

Name: _____

Read the following informational text to learn about soccer. Complete the graphic organizer with information from the text.

Did you know that soccer is the most popular sport in the world? Soccer is the most widely played and followed sport on Earth. The sport is most popular in Europe and South America, but it originated in China more than 2000 years ago. The game's popularity spread rapidly throughout the world in the 1800s.

In the 1800s, British sailors, traders, and soldiers took the game with them as they traveled and introduced it to the people they met along the way. This helped spread the game to the corners of the world where people learned the rules of the game. An association of people agreed on a set of laws, or rules, used for the game that would be universal for all who played. Children and adults alike began to play soccer and share their love of the sport.

Soccer is popular among non-competitive athletes because it is an effective form of exercise. A single player runs about 7 miles on average during an entire soccer game. The United States has almost 18 million soccer players, which is more than any other country. The sport of soccer is a favorite pastime of people in every state of the country. Every four years, the World Cup is held. It is the biggest soccer tournament in the world and billions of people watch the televised games.

National teams from countries around the world battle to win the tournament and earn the title of best soccer team. The World Cup is the most prestigious tournament in the world, and it is the most widely viewed and followed sporting event in the world. More people watch the World Cup than the Super Bowl!



Author's Point

Soccer is the most popular sport in the world.

Reason / Evidence

Soccer is popular among non-competitive athletes because it is an effective form of exercise.
(para. 3)

Reason / Evidence

The sport is most popular in Europe and South America, but it originated in China more than 2000 years ago. (para. 1)

Reason / Evidence

Soccer is the most widely played and followed sport on Earth.
(para. 1)

Reason / Evidence

It is the biggest soccer tournament in the world and billions of people watch the televised games. (para. 3)