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SEA GAMES



READING

Before You Read

Match the following names with some official SEA Games mascots.

1. Squirrel *Si Tumas*

2. Philippine eagle *Gilas*

3. Cat *Can*

4. Golden water buffalo – *Trau vang*



Reading Text

Read the text and do the tasks that follow.



The Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) is a biennial multi-sport event involving participants from the current 11 countries of Southeast Asia. The regional sports event under the regulation of the Southeast Asian Games Federation helps promote cooperation, solidarity, and mutual understanding among the countries in the Southeast Asian region.

The Southeast Asian Games owes its origin to the Southeast Asian Peninsular Games or SEAP Games. On May 22, 1958, delegates from the countries in the Southeast Asian peninsula attending the 3rd Asian Games in Tokyo, Japan, had a meeting and agreed to establish this sport organization. The first SEAP Games was held in Bangkok from December 12 to 17, 1959, comprising more than 527 athletes and officials from Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, Viet Nam, and Laos. When Indonesia and the Philippines were formally admitted in 1977, the Games changed its name to the Southeast Asian Games. Brunei was admitted at the 10th SEA Games in Jakarta, Indonesia, and East Timor became the 11th member at the 22nd SEA Games in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

There are competitions to design the SEA Games mascot, emblem, and hymn. People purchase SEA Games mascots as souvenirs of the events. The golden water buffalo – *trau vang* – was chosen as the mascot for the 22nd SEA Games in Viet Nam. To the Vietnamese people, the golden water buffalo symbolizes a golden harvest, prosperity, and happiness. The 23rd SEA Games mascot eagle is a symbol of elegance, strength, and pride of the Philippines. The 24th SEA Games mascot cat was believed to bring good luck and prosperity to the Thai people. The emblem is also designed for the host country. The 22nd SEA Games emblem was the representation of a legendary bird named *chim Lac*, which decorated the *Ngoc Lu* bronze drum. Its harmonious and vigorous curves created a feeling of movement and strength. The 22nd SEA Games song *For the World of Tomorrow* was heard everywhere in Viet Nam during the event. The merrier the atmosphere is, the "Faster, Higher, and Stronger" the athletes are.

The sport organization proves to be more and more successful as the number of its sports and participants has become larger and larger. The Games is really a celebration to promote friendship among Southeast Asian countries.

a) Match the words in column A with their definitions in column B.

A	B
1. biennial	a. symbol of good luck
2. mascot	b. mentioned in stories from ancient times
3. legendary	c. design that represents a country or an event
4. emblem	d. happening every two years
5. hymn	e. song of praise
6. curves	f. lines that bend gradually

b) Fill out the table with the information about the SEA Games.

	Year	Host Country	Mascot
22nd SEA Games			
23rd SEA Games			
24th SEA Games			

c) The following statements can be true (T) or false (F). Check (✓) the appropriate boxes.

	T	F
1. The event is held twice a year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The first Games was held in Malaysia.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Eight countries attended the first Games.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The event has had its current name since 1977.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Ten countries attended the 22nd SEA Games in Viet Nam.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The 22nd SEA Games emblem was a stylized drawing of a bird.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. The 23rd SEA Games mascot was an eagle.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. The title of the 22nd SEA Games song was <i>For the World of Tomorrow</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- d) Work in groups. Describe and give your opinions about the mascot and emblem of the 22nd SEA Games in Viet Nam.



22nd SEA GAMES
VIET NAM
2003



LISTENING

- a) Work in pairs. Look at the mascot and emblem of the 24th SEA Games in Thailand and tell your partner what you know about them.



24th SEA GAMES
6 - 15 DECEMBER 2007
NAKHON RATCHASIMA
THAILAND

- b) The chairman of the 24th SEA Games Organizing Committee is talking about the mascot, emblem, and theme of the event. Listen to the recordings and complete the following sentences.

1. The mascot wears a traditional Thai towel, and plays the "Kaen," a _____ mouth organ.
2. Saard Jomnagrm is the designer of the _____ of the 24th SEA Games.
3. Prasith Noonsung won 50,000 baht for designing the _____.
4. The theme of the Games is given by the _____ to signify the spirit and friendly relationship of ASEAN countries.
5. The 24th SEA Games Organizing Committee is conducting a _____ to make more and more people involved in the Games.

c) Listen again and answer the following questions.

1. Why was a Siamese cat chosen as the mascot of the 24th SEA Games?
2. What can we see on the emblem of the 24th SEA Games?
3. In what sports event did the Thai King win a gold medal in 1967?
4. How old was the Thai King in 2007?

d) Work in groups. Report on the meaning of the mascot, emblem, and theme of the 24th SEA Games.




SPEAKING

Expressing Attitudes Towards Results of SEA Games

a) Work in pairs. Discuss and compare the results of the 22nd and the 23rd SEA Games.

