



Soccer

Soccer, also known as Association Football, or simply as 'football' in most English speaking countries, is one of the oldest sports, with origins reaching back to Ancient China and Greece.

The game is played by two opposing teams of eleven players each on a rectangular field (also called a pitch) with goals on both ends. The object of the game is to move a ball down the field and score by getting it into the opposing team's goal. Played in more than 200 countries by millions of people, soccer is the world's most popular sport.

History of the Sport

While it is difficult to pinpoint precisely when the earliest forms of soccer were played, records trace the history of soccer back more than 2,000 years ago to ancient China. Greece, Rome, and parts of Central America also claim to have started the sport, but it was England that transformed soccer into the game we know today.

The modern history of the game spans more than 100 years. It began in 1863 in England, when rugby football and association football branched off on their different courses and The Football Association (FA) was formed in England - becoming the sport's first governing body. The English are credited with recording the first uniform rules for the sport, including forbidding tripping opponents and touching the ball with one's hands.

With the increasing popularity of the sport the need for a single body to oversee association football became apparent at the beginning of the 20th century. The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) was founded in Paris on May 21, 1904. The founding members were the national associations of Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. Today, FIFA recognizes 211 national associations and their associated men's national teams as well as 129 women's national teams.

Name _____



Using the text and your own thinking, answer the following questions about *Soccer*.

1. From which two ancient cultures can soccer trace its roots?

2. How many players are on the field for each team in a soccer match?

3. What fact cited in the text supports the statement that soccer is the world's most popular sport?

4. What event marked the beginning of the modern game of soccer?

5. In which country did this take place?

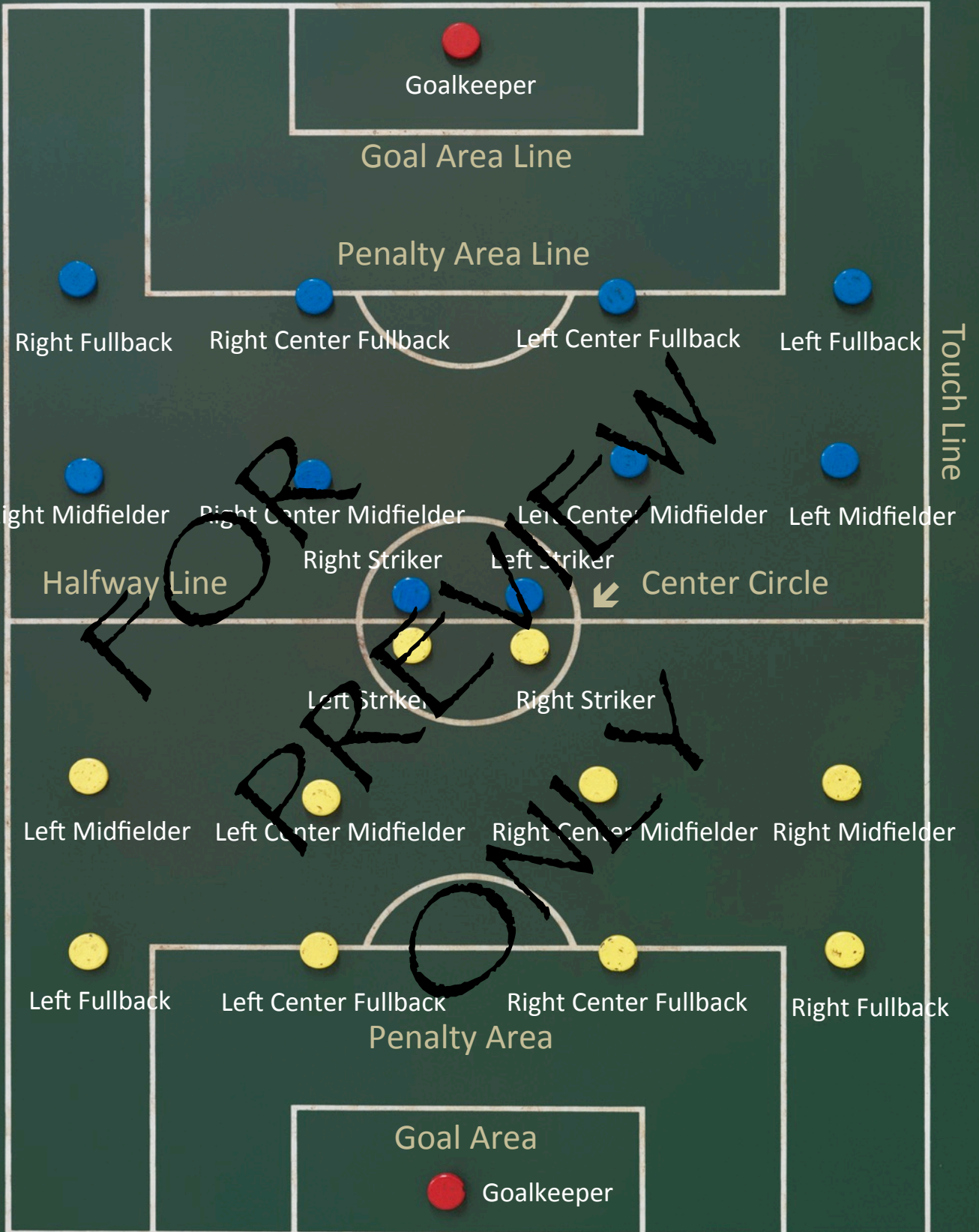
6. When was FIFA founded and how many countries were involved in starting it?

