

GRADE 8
Reading
STAAR Alternate 2

Administered April 2019
RELEASED

READING

Brothers by Choice



Photo by Ronald Martinez/Getty Images

Kris Jenkins and Nate Britt are very close friends. They first met playing in a basketball tournament when they were 10 years old.

2a



Photo by Ronald Martinez/Getty Images

Kris and Nate played basketball on the same team all the way through high school. Kris and Nate do not have the same parents but are as close as brothers.

2b



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The story of how Kris and Nate became known as "brothers by choice" began when Kris's mother got a job as a college basketball coach in another state. She wanted Kris to continue to play on his high school basketball team. She also liked that Nate's dad was a police officer who made sure his children followed the rules and worked hard at school. So Kris's mom asked Nate's parents if Kris could stay with their family part-time.



Icon Sportswire via AP Images

After a few years of going between his mother's house and the Britts' home in Maryland, Kris realized that part-time was not enough for him. His mother asked the Britts if Kris could live with them full-time. She thought it was a decision she had to make for Kris to have the best opportunities. She believed that the Britts' home in Maryland was a better situation for Kris than moving around the country with her. He would be able to stay at the same school and play basketball.

3a

Kris described the move as "tough at first, but the Britts accepted me. The whole family just made me feel so welcome." Kris says that the Britts helped him become a better person. "It's something that I'm always thankful for."

Nate could have been upset about a new brother that was his age. But Nate welcomed Kris into the family. "Kris is a great person. He fit right in with my family. We're brothers now."



AP Photo/Eugene Tanner

She wanted Kris to continue to play on his high school basketball team.

She hoped that Kris would become a police officer like Nate's dad.

She liked Nate and wanted the boys to become best friends.



Photo by Ronald Martinez/Getty Images

When Kris and Nate were high school seniors, they decided to play basketball for different colleges. Kris played for Villanova University, and Nate played for the University of North Carolina. The closeness of the brothers

continued into college. But they were not rivals playing against each other until the 2016 college championship.

Kris and Nate were excited about the opportunity. "We know how much work we put into this game," Kris said. "For us to play against each other at the highest stage in our career is something special."

4a



AP Photo/David J. Phillip, File



AP Photo/Matt Rourke, File

With three seconds left in a tied game, Kris shot the ball into the basket. The crowd cheered as Villanova celebrated its win. As the fans celebrated, Nate rushed over to congratulate Kris. These two young men would always be close friends, great rivals, and true brothers by choice.

Kris and Nate wanted to play basketball at the same school while they were in college.

Kris and Nate would be closer if they were real brothers.

Kris and Nate would have been just as happy if Nate had made the winning shot.

From the Farm to Your Table



Ed Lefkowitz/VWPics via AP Images

People enjoy going to the farmers' market to buy fruits and vegetables that are grown nearby.

6a



Ed Lefkowitz/VWPics via AP Images

Fruits and vegetables are often called produce. Buying and eating produce that is grown nearby is called farm-to-table eating. Shopping at a farmers' market is a popular trend that provides healthy, tasty fruits and vegetables for a local community.

6b



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Mark Moran/The Citizens' Voice via AP



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Produce can take many weeks to get from the farm to the grocery store. So farmers pick fruits and vegetables before they are ripe. The produce ripens in boxes rather than on the plants. Studies show that foods that don't ripen on the

plant in the sun are less flavorful and also less nutritious than foods that do.

Produce that is sold at local farmers' markets is ripened on the plant and picked just before shoppers buy it. More importantly, some of these fruits and vegetables are grown using natural chemicals made from plants.

Fruits and vegetables purchased at a farmers' market are —

ripened on the plant in the sun

less nutritious

stored in boxes on trucks

Farm-to-table eating is healthier for consumers, and it is also better for the community.



Large companies that raise animals for meat, eggs, and milk products have many animals to take care of. Local farms are usually family-owned and have fewer animals to take care of.

8a

Best of all, buying foods from local farmers puts money back into the community. All citizens benefit when their community does well. More jobs are available, and the community can build more schools, libraries, and roads.



© iStock.com/julief514

To keep the farm-to-table trend growing, people should ask for locally grown food in restaurants and grocery stores. If people continue to place an importance on farm-to-table eating, it might change the entire food industry.

by showing the number of animals that live on farms

by stating the benefits to the community of food grown nearby

by listing the reasons meat, eggs, and milk are important to eat

appliances



© Ksander/Bigstock.com

Appliances can help people with chores in their home.

