

The Six Nations

The Six Nations is a rugby union competition where teams from England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France and Italy compete to find out who is the best team. It is held every year, starting in February. The 2020 Six Nations runs from 1st February to 15th March. The match fixtures are played in all six countries.



All About Rugby

A rugby union team has 15 players. Matches last for 80 minutes. There are different ways of scoring worth the following points:

- **try** – five points;
- **conversion** – two points;
- **penalty** – three points;
- **drop goal** – three points.



Jonathan Joseph

The Origins of Rugby

People tell the story that rugby was started by a school boy called William Webb Ellis in 1823. William was a pupil at Rugby school. One day whilst playing a football match, he picked up the ball and ran with it to the goal post. No one is sure that this actually happened. However, people like the story so much that the trophy awarded to the winners of the Rugby World Cup is called the Webb Ellis Cup.

The 2020 Six Nations

The 2020 Six Nations kicks off on 1st February at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff, Wales. Wales will play Italy. Ireland will play Scotland later that day at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin. On the following day, France will play England at the Stade de France, Paris.

Winners of the Six Nations

Wales are the current men's champions and England are the current women's champions, both having won the 2019 championship with a Grand Slam. A Grand Slam is when a team wins all of their five matches. Wales have won the tournament the most times.

Did You Know...?

There are two forms of rugby, rugby union and rugby league. The Six Nations is a rugby union tournament.



Want to know more about how to play rugby in your school?

If your students were inspired by these resources, please visit:
www.englandrugby.com/kidsfirst

Questions

1. How often does the Six Nations happen? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Every year
- ☐ Once every two years
- ☐ Once every four years
- ☐ Once every five years

2. Fill in the missing date.

The 2020 Six Nations starts on _____.

3. Draw a line from the way of scoring to the points they are worth.

try

2 points

conversion

3 points

penalty

5 points

4. Who won the 2019 men's Six Nations? Tick **one**.

- ☐ England
- ☐ Wales
- ☐ Scotland
- ☐ Ireland

5. What is a Grand Slam? Tick **one**.

- ☐ When a team wins the Six Nations.
- ☐ When a team wins all of their matches.
- ☐ When a team wins all of their home matches.
- ☐ When a team wins all of their away matches.

6. Fill in the missing words.

Rugby was started by a boy called _____.

7. What has the author used to organise the text?

Answers

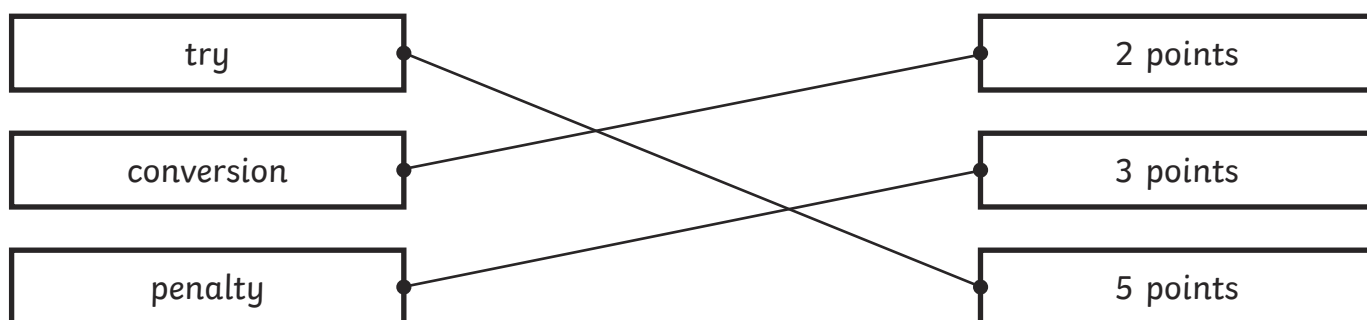
1. How often does the Six Nations happen? Tick **one**.

- ☒ **Every year**
- ☐ Once every two years
- ☐ Once every four years
- ☐ Once every five years

2. Fill in the missing date.

The 2020 Six Nations starts on **1st February 2020**.

3. Draw a line from the way of scoring to the points they are worth.



4. Who won the 2019 men's Six Nations? Tick **one**.

- ☐ England
- ☒ **Wales**
- ☐ Scotland
- ☐ Ireland

5. What is a Grand Slam? Tick **one**.

- ☐ When a team wins the Six Nations.
- ☒ **When a team wins all of their matches.**
- ☐ When a team wins all of their home matches.
- ☐ When a team wins all of their away matches.

6. Fill in the missing words.

Rugby was started by a boy called **William Webb Ellis**.

