

10 - Basketball

Did you know a basket of peaches was responsible for professional basketball? Sounds crazy, right? Except that James Naismith nailed two empty peach baskets to the walls on opposite ends of a gymnasium in Boston in 1892, made up some rules, and that made up game became... basketball! (They used a soccer ball in the first version of the game!)

We're producing episodes on athletics, movement and sports to keep kids excited and interested in these activities Peach baskets optional!

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2 Things your Smartypants will learn from today's Basketball Episode:

The court was originally surrounded by a wire cage to keep the ball from flying into the stands. This is why basketball players are sometimes referred to as "cagers". Originally, after a team scored they had to retrieve the ball by sticking a broom handle through a hole drilled in the bottom of the peach basket. This evolved to the nets we know today, but there was definitely no swoosh on the early courts.

Here's something we left out, for you to share:

All bouncing basketballs are pretty much the same, right? Nope. Warm basketballs are bouncier than cold ones because the warm molecules inside the ball hit the insides at higher speeds, creating more momentum and bounce.

Wanna keep the learning going after the episode?

Draw a picture of the first basketball game - complete with peach baskets and soccer balls!

During the episode your kid learned that basketball was invented to keep students active during a horrible blizzard. Have them INVENT a game of their own that could be played at home, or maybe even over video-sharing?¹

¹ This activity guide is for the Who Smarted? podcast www.WhoSmarted.com