagues. The Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) was founded in 1997.

Cricket



- Cricket, another common sport in Commonwealth countries, is not a popular sport in the U.S. Many amateur cricket leagues have been formed by Indian, Pakistani, Australian, South African, English and Caribbean (more specifically West Indian) immigrants.

Cricket



- Cricket is a bat-and-ball game played between two teams of 11 players on an oval-shaped field, at the centre of which is a rectangular 22-yard long pitch. One team bats, trying to score as many runs as possible while the other team bowls and fields, trying to dismiss the batsmen and thus limit the runs scored by the batting team.

Curling



- Curling is popular in northern states, possibly because of climate, proximity to Canada, or Scandinavian heritage. The national popularity of curling is growing after significant media coverage of the sport in the 2006 and 2010 Winter Olympics.

Curling



- Curling is a sport in which players slide stones across a sheet of ice towards a target area. It is related to bowls, boule and shuffleboard. Two teams, each of four players, take turns sliding heavy, polished granite stones, also called "rocks", across the ice curling sheet towards the house, a circular target marked on the ice.

Volleyball



- Volleyball is also a notable sport in the United States, especially at the college and university levels. Volleyball is a team sport in which two teams of six players are separated by a net. Each team tries to score points by grounding a ball on the other team's court under organized rules.

Tennis



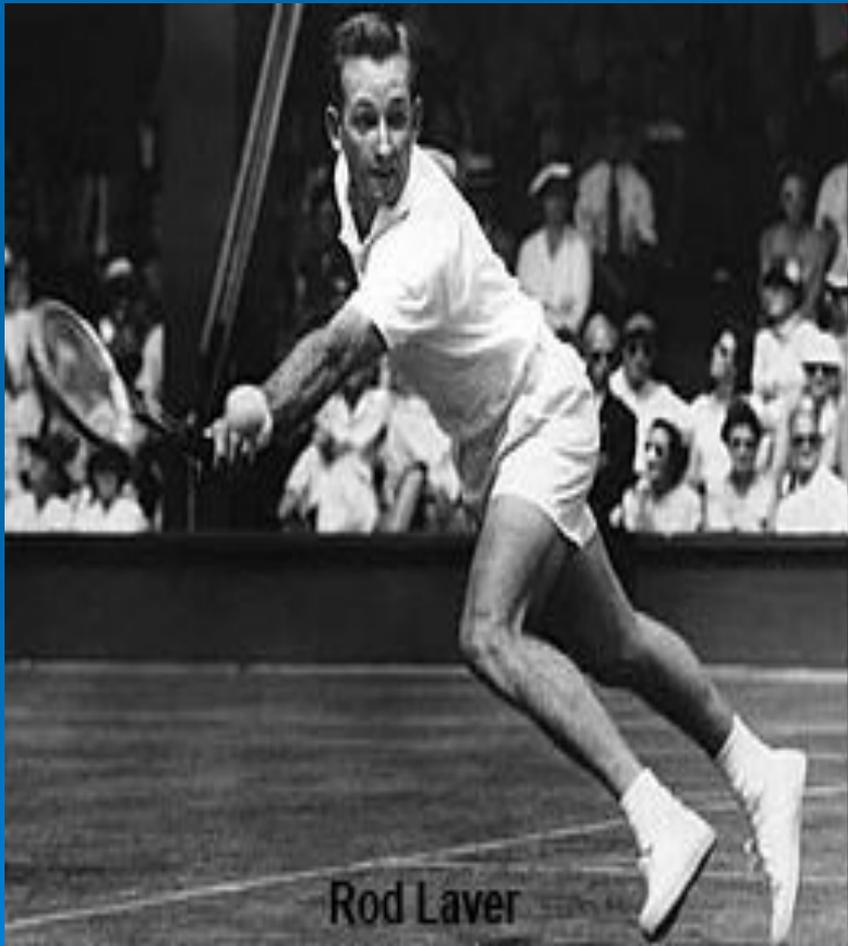
- Americans are fond of playing tennis too.

Tennis



- Amazingly, the historical development of tennis dates back several thousands of years. So, people who are involved in historical researches of this great sport claim to have found evidence of playing tennis in ancient Greece culture.

Tennis



- The game became very popular, especially in France, where it was adopted by the royal family. In the year of 1316 French king Louis X dies after a hard "Jeu de Paume" game (other terms of this stage of game are Royal Tennis in Great Britain, Royal Tennis in Australia, Court Tennis in the United States), but this death does not nullify the popularity of the recreation.

Tennis



- 16th Century - History of Tennis
- Between the 16th and 18th centuries the game of the palm was highly regarded by kings and nobleman. The French players would begin the palm game by shouting the word "Tenez" (Play!). The palm game soon came to be called "real tennis" or "royal".

