

FANCY A GAME?



VOCABULARY

1. Take a stab
2. Upbringing
3. Key
- a. Raising, breeding
- b. Fundamental
- c. Attempt, try

INTRODUCTION

1. Can you **take a stab** at how it's played?
2. Have a guess! - do men or women play it?
3. How important is sport in a child's **upbringing**?
4. Is it **key** to a country's culture to have a national sport?
5. What role does sport play in your life?

OVERVIEW

Watch this video to discover the game.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUSZD4awiLo>

RULES

Watch this video and answer the following questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biFcgUB98ns>

- **The teams:**

Number of players

- **The pitch:**

Dimensions

Goal posts

- **The game:**

Duration

Equipment

Scoring

Draw

- **What CAN players do on the pitch?**

- **What CAN'T they do?**

What can defenders do?

What is a puck?

What is a penalty puck?

How about substitutions?

READING

Match words and synonyms then read this document and answer the comprehension questions below.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Parishes | a. Benefactor/ sponsor/ |
| 2. Archbishop | b. Common |
| 3. Patron | c. Congregation/ community |
| 4. Set up | d. Provincial |
| 5. Settle | e. A Christian religious title |
| 6. Pledge | f. Come |
| 7. Decimate | g. Rush/stream |
| 8. Lament | h. Create |
| 9. Flourish | i. Thrive/boom/ be strong |
| 10. Influx | j. Take up residence |
| 11. Turn up to | k. Mourn/ grieve |
| 12. Pastoral | l. Promise |
| 13. prevalent | m. Kill 1/10 th |

November 1st 1884 seven men met in Hayes` Hotel in Thurles Co. Tipperary to form the Gaelic Athletic Association. The seven men were Michael Cusack, Maurice Davin, John Wyse Power, John McKay, J.K Bracken, Joseph O Ryan, and Thomas St. George McCarthy. The famine in the 1840`s had led to massive emigration and poverty and a revival of Irish customs and traditions was much needed. The meeting, which was organized by Michael Cusack, elected Maurice Davin as the GAA`s first president and decided to bring order and structure to Gaelic games. Within six months of this important meeting, clubs began to appear all over Ireland as the people began to play hurling and Gaelic football and take part in athletic events while representing their **parishes**. At a meeting in January 1885 a set of rules for hurling and Gaelic football were decided upon and were put in a newspaper called The United Irishmen. The first All-Ireland Championships were held in 1887 with five counties competing in the hurling competition and eight in the football. Tipperary won the first hurling championship and Limerick were the first football champions. **Archbishop** Croke of Cashel, Michael Davitt and Charles Stewart Parnell became the first **patrons** of the GAA. The GAA organized athletic events all over the country until 1925 when control was handed over to a separate organisation.

The founding of the GAA made sure that Ireland`s native sports became hugely popular. In 1893 The Gaelic League was **set up** to revive the Irish language as well as Irish music and dancing. Today the GAA has over 2000 clubs all over the country as well as many clubs throughout the world. Irish emigrants who **settled** in countries like America and England set up clubs to help them keep their Irish heritage while living abroad.

At the GAA Annual Congress earlier this month, incoming president Liam O'Neill **pledged** to tackle the issue of player emigration, which is **decimating** rural teams and causing a crisis in the GAA in Ireland.

But while the Irish clubs **lament** the departure of their players at both local and county level, the game is **flourishing** overseas, with GAA clubs across Europe, North America, Asia, Australia and New Zealand **enriched by the influx of** young and talented Irish players who are eager to maintain their connection with Ireland by playing their national sport.

Teams in Australia and New Zealand are seeing record numbers **turning up to** training sessions. Jamie Fitzsimons, club PRO for Michael Cusack's club in Sydney, says the GAA scene there has grown fast in recent years. "More and more are moving here long-term, obtaining sponsorship and permanent residency rather than backpacking through. At times there have been over 80 men's footballers and hurlers attending training sessions, and growing numbers for ladies' football and camogie too."

The **pastoral** nature of the GAA network is just as **prevalent** in the clubs overseas as it is in Ireland. It can provide invaluable connections for Irish emigrants seeking work and friends when they arrive in an unfamiliar place. Philip O'Connor, player with the Stockholm Gaels says 'When we started, I wanted our club and our sports to be the gathering point for the Irish community in Stockholm. Together with our sister clubs in Scandinavia, we have become hubs for the Irish community here.'

Article adapted from The Irish Times Newspaper

1. Where and when was the Gaelic Athletic Association formed?
2. Who was elected as the GAA's first president?
3. How many GAA clubs are there all over the country today?
4. What is the main goal of this association?
5. What kind of crisis do you think Liam O'Neill is referring to when he says player emigration is **decimating** rural teams?
6. How do you think he is going **to tackle** emigration?
7. What impact do you think the rise of Irish sports being played overseas has on Ireland?
8. How important is '*the pastoral nature*' of these sports clubs, in your opinion?