

Top Spinning

Malaysian tops are roughly the size of bowling balls and can weigh up to ten pounds; they're carefully crafted from hardwood and tin. The top-spinning competition is a team effort, with one person throwing the top and another virtually catching it and setting it up to spin. The team with longest spinning top is usually awarded a prize.

Players tie an oiled rope, about 20 or 30 feet long to a tree and then pull very hard with the whole weight of their body the players are winding the rope around the top. Then the master of ceremonies will blow a whistle and players bring the tops to the playing field. The playing field itself is a very small square of dirt. It's about a yard on each side. And one man will throw the top onto that patch of earth and another quickly scoops it up on a flat wooden spatula like instrument. Then the man brings it over to where there are a series of bamboo posts laid out in rows, puts some palm oil onto the top and then sets the top onto the bamboo post, where it can spin for up to two hours."

http://www.pulsplanet.com/feat_archive/oct98/pulse of the planet:

American Museum of National History

Curling

The sport of Lawn Bowls is the forerunner of Curling; a tremendously popular winter version played in northern countries (including Canada and Scotland) on ice. It isn't clear if the Scots or the Dutch invented the game; the first written records on it are from the 1600's. At one time the stones that slide across the ice were pieces of granite weighing up to 56kg. Gradually they evolved into plump stone discs with a handle protruding from the top surface.

The target is a circle 32 meter from the thrower and the game is played by 2 teams of 4 players, each player sliding 2 stones per go. The slightly bizarre final aspect of the game is that each player is equipped with a genuine broom, which is used to scrub the ice just ahead of the stone as it slides towards the target. The scrubbing warms the ice, which creates a film of water that the stone slides over speeding it slightly. Skilful work with the broom will successfully deviate the direction of the stone or lengthen the distance it travels in such a way that it eventually comes to rest nearer to the target...

Pausal / idea Units

1. Lawn Bowls is the forerunner of Curling
2. a tremendously popular winter version
3. played in the northern countries
4. including Canada and Scotland
5. on ice
6. It isn't clear
7. if the Scots or the Dutch
8. invented the game
9. the first written records on it
10. are from the 1600's
11. At one time
12. the stone that slide across the ice
13. were pieces of granite
14. weighing up to 56kg.
15. gradually they evolved
16. into plump stone disc
17. with a handle protruding
18. from the top surface
19. the target is a circle
20. 32 meters from the thrower
21. and the game is played by
22. two teams of 4 players
23. each player sliding 2 stones per go
24. the slightly bizarre final aspect of the game
25. is that each player
26. is equipped with a genuine broom
27. which is used to scrub the ice
28. just ahead of the stone
29. as it slides towards the target
30. the scrubbing warms the ice
31. which creates a film of water
32. that the stone slides over
33. speeding it slightly
34. skilful work with the broom
35. will lengthen the distance the stone travels

Top spinning

APPENDIX 4

Pausal / Idea units

1. Malaysian tops are roughly
2. the size of bowling balls
3. and can weigh up to ten pounds
4. they are carefully crafted from
5. hardwood and tin
6. the top spinning competition
7. is a team effort
8. with one person throwing the top
9. and another virtually catching it
10. and setting it up to spin
11. the team with the longest spinning
top
12. is awarded a prize.
13. They tie an oiled rope
14. about 20 to 30 feet long to a tree
15. and then pull very hard
16. with the whole weight of their body
17. as they are winding the rope around
the top
18. the playing field
19. is a small square of dirt
20. it is about a 3 feet on each side
21. one man throws the top
22. and another quickly scoops it up
23. on a flat wooden
24. spatula like instrument.
25. Then he brings it over
26. To where there are a series of
bamboo posts
27. Laid out in rows,
28. puts some palm oil onto the top
29. And then sets the top
30. Onto the bamboo post
31. Where it can spin
32. For up to two hours

Semi-structured interview questions.

1. Which of the two texts did you find interesting?
2. Why was it interesting to you?
3. Which of the two texts was easier to read and understand?
4. Why was it easier?
5. Have you seen people playing any one of the two games?
6. Were you able to picture in your mind the place where they played the game?

Questionnaire

APPENDIX 6

To be answered by students

Tick (/) or write the appropriate information needed.

1. Sex
Male ()
Female ()

2. Race
Malay ()
Chinese ()
Indian ()
Others ()

3. Father's Occupation : _____

4. Mother's Occupation : _____

5. Class : Form Four ()

6. Do you enjoy your English lessons in school?
Yes () No ()

7. Do you like reading English books and magazines?
Yes () No ()

If Yes. What kind of books and magazines do you read?
A. Fiction ()
B. Non-fiction. ()
C. Travel ()
D. Cartoon ()

8. Do you read the newspaper?
Yes () No ()

If Yes which are your favourite sections ?
A. World News ()
B. Sports ()
C. Lifestyles ()
D. Advertisement. ()

9. What language/languages do you speak (S), read ® and write (W)

Bahasa Malaysia S () R () W ()

English S () R () W ()

Chinese S () R () W ()

Tamil S () R () W ()

Others S () R () W ()

10 How much time do you spend reading in a day?

Less than an hour ()

More than an hour ()

About 2 to 3 hours ()

Word Association Test.

APPENDIX 7

Please read the word or phrase and write any word you think is related to the word.

If you do not understand the word you may leave it. Use only the space provided.

1. curling. _____
2. invented _____
3. game _____
4. across _____
5. granite _____
6. ancient _____
7. ball _____
8. stone disc _____
9. target _____
10. slowly _____
11. fast _____
12. slide across _____
13. broom _____

Word Association Test.

APPENDIX 8

Please read the word or phrase and write any word you think is related to the word.

If you do not understand the word you may leave it. Use only the space provided.

1. tops _____
2. balls _____
3. crafted _____
4. hardwood _____
5. competition _____
6. team _____
7. awarded _____
8. longest _____
9. rope _____
10. water _____
11. fly _____
12. flat wooden _____
13. field _____