10a



© Ksander/Bigstock.com

Appliances can help people with chores in their home. Stoves, refrigerators, microwaves, and washing machines are appliances many people use every day.



© Ljupco Smokovski/Shutterstock.com



© Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com

11a



© Olena Yakobchuk/Shutterstock.com

The worker is screwing a light bulb into a fixture on the ceiling. Now the kitchen will be light and bright.

something attached to a specific spot

the electricity in a new house

the switch that turns on a light



© Purestock/Thinkstock

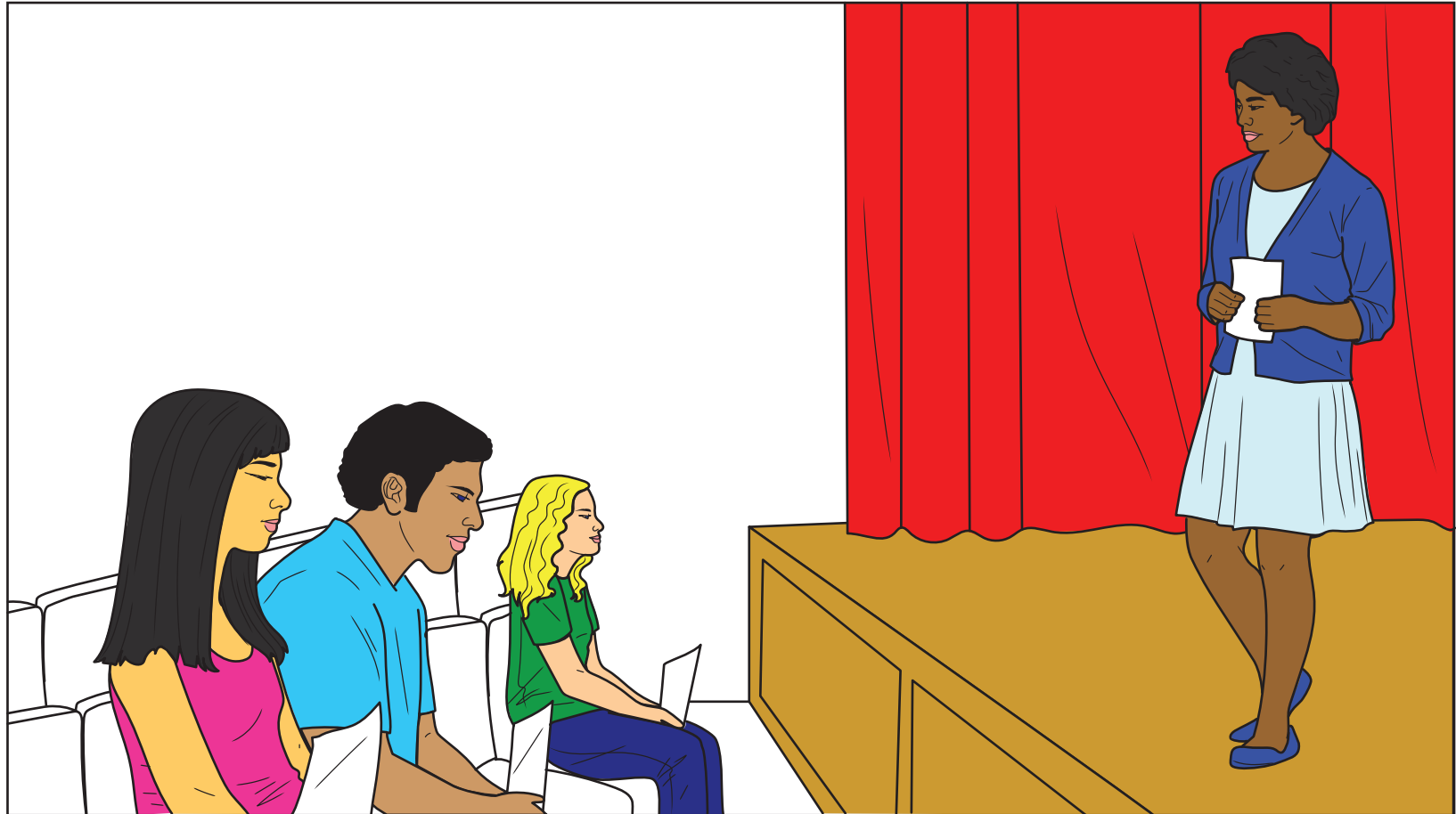
Students are working in the computer lab. Partitions are on both sides of each student's work area. They separate the computer stations to help students stay focused on their own screen as they work.