7. What has the author used to organise the text?

The author has organised the text into paragraphs using sub-headings. When describing the different ways of scoring, the author has used bullet points. The author has also used a fact box.

The Six Nations

The Six Nations is a rugby union competition where teams from England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France and Italy compete to find out who is the best team. It is held every year, starting in February. The 2020 Six Nations runs from 1st February to 15th March. On the following day, the women's championship begins and France will play England at the Stade du Hameau, Pau.



All About Rugby

A rugby union team has 15 players. Matches last for 80 minutes. There are different ways of scoring, resulting in different amounts of points:

- **try** – A try is when a player holding the ball runs across the opposition's tryline and touches the ball down on the ground. This needs to be controlled. A try is worth five points.
- **conversion** – After a try is scored, the team has the chance to score a conversion with the aim of kicking the ball over the crossbar and between the goal posts. The ball is kicked from a place in line with where the try was scored. A conversion is worth two points, so a converted try is worth a total of seven points.
- **penalty** – A penalty is awarded when the other team has broken the rules. A penalty is scored by kicking the ball in between the goal posts. It is worth three points.
- **drop goal** – A drop goal is scored when the ball is dropped to the ground (it has to bounce) and then immediately kicked, manoeuvring the ball between the goal posts and above the cross bar. A drop goal is worth three points.

The Origins of Rugby

People tell the story that rugby was started by a school boy called William Webb Ellis in 1823. William was a pupil at Rugby school. One day whilst playing a football match, he picked up the ball and ran with it to the goal post. No one is sure that this actually happened. However, people like the story so much that the trophy awarded to the winners of the Rugby World Cup is called the Webb Ellis Cup.

The 2020 Six Nations kicks off on 1st February at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff, Wales. Wales will play Italy. Ireland will play Scotland later that day at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin. On the following day, France will play England at the Stade de France, Paris.



History of the Six Nations

The Six Nations is the oldest rugby tournament in the world. It has changed its name and format over the years. Wales are the current men's champions and England are the current women's champions, both having won the 2019 championship with a Grand Slam. A Grand Slam is when a team wins all of their five matches.

| Year | Name of Tournament | Countries Playing |
|------|---------------------------|---|
| 1883 | Home Nations Championship | England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales |
| 1910 | Five Nations | England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and France |
| 1932 | Home Nations | England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales |
| 1947 | Five Nations | England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and France |
| 2000 | Six Nations | England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France and Italy |



Did You Know?

There are two forms of rugby, rugby union and rugby league. The Six Nations is a rugby union tournament.

Want to know more about how to play rugby in your school?

If your students were inspired by these resources, please visit:
www.englandrugby.com/kidsfirst

Questions

1. How often does the Six Nations happen?

2. In which stadium and city is the opening match of the 2020 Six Nations?

3. A Grand Slam is _____.

4. Who are the current women's Six Nations Champions?

5. How many types of rugby are there? Tick **one**.

☐ 1

☐ 2

☐ 3

☐ 4

6. How many points is a try worth? Tick **one**.

☐ 2

☐ 3

☐ 5

☐ 7

7. Why do you think the format of the tournament has changed over the years?

8. How has the author organised the text? How does this help you locate specific information from the text?

Answers

1. How often does the Six Nations happen?

The Six Nations happens every year.

2. In which stadium and city is the opening match of the 2020 Six Nations?

The opening match of the Six Nations is happening in the Principality Stadium in Cardiff.

3. A Grand Slam is **when a team wins all their five matches.**

4. Who are the current women's Six Nations Champions?

The current women's Six Nations champions are England.

5. How many types of rugby are there? Tick **one**.

☐ 1

☒ 2

☐ 3

☐ 4

6. How many points is a try worth? Tick **one**.

☐ 2

☐ 3

☒ 5

☐ 7

7. Why do you think the format of the tournament has changed over the years?

Children's answers may include the idea that the tournament became more popular so more countries wanted to join. They might suggest that rugby started to grow in popularity over time. Children may refer to the First and Second World War because some of the changes happened near those dates.

8. How has the author organised the text? How does this help you locate specific information from the text?

The author has organised the text into paragraphs using sub-headings. This helps readers find different information more easily and the reader can choose to read the particular paragraph they are interested in rather than the whole text in order. When describing the different ways of scoring, the author has used bullet points and a fact box to make this information stand out from the rest of the text.

The Six Nations

The Six Nations is an international rugby union tournament with England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France and Italy competing. It is held annually. The 2020 Six Nations is from 1st February to 15th March. The match fixtures will be played in all six of the competing countries.