7. What task is FIFA responsible for carrying out?

FOR
PREVIEW
ONLY

Soccer Pitch/Field and Positions (in a 4-4-2 Formation)

Goal Line/End Line

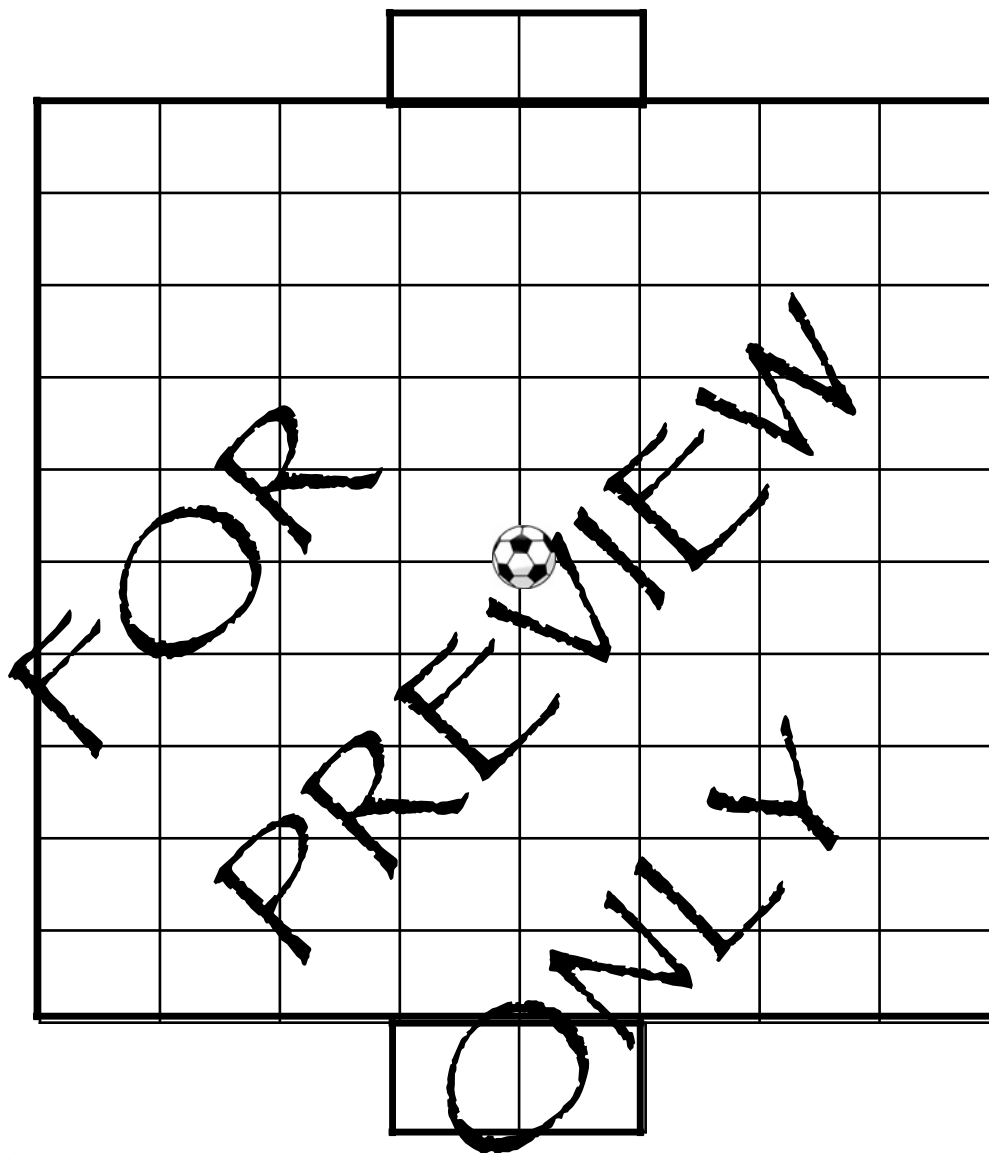


Paper Soccer Match



_____ VS. _____

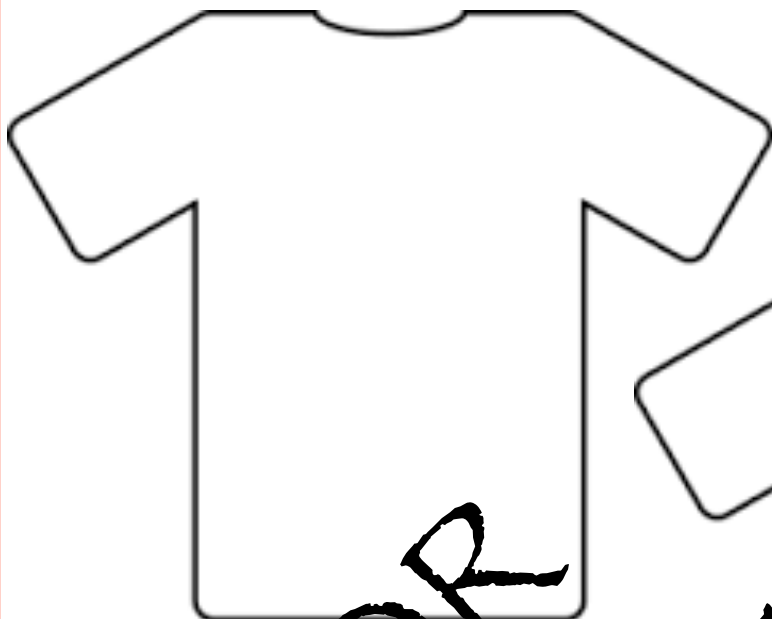
Choose a team name (or players may use their own names) and fill in above. Then choose goals and follow the instructions below to play a match of paper soccer. May the best team win!



- Move the ball to a new point by drawing a line along the side of an adjacent box or diagonally through its center.
- The ball cannot be moved beyond the boundary of the pitch, nor along a line that has already been drawn.
- If the ball is moved to a point which already has one or more lines connected to it (including the perimeter of the pitch), the ball "bounces" and the player immediately takes another turn. The player's move finishes only when the ball reaches a point with no existing lines.
- The winner is the player who places the ball in their opponent's goal.
- If the ball reaches a point from which it cannot be moved (such as a corner of the pitch) the player unable to move loses the game.

Design your own team

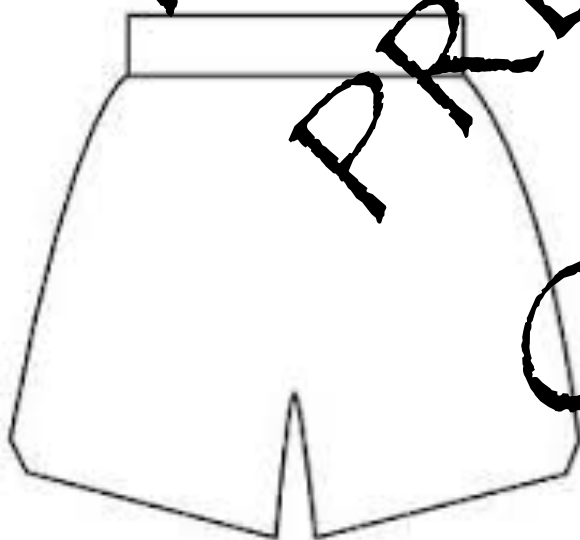
KIT



Front



Back



FOR PREVIEW ONLY

Team Name _____



Mia Hamm

**CELEBRATE
WHAT YOU
ACCOMPLISH,
BUT RAISE THE
BAR EACH TIME
YOU SUCCEED.**

MIAHAMM



Born Mariel Margaret Hamm on March 17, 1972, in Selma, Alabama, Mia Hamm is largely considered the best female soccer player in history. She competed with the U.S. women's national soccer team for 17 years. Her team won the Women's World Cup in 1991 and 1999, and earned Olympic gold medals in 1996 and 2004.