working in the computer lab

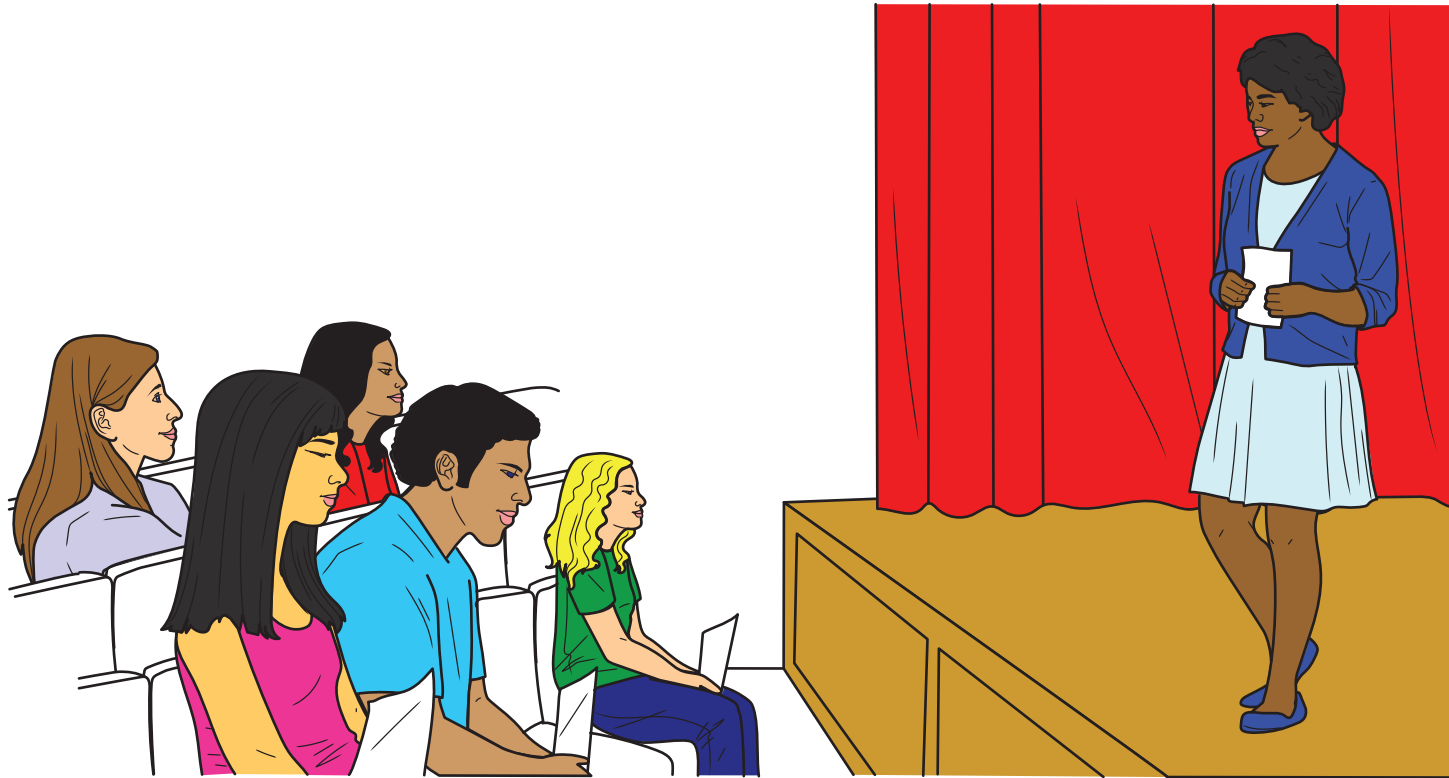
separate the computer stations

focused on their own screen

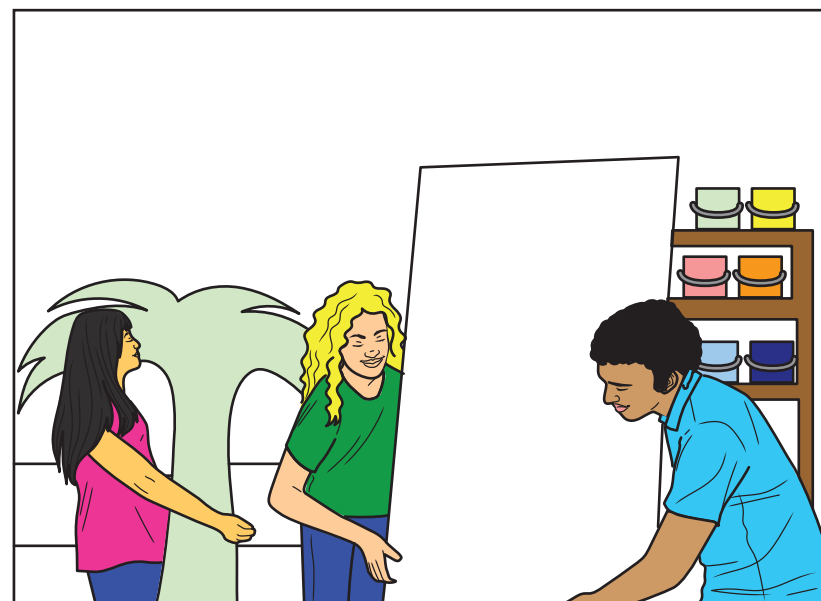
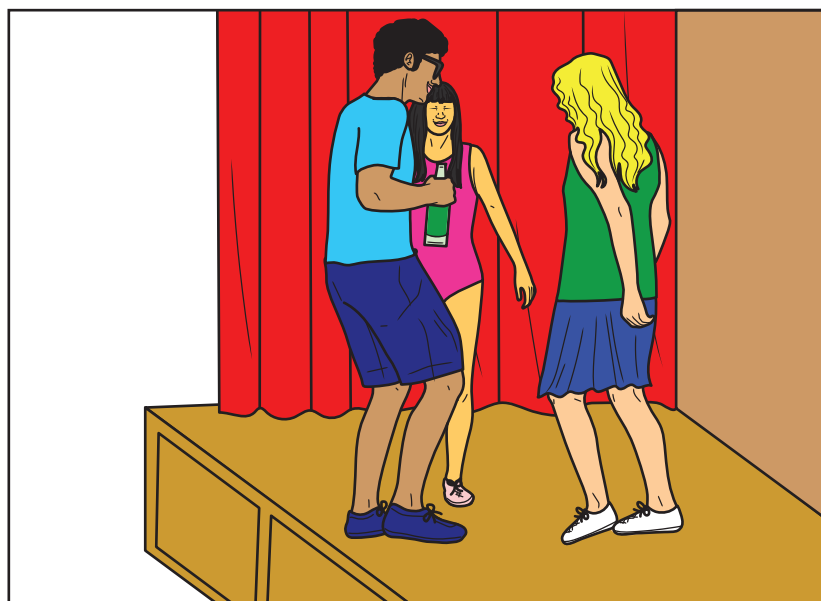
Starring the Set Designers



Lisa, Michael, and Emma wanted to be in the school play. They were reading the script and getting ready to try out for a part.



Mrs. Anderson, the drama teacher, called out the names of the students with acting parts in the play. Lisa, Michael, and Emma did not hear their names called. They did not have speaking parts in the play, but Mrs. Anderson asked them to be the set designers. Their job would be to build the decorations that go on the stage.



Lisa was disappointed. She wanted a speaking part in the school play. She did not want to be a set designer. Lisa thought she had done a great job at the tryout. Lisa was angry that Mrs. Anderson did not select her for a part in the play. But she had an idea. "If the girl who got the starring part gets sick or something, I'll know the lines perfectly."



