

Практическое занятие №3

Тема 7. Спорт. Увлечения и хобби.

План занятия:

1. Sports in Britain.
2. Sports in the USA.
3. Sports in Canada.

1. Sports in Britain.

1.1 Answer the following questions:

1. What sports are popular in Russia?
2. What is your favorite sport?
3. What are the five colours of the Olympic rings?

1.2 Read the text.

Games and competitions involving physical strength, skill, and endurance have interested people from the earliest times. Competitions involving physical prowess or simulating combat date from prehistoric times and probably are as old as community life. Although most ancient peoples took part in such sports as boxing and wrestling, some developed organized sports. The American Indians, for example, played games resembling lacrosse, field hockey, and bowling and engaged in foot racing and horse racing. In the Middle Ages tournaments gained wide popularity. Jousting was a sport of the nobility; the sport of the common people in England was archery.

Britain was the first country to organize sport as a national activity. In the second half of the nineteenth century it organized and exported a number of games, notably football, rugby football, hockey, lawn tennis, golf and cricket. The initial purpose behind organized sport was to provide an outlet for youthful energies at public schools. It was generally believed to have character-building qualities for

future leaders. But it was not long before local businessmen began to organize football and other sports as recreational activity for their workforce. Football clubs quickly sprang up in towns and cities all over Britain, and football was rapidly taken into working-class culture. The Saturday afternoon match was an occasion which working-class men would attend, supporting their local team.

From the 1960s the character of football began to change. A fundamental reason was financial. As match attendances dropped, clubs sought external help from sponsorship and advertising. The British invented and developed many of the sports and games played throughout the world; interest and participation have increased as a result of improved facilities, more time and widespread coverage.

Association football, one of the most popular sports, was first codified and developed in England during the 19th century. Now all countries hope to compete for the World Cup.

There are two types of rugby football - the 15-a-side Rugby Union played by amateurs and the 13-a-side Rugby League played mainly in the North of England by professionals. The modern form of hockey was started in the 19th century by the Hockey Association of England.

Cricket, a summer sport, is played with a small ball covered with leather, a bat and wickets, by two teams of eleven players each. It is known to have been played as early as the 1550s and is popular in most of the countries which were once a part of the British Empire, and in the countries which were temporarily occupied by the British military. So, besides England, Australia and New Zealand, cricket matches are held, for example, in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and West Indies.

Golf originated in Scotland and the headquarters of the game is at St. Andrews on the East coast. The British Open Golf Championship is one of the world's leading tournaments. Modern lawn tennis originated in England in 1872 and the annual Wimbledon Championships, widely regarded as the most important of the world tennis events, were first held in 1877.

Boxing in its modern form dates from 1865 when the Marquess of Queensberry drew up a set of rules rewarding skill and eliminating much of the brutality that had

characterized prize-fighting. Administered by the Jockey Club, horse racing takes two forms - flat (from late March to early November) and steeplechase or hurdle racing (from August to early June). In flat racing, the horses run on level or flat ground; in steeplechase they jump over obstacles.

Britain has a large number of sailing events, one of the world's principal regattas being held each year at Cowes in the Isle of Wight. The rowing calendar includes the Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race, the Head of the River Race and the Henley Regatta, all held on the river Thames. Other important water sports include swimming and windsurfing. Indoor games such as snooker, darts, squash and badminton are also popular. In the middle of the 19th century the schools and colleges in England, followed by similar institutions in the United States, began a revival of athletics that continues today.

Over a century ago, the novelist Anthony Trollope listed the sports 'essentially dear to the English nature'. These included hunting, shooting, rowing and horse racing. He was referring to the 'gentleman class', which through the public school system established football, rugby and cricket as national games. A class dimension to sport persists. Hunting, rowing and horse racing, because of the expense involved, have remained upper-class pastimes. The Henley Regatta, the high point of the rowing season, Royal Ascot, for horse racing, and polo at Windsor remain pinnacles of the upper-class summer season. Golf is still to some extent financially segregated between exclusive private clubs and municipal facilities. Football remains essentially lower class, but with a growing middle-class following. While in Wales rugby has always been a mass game, in England it has always been more socially exclusive, with a very high proportion of ex-public school players. Having gone professional, rugby is bound to become more socially mixed.

Thousands of people devote their leisure time to outdoor and indoor games, athletics, cycling, mountain climbing, boxing and other sports. Horse-racing, dog-racing, and motor racing are among the most popular sports in Britain.

Another game which was first invented in England is table-tennis which was already played in about 1880. At first, the game had several strange names: Gossima,

Whiff Whaff and Ping Pong. It wasn't until 1926 the International Table Tennis Association was formed with international championships and rules.