The daughter of an Air Force pilot, Mia Hamm spent her childhood on United States Air Force bases. It was while the family lived in Florence, Italy, that Hamm was first introduced to soccer. At the age of 15, she was the youngest soccer player to play for the U.S. national team. Hamm attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she helped take the team to four consecutive NCAA women's championships.

In 1991, at the age of 19, Hamm was the youngest team member in history to win the World Cup. Five years later, Hamm and her teammates, including Michele Akers, Brandi Chastain and Kristine Lilly, secured the gold medal at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia. (They would return to win gold again in 2004.) In 1999, Hamm set a new record for most international goals scored when she made her 108th goal for the U.S. team, succeeding Italian player Elisabetta Vigotto. Hamm held that title until June 2013, when her record was broken by fellow American player Abby Wambach.

Hamm's other accolades include being elected Soccer USA's "Female Athlete of the Year" five years in a row (1994-98), being named MVP of the Women's Cup (1995) and winning three ESPY Awards, including in the "Soccer Player of the Year" and "Female Athlete of the Year" categories. In 2004, she and teammate Michelle Akers were named on FIFA's list of the "125 Greatest Living Soccer Players"—becoming the only women and only Americans to be named to the list at that time. She retired after competing in the Olympics in 2004.

In 1999, Hamm founded the Mia Hamm Foundation, which is dedicated to bone marrow research, after her brother, Garrett, died of complications from a rare blood disease called aplastic anemia shortly after the 1996 Olympics.

Today, Mia resides in Southern California, where, along with her husband Nomar Garciaparra, she raises her twin daughters Ava and Grace and her son Garrett.