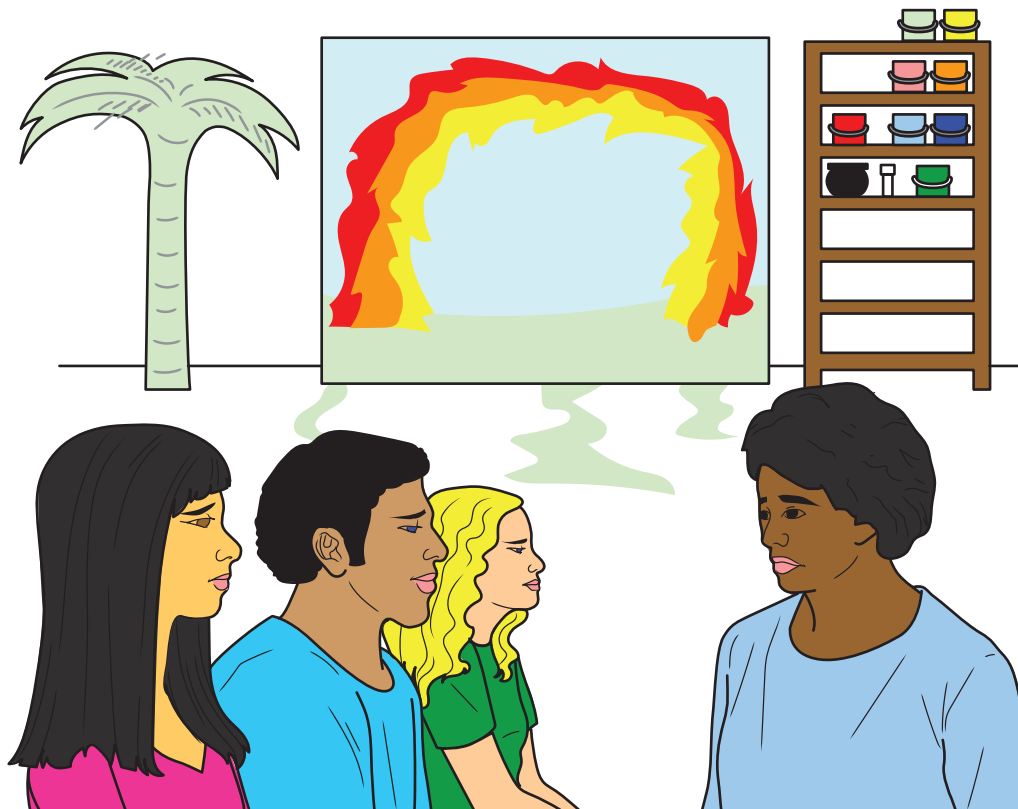
For the next month the set-design team met after school every day. Emma and Michael sawed, hammered, and painted, while Lisa sat in the corner, learning the lines of the starring part. She could see that the sets were going slowly, but she did not think it mattered. Lisa thought it was more important to learn the lines than to work on the sets.

Two weeks before opening night, Emma was very frustrated with Lisa. Emma pointed to a few pieces of wood with different colors of paint running into each other and dripping on the floor.

"This is awful," said Lisa. "Are those clouds supposed to be on fire?"

"Of course not," replied Emma. "The fire is supposed to be a rainbow. We need you to help us paint the sets."

That evening when Mrs. Anderson saw the sets before rehearsal, she was disappointed. "Maybe we should do the play without the sets."

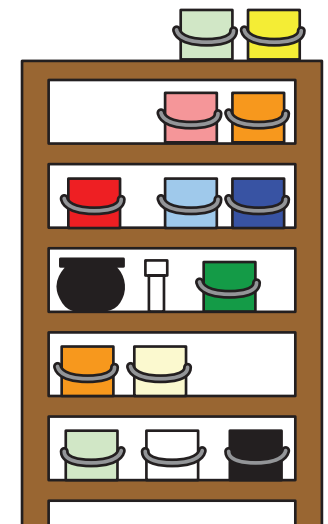


Lisa made a mess on the floor when she was painting the rainbow.

Lisa spent time learning lines instead of helping with the sets.

Lisa told Mrs. Anderson not to use the sets for the play.

As Lisa watched the play rehearsal with no sets, she realized what she had done. She felt a lump in the bottom of her stomach and sweat on her forehead. "I imagined stepping in at the last minute to save the play, but instead, I am ruining it," she thought. "Without the sets, it is going to be hard for the audience to imagine the actors on a tropical island." Lisa decided that if she could not act, she could help tell the story with great sets. "I can be the star of set design," she thought.



Lisa, Michael, and Emma worked every afternoon and evening to get the sets finished and looking great. Emma and Michael were glad that Lisa was doing what she should have been doing all along.