Although the game was invented in England British players don't have much chance in international championships. There are all kinds of racing in England - horse-racing, motor-car racing. Boatrace in England is between Oxford and Cambridge. It is rowed over a course on the River Thames, and thousands of people go to watch it. The University boat - race started in 1820 and has been rowed on the Thames almost every spring since 1836.

1.3 Say if the statements are true or false:

1. France was the first country to organize sport as a national activity.
2. The Saturday afternoon match was an occasion which only upper-class men would attend, supporting their local team.
3. Cricket, a winter sport, is played with a small ball covered with leather, a bat and wickets, by two teams of eleven players each.
4. Golf originated in Wales.
5. Horse-racing, dog-racing, and motor racing are not the most popular sports in Britain.

1.4 Answer the following questions:

1. What sports did most ancient people take part in?
2. What was the first country to organize sport as a national activity?
3. What sports were 'essentially dear to the English nature'?
4. What are other names of table-tennis?
5. When was the International Table Tennis Association formed with international championships and rules?

1.5 Render the words and phrases into Russian:

hurdle racing, javelin throwing, luge, calisthenics, fencing, wrestling, checkers, draughts, chess, squash, to abide by the rules, to violate the rules, to run a lap, physical prowess, endurance, ancient peoples, lacrosse, jousting, championship, tournament, steeplechase, obstacles, intercollegiate association, regatta, combative sports, a bat and wickets.

1.6 Complete the sentences using the information from the text.

1. The initial purpose behind organized sport was to provide ...
2. The British invented and developed...
3. Modern lawn tennis originated in England in 1872 and the annual Wimbledon Championships,...
4. Britain has a large number of sailing events,...
5. Golf is still to some extent financially segregated...

1.7 Give a summary of the text.

2 Sports in the USA.

2.1 Answer the following questions:

1. What famous US athletes do you know?
2. What sports are popular in the USA?
3. What sport is often called the «national pastime» in the USA?

2.2 Read the text.

Now athletics forms an important part of the educational system in the USA. There is a vivid distinction between amateur and professional sport in the US. Athletes engage in amateur athletics for fun, whereas participation in professional sports is generally done for money as well as pleasure. The Amateur Athletic Union of the United States and the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America control all amateur sports.

The principal amateur athletic sports in the US are college football and basketball. Other popular team sports include baseball, hockey and soccer. Among sports for individual competition are tennis, including table tennis, badminton and handball; combative sports, such as boxing, fencing and wrestling; water sports, including swimming, diving and rowing; winter sports, such as skiing and skating; golf and bowling. The chief professional sports are major-league baseball, basketball and football; others include boxing, wrestling, golf, tennis and hockey.

Sports in the USA is a complex, many-sided phenomenon. Like many other aspects of American life sports is one of the most profitable goods on the American market. It has become a social institution which influences education, economics, art, international relations.

Many communities maintain tennis courts, swimming pools and golf courses for public use. Seldom more than an hour's drive from any American town are facilities for camping, hiking, fishing, boating, swimming and horseback riding.

Hunting is very popular in the USA and is pursued over large areas, including

some close to the metropolitan centres. Where the climate and terrain permit, there are many places setup for water-skiing, surfboarding, ice-skating, skiing, snowmobiling and mountain climbing. The one sport that draws more participants than any other in America is bowling. Men, women and children make up teams rolling heavy balls down a hardwood-surfaced «lane» toward ten standing «pins». For the more adventurous there are wilderness trips deep into primeval America by boat, on horseback or on foot.

The most popular kinds of professional sports are American football, baseball, basketball, boxing, rugby, hockey, horse and automobile racing. Most games are shown on television, and the camerawork is so skilful that the thrilling events can be followed even if you know nothing about the game.

In the USA football is the most popular sport in the fall. The game originated as a college sport. It is still played by almost every college and university in the country. There are professional football teams in nearly all the major cities of the United States. This game is quite unlike the game of the same name played elsewhere. The players are dressed in plastic armor - helmets, face masks, bulky shoulder and hip padding, because the game is rough. The matches are accompanied by uniformed bands, cheerleaders, pretty girls dressed in short skirts, knee-high red leather boots and military-looking white jackets who dance and lead the cheering and rouse the crowd to noisy enthusiasm.

Baseball is played throughout the spring and summer. It is often called the «national pastime». Not only boys, high school and college teams play baseball, but it is played by grown men as amateurs and by professionals. The World Series is the culmination of the professional season - a few days during which, for baseball fans and readers of newspapers, normal activities take a back seat while attention is focused on the outcome of the championship. Heroes in baseball are talked about and remembered as perhaps in no other sport.

