

“America’s Sports Obsession” Analysis Questions

Predictions: Before you read the article, answer the questions below.

1. Which sport do you think has the highest percentage of fans in America?
2. Which sport do you think has the lowest percentage of fans in America?
3. Estimate how many people (aged 7 and older) in America play the following sports each year. (numbers should represent millions)
 - a. Basketball: _____
 - b. Tackle Football: _____
 - c. Baseball: _____
 - d. Softball: _____
 - e. Soccer: _____
 - f. Volleyball: _____
4. What competitive sport do you think is the most popular nationally in 2006?
5. What are the “Big 4” major team sports in America?
6. Which professional sport do you think has the highest attendance numbers per season?
7. Which professional sport do you think has the highest attendance numbers per game?

Analysis Questions:

1. According to the article, what is the definition of a sport? Do you agree with this definition? Why or why not?
2. Use table 1.1 to answer the following questions.
 - a. Which professional sport has the highest percentage of fans in America?
 - b. Which professional sport has the lowest percentage of fans in America?
 - c. Did these answers match your original predictions? Are you surprised by the results? Why or why not?
3. What is the origin of the word amateur? How does it relate to sports?

Name: _____ Date: _____ P. _____

4. How many people are estimated to have played the following sports in 2006?
 - a. Basketball: _____
 - b. Baseball: _____
 - c. Soccer: _____
 - d. Softball: _____
 - e. Tackle football: _____
 - f. Volleyball: _____
 - g. Did this match your original predictions? Why or why not?

 - h. Which sports participation numbers are most surprising to you? Why?

5. Which sports have seen a decline in participation? An increase in participation?
 - a. Are you surprised by this information? Why or why not?

6. In 2006, what was the most popular of all competitive sports nationally?
 - a. Did this match your original prediction? Are you surprised? Why or why not?

 - b. Do you agree that this sport is the most popular competitive sport nationally? Why or why not?

7. What transition is taking place in youth sports participation?
 - a. What sports are exceptions to this trend?

 - b. Are you surprised about which sports are becoming more popular for youth to participate in? Why or why not?

8. What are the 4 major team sports in America?

9. What two factors impact the attendance to professional team sports?

10. Which sport has the highest attendance per season? What about highest attendance per game?
 - a. Why do you think there is such a difference in attendance per season between baseball and football?