

Nature's Play: Sports History & the Environment

Sports History · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which animal was famously used in chariot races, a prominent event in the ancient Olympic Games?

- A) Dog
- B) Elephant
- C) Horse**
- D) Camel

2. What natural material was traditionally used to make the string of a bow for archery, a sport with ancient origins?

- A) Plastic
- B) Metal wire
- C) Animal sinew**
- D) Nylon

3. Before modern fishing rods, what natural material was often used as a simple line for catching fish, an early form of sport?

- A) Silk thread
- B) Metal chain
- C) Vines or animal gut**
- D) Rubber band

4. Which natural element is essential for the sport of surfing, which has ancient Polynesian roots?

- A) Wind
- B) Snow
- C) Waves**
- D) Ice

5. The earliest known balls for sports were often made from what natural material?

- A) Plastic
- B) Rubber
- C) Animal hides or plant fibers**
- D) Metal

6. What type of bird was historically used for racing and carrying messages, a practice that evolved into a sport?

- A) Eagle
- B) Owl
- C) Pigeon**
- D) Sparrow

7. Many traditional indigenous games around the world were played using what natural surface?

- A) Paved roads
- B) Grass or dirt fields**
- C) Concrete courts
- D) Wooden floors

8. Which natural body of water was the primary setting for ancient forms of competitive swimming and boating?

- A) Swimming pools
- B) Artificial canals
- C) Oceans, rivers, or lakes**
- D) Bathtubs

9. Before constructed tracks, what natural terrain did early runners compete on?

- A) Synthetic tracks
- B) Forest paths and open plains**
- C) Indoor arenas
- D) Roads

10. Early canoes and kayaks, used for transportation and later sport, were traditionally carved from which natural material?

- A) Metal
- B) Plastic
- C) Wood**
- D) Fiberglass