Medal Table of the 22nd SEA Games

Position	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	 Viet Nam	158	97	91	346
2	 Thailand	90	93	98	281
3	 Indonesia	55	68	98	221
4	 Philippines	48	54	75	177
5	 Malaysia	44	42	59	145
6	 Singapore	30	33	50	113
7	 Myanmar	16	43	50	109
8	 Laos	1	5	15	21
9	 Cambodia	1	5	11	17
10	 Brunei	1	1	8	10
11	 East Timor	0	0	0	0

Medal Table of the 23rd SEA Games

Position	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	 Philippines	113	84	94	291
2	 Thailand	87	78	118	283
3	 Viet Nam	71	68	89	228
4	 Malaysia	61	49	65	175
5	 Indonesia	49	79	89	217
6	 Singapore	42	32	55	129
7	 Myanmar	17	34	48	99
8	 Laos	3	4	12	19
9	 Brunei	1	2	2	5
10	 Cambodia	0	3	9	12
11	 East Timor	0	0	3	3

Examples

- Viet Nam fell two positions, from the first in the 22nd SEA Games to the third in the 23rd.
- Viet Nam lost its first position to the Philippines, the host country.
- In the 23rd SEA Games, the Philippines climbed two levels in the ranking to replace Viet Nam in the number one position.
- Thailand still held its position as the second best.
- The top five competitors of the two SEA Games were the same. They still led the region.
- Cambodia fell one place to number ten while East Timor remained unchanged in the number eleven position in the 23rd SEA Games.

- b) *Work in groups. Report on the results of the SEA Games, expressing your attitudes.*

Useful Expressions

Expressing surprise or excitement

I don't believe it!

Well, that's very surprising!

It's very exciting!

That's amazing!

How exciting / marvelous / terrific / fantastic!

...

Expressing disappointment

That's very disappointing.

I'm rather / very disappointed, (I must say).

What a pity / disappointment!

It's a real shame / pity / letdown!

...

Examples

- The Philippines achieved the number one position. Well, that's very surprising!
- I'm very disappointed because Viet Nam lost its first position to the Philippines.
- East Timor won no medal in the 22nd SEA Games. What a pity!

- c) *Work in groups. Report on the results of a recent sporting event in your local area or your school, expressing your attitudes.*

- What was the event?
- When and where was it?
- How was the performance?
- What were the results?
- How did you feel about the results?

Writing an Article

- a) Read the school magazine article about *sepak takraw*, a sport of the SEA Games and complete the sentences that follow.

Sepak Takraw – A Cross Between Soccer and Volleyball



You play volleyball, but you're only allowed to use your feet and heads to hit the ball as in soccer. It's *sepak takraw*, which is a popular sport in Southeast Asia.

Sepak takraw was originally based on a Chinese game of kicking a ball. The sport spread to Malaysia and Thailand five centuries ago. It was called *takraw* in Thai or *sepak* (literally "kick a ball") in Malay. In 1965, the sport was included in the SEAP Games with the name *sepak takraw* by combining the Malaysian and Thai names for the sport.

A match of *sepak takraw* is played by two teams, each consisting of three players. Players use their feet and heads to hit a ball, which is made of rattan, over the net. The rules are similar to those of volleyball. The game is played in 2 sets with a two-minute rest in between. The winning point for a set is 21 points.

It seems that players are dancing when they play with the ball. It's one of the most exciting games you can see and play.

1. This article is mostly written for _____.
2. A magazine article needs a _____ to catch readers' attention.
3. The _____ paragraph interests readers and encourages them to read on.
4. The 2nd paragraph tells readers about the _____ of *sepak takraw*.
5. The 3rd paragraph tells readers about _____.
6. The writer says what his feelings are about the sport in the _____ paragraph.

- b) Write an article for your school magazine about a sport or game that you are interested in.

Title: _____

Paragraph 1: Introduction

Paragraph 2: History

Paragraph 3: Describing the game

Number of players: _____

Equipment: _____

Rules for playing the game: _____

How to score or win the game: _____

Paragraph 4: Conclusion



LANGUAGE FOCUS

Word Study

Play, Do, or Go

- a) Work in pairs. Put the following sports and games into the appropriate boxes according to the verb they follow.

aerobics	baseball	basketball	bowling	boxing
cycling	golf	gymnastics	hockey	jogging
judo	sailing	skiing	soccer	volleyball
weightlifting	windsurfing	wrestling		

play	do	go
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

b) Work in groups. Answer the following questions.

1. What sports would you like to do to keep fit?
2. What sports do you usually watch on TV?
3. What sports are popular in Viet Nam?
4. Why are some of the sports on the list not popular in Viet Nam?

Grammar

Double Comparison

Comparative *and* comparative
The comparative ... + the comparative ...

Examples

- The sport organization proves to be *more and more successful* as the number of its sports and participants has become *larger and larger*.
- *The sooner, the better*.

a) Fill in each blank with the double comparative of one of the words in the box. The first one has been done for you.

bad	difficult	heavy	high
hot	tired	well	

The rain was (0) *heavier and heavier* and it became (1) _____ to play because of the slippery surface. No matter how hard we tried, we couldn't score. When one of our players was sent off for a foul, our situation got (2) _____. Suddenly, the rain stopped and the sun began to climb (3) _____ and it was (4) _____. We got (5) _____ while our opponents were playing (6) _____. Eventually, they won the game just because we were not used to this kind of weather.

- b) Rewrite the sentences, using the structure: **the comparative ... + the comparative ...**

 Example

You practice a lot, and you will play well.

The more you practice, the better you play.

1. If we work hard, we can earn more money.

_____.

2. The apartment is big and the rent is expensive.

_____.

3. If the game is exciting, the stadium will get crowded.

_____.

4. Because they come early, they can get good seats.

_____.

5. We set off soon, and we will arrive soon.

_____.