At the end of the play on opening night, Mrs. Anderson had Lisa, Michael, and Emma come out to take a bow. The audience clapped for the set designers just as loudly as it had for the actors. It seemed that the sets were also stars of the show!

“Without the sets, it is going to be hard for the audience to imagine the actors on a tropical island.”

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At the end of the play on opening night, Mrs. Anderson had Lisa, Michael, and Emma come out to take a bow.

Pickleball



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Pickleball is a game for all ages. It has become part of the physical education program in many schools.



© iStock.com/RichLegg

Although pickleball is a game for all ages, older adults play pickleball more than any other age group. Older adults can play the game without hip or knee pain because the paddle is lightweight and the ball must bounce before it can be hit over the net.

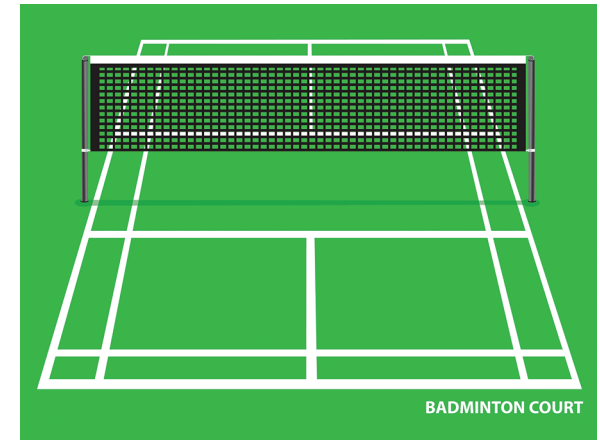


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Pickleball began on an island near Seattle, Washington, a little more than 50 years ago. Joel Pritchard and his family lived in a cabin that had an old badminton court in the back. When another family came to visit, all the kids were bored. Pritchard had a badminton set with a net, but he did not have any rackets. He did have ping-pong paddles and the family dog's plastic ball that was the size of a softball. Pritchard gave the paddles and the ball to the kids and left them on the court to play. When Pritchard returned hours later, the kids were playing a new, exciting game that had no rules or name.



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© KAE CH/Shutterstock.com

19a

The Pritchards' dog was named Pickles. Whenever the ball would come toward Pickles, he would take the ball and run off. And that is how the game got its name—pickleball.



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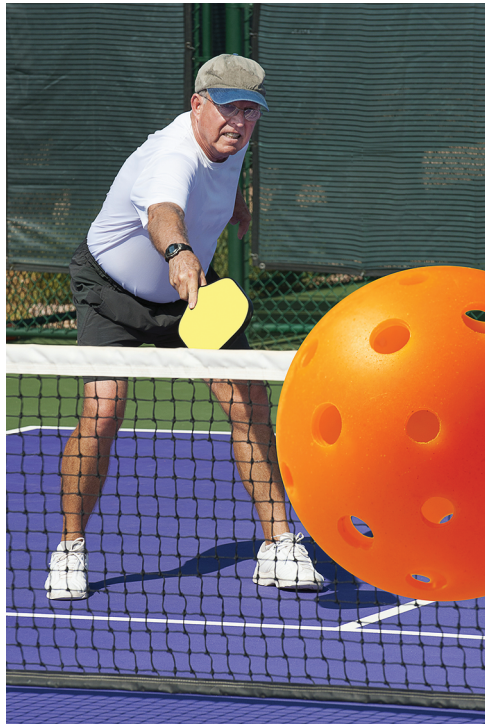


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The kids wanted to play badminton, but they did not have enough players.

The kids were bored, so they made up a new game using the equipment they had.

The kids wanted to play a game with their dog on the old badminton court.



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Soon Pritchard and his friends also began playing the game his kids had made up. They decided to improve the



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equipment by making the wooden paddles bigger than ping-pong paddles. They lowered the net on the court to be like the net on a tennis court. And they made rules to make the game more balanced for all ages of players. Having balance in pickleball means that no player has a size or strength advantage. A small child can play and win against a large, powerful adult.

20a

Pickleball is played in all 50 states and in countries throughout the world. In 10 years pickleball will likely be as well known as baseball, basketball, and football!



© KAE CH/Shutterstock.com

The rules for pickleball are easy for everyone to remember.

People of all ages in all 50 states can play and win pickleball.

Pickleball is played with wooden paddles.

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