Tennis



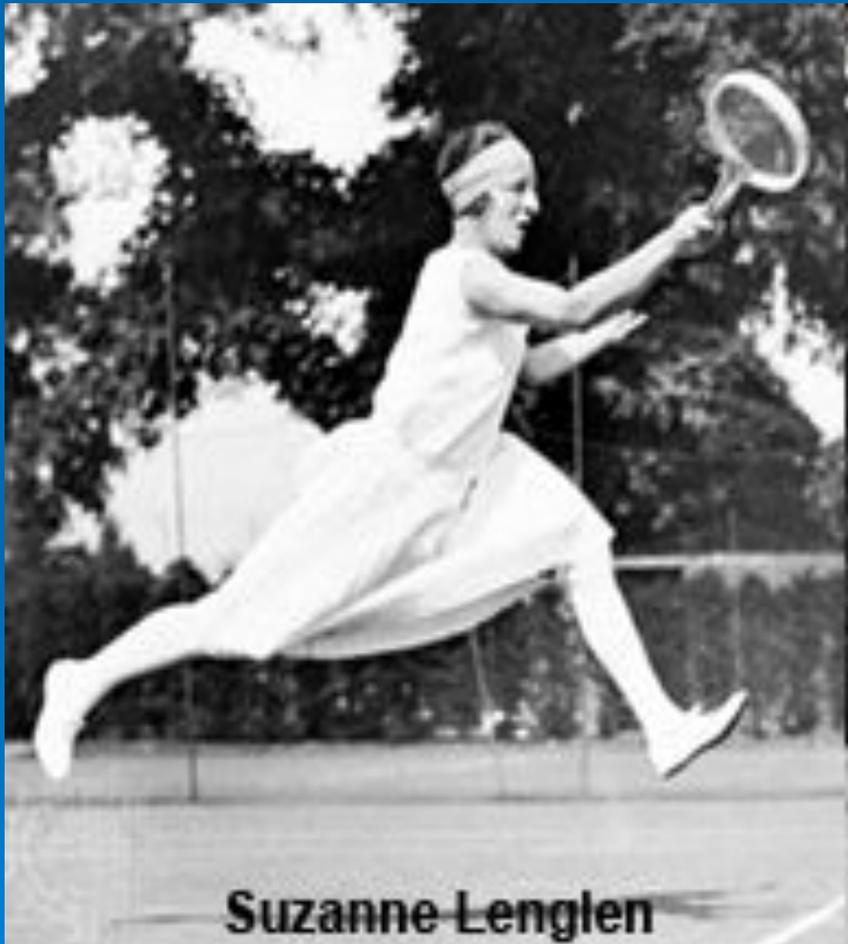
- 1530s ▪ HISTORY OF TENNIS
 - English king Henry VIII builds a tennis court at Hampton Court Palace (This court no longer exist but a similar court built there in 1625 and is in use until today).

Tennis



- 1896 ▪ OLYMPIC GAMES ▪
Tennis became one of the core sports in the first modern Olympic Games.

Tennis



- 1897 ▪ WOMEN ON FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIPS ▪ The French Championships are open to women for the first time in the french tennis history.

Tennis



- 2009 ▪ ROGER FEDERER ▪
On 7 June, Roger Federer became arguably the greatest tennis player of all time in tennis history with his victory at the French Open. Federer joins Fred Perry, Don Budge, Rod Laver, Roy Emerson and Andre Agassi as winner of all four Grand Slam titles, and equals the 14 Grand Slam titles claimed by Pete Sampras - who never managed to win on the clay of Roland Garros.

Tennis



- On 20 April, Marat Safin and Dinara Safina became the first brother and sister to reach world number one in tennis history. Marat became achieved the top ranking on 20 November 2000. Roger Federer secure No. 1 position on the end of seson with victory over Andy Murray in three sets at London ATP Finals on 25 November.

USA Triathlon

The symbol for triathlon in the Olympics



- USA Triathlon is the national governing body for the multisport disciplines of triathlon, duathlon, aquathlon and winter triathlon in the United States. USA Triathlon is a member federation of the U.S. Olympic Committee and the International Triathlon Union. Its headquarters are in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Triathlon



- Triathlon, in its most popular form, involves swimming, cycling, and running in immediate succession over various distances.

Figure-skating



- As other nationalities, Americans are fond of figure-skating too.
- The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating (formerly the ISU Champions Series) is a series of international invitational competitions organized by the International Skating Union. Elite figure skaters compete in the disciplines of ladies' singles, men's singles, pair skating, and ice dancing. The junior-level equivalent is the ISU Junior Grand Prix.