Basketball is the winter sport in American schools and colleges. It is more popular here than in other countries. Many Americans prefer it to football because it is an indoor game and faster than football.

In addition to road racing by sport cars, there is a good deal of car racing on oval tracks by a variety of vehicles. The most famous is the annual 500-mile race round the speedway at Indianapolis, Indiana. A few tracks occasionally offer a strange event called a demolition derby, in which drivers of a dozen or so old cars endeavor to smash one another into junk until only one car - the winner's - remains mobile. But as much as Americans like to engage in sports or to watch games being played, they seem to have fully as much fun reading and talking about it.

The most recent unusual sport is the triathlon, which became popular in the US before spreading elsewhere. This most demanding sport came from a late-night discussion in a Honolulu bar in 1977 about which sport was the most exhausting: swimming, bicycle racing, or long-distance running. Someone suggested that they all be put together. The result was the first triathlon, the "Ironman", in 1978, with 15 participants. This contest was a 3.9 kilometer ocean swim, followed immediately by a 180 kilometer bicycle race, and ending with a 42 kilometer run. Five years later there were already 1,000 such competitions throughout the US, and the triathlon is becoming more and more popular in Europe, too.

2.3 Say if the statements are true or false :

1. The principal amateur athletic sports in the US are hockey and wrestling.
2. Canoeing is very popular in the USA and is pursued over large areas, including some close to the metropolitan centres.
3. In the USA hockey is the most popular sport in the fall.
4. Baseball is played throughout the fall and winter.
5. Basketball is the summer sport in American schools and colleges.

2.4 Render the words and phrases into English:

требующие физической силы и выносливости; участвовать в соревнованиях на Кубок мира; развивать командные виды спорта; открытый чемпионат по гольфу; считается самым важным соревнованием по теннису в мире;

установить правила; водные виды спорта; возрождение спорта; представлять важную часть образовательной системы; заниматься спортом для развлечения; основные любительские виды спорта.

2.5 Complete the sentences using the information from the text.

- 3 Among sports for individual competition are...
- 4 The one sport that draws more participants...
- 5 There are professional football teams...
- 6 Not only boys, high school and college teams play baseball, but...
- 7 Many Americans prefer it to football because...

2.6 Give a summary of the text.

Sports in Canada.

3.1 Answer the following questions:

1. What were the first two Canadian cities to have hosted the Olympic Games?
2. In what city did hockey originate?
3. What famous Canadian athletes do you know?

3.2 Read the text.

Curling is a popular sport in Canada. However, it probably started in Scotland or Holland around three hundred years ago. There are two teams with four people on each team in curling. The teams play on a sheet of ice that is 45 meters long and 4.3 meters wide.

Each player slides two heavy stones toward the “house” circle at the opposite end of the ice sheet. The stones weigh almost twenty kilos. Each stone is flat on the top and bottom and has a handle on the top. The player swings the stone off the ice and it curls as it slides along.

While one player throws the stone, his teammates sweep in front of the stone. The players believe that the stone travels faster on smooth ice. The captain of the team yells “Sweep!” and the teammates start sweeping the ice.

Lacrosse is another popular sport in Canada. It is one of the oldest organized sports in America. It is also popular in Britain and Australia. It was invented by Indians in northern New York and southern Ontario. They used it to train for war before Columbus arrived in the New World.

People play lacrosse outdoors. The lacrosse field is 70 meters long. At each end of the field there is a goal. There are ten players on each team. Each player hits a ball that is 21 centimeters around and weighs 140 grams. They try to hit the ball into the net as many times as possible. Lacrosse is a very fast game because the players can catch and pass the ball at high speed with their sticks.

3.3 Say if the statements are true or false :

1. There are two teams with six people on each team in curling
2. The stones weigh almost ten kilos.
3. The captain of the team yells “Go!” and the teammates start sweeping the ice.
4. Lacrosse was invented by Americans in northern New York
5. Lacrosse is also popular in Britain and Australia.

3.4 Answer the questions:

1. Where is curling popular?
2. Who invented curling?
3. How many people play curling at one time?
4. Why is the game called curling?
5. How do the players slide the stones?

3.5 Complete the sentences using the information from the text.

1. The teams play on a sheet of ice that is...
2. Each player slides two heavy stones toward...
3. Each player hits a ball that is 21 centimeters around and...
4. They try to hit the ball into...
5. Lacrosse is a very fast game because...

3.6 Give a summary of the text.

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