All About Rugby

A rugby union team has 15 players. Matches last for 80 minutes. There are different ways of scoring, resulting in different amounts of points.

- **try** – A try is when a player holding the ball runs across the opposition's tryline and touches the ball down on the ground. This needs to be controlled. A try is worth five points.
- **conversion** – After a try is scored, the team has the chance to score a conversion with the aim of kicking the ball over the crossbar and between the goal posts. The ball is kicked from a place in line with where the try was scored. A conversion is worth two points, so a converted try is worth a total of seven points.
- **penalty** – A penalty is awarded when the other team has broken the rules. A penalty is scored by kicking the ball in between the goal posts. It is worth three points.
- **drop goal** – A drop goal is scored when the ball is dropped to the ground (it has to bounce) and then immediately kicked, manoeuvring the ball between the goal posts and above the cross bar. A drop goal is worth three points.

The Origins of Rugby

People tell the story that rugby was started by a school boy called William Webb Ellis in 1823. William was a pupil at Rugby school. One day whilst playing a football match, he picked up the ball and ran with it to the goal post. No one is sure that this actually happened. However, people like the story so much that the trophy awarded to the winners of the Rugby World Cup is called the Webb Ellis Cup.

Six Nations Points System

The scoring system for the tournament has lots of different possibilities:

- A winning team scores four points, or, if they score four or more tries, five points.
- The losing team gets zero points, unless they score four or more tries or lose by seven points or fewer in which case they get one point. If the losing team scores four or more tries and loses by seven points or fewer, they get two points.
- Teams that draw both get two points, but can also earn an extra point if they score four or more tries.
- If a team achieves a Grand Slam (where they win all their matches), they get an extra three points.

The 2020 Six Nations

The 2020 Six Nations kicks off on 1st February at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff, Wales. Wales will play Italy. Ireland will play Scotland later that day at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin. On the following day, France will play England at the Stade de France, Paris. On the following day, the women's championship begins and France will play England at the Stade du Hameau, Pau.



Winners of the Six Nations

Wales are the current men's champions, having won the Grand Slam in 2019. Wales have won the tournament the most times. England are the current women's champions, having also won the Grand Slam in 2019. If one of the Home Nations (England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales) beat all of the other Home Nations, it is said that they have won the Triple Crown.



History of the Six Nations

The Six Nations is the oldest rugby tournament in the world. It has changed its name and format over the years.

| Year | Name of Tournament | Countries Playing |
|------|---------------------------|---|
| 1883 | Home Nations Championship | England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales |
| 1910 | Five Nations | England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and France |
| 1932 | Home Nations | England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales |
| 1947 | Five Nations | England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and France |
| 2000 | Six Nations | England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France and Italy |

Did You Know?

There are two forms of rugby, rugby union and rugby league. The Six Nations is a rugby union tournament.

Want to know more about how to play rugby in your school?

If your students were inspired by these resources, please visit:
www.englishrugby.com/kidsfirst

Questions

1. When does the Six Nations end? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 1st February
- ☐ 14th February
- ☐ 1st March
- ☐ 15th March

2. How many different ways of scoring are there in rugby union? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4

3. A Grand Slam is _____.

4. Who are the current Six Nations champions and who has won the tournament the most times?

5. How many types of rugby are there and what are they called?

6. Do you believe the story about how rugby started? Explain why you think this.

7. Why do you think the format of the tournament has changed over the years?

Questions

8. Who do you think might win 2020 Six Nations. Explain why?

Answers

1. When does the Six Nations end? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 1st February
- ☐ 14th February
- ☐ 1st March
- ☒ **15th March**

2. How many different ways of scoring are there in rugby union? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☒ **4**

3. A Grand Slam is **when a team win all of their Six Nations matches**.

4. Who are the current Six Nations champions and who has won the tournament the most times?

Wales are the current men's Six Nations champions and England are the current women's champions. Wales have won the tournament the most times.

5. How many types of rugby are there and what are they called?

There are two types of rugby, rugby union and rugby league.

6. Do you believe the story about how rugby started? Explain why you think this.

Pupils answers will differ. They may say they don't believe it as it isn't explained why William Webb Ellis suddenly picked up a ball and ran or that they don't think a school boy could start an entire sport. However, they may say they believe the story because the Rugby World Cup trophy is named after William Webb Ellis.

7. Why do you think the format of the tournament has changed over the years?

Children's answers may include the idea that the tournament became more popular so more countries wanted to join. They might suggest that rugby started to grow in popularity over time. Children may refer to the First and Second World War because some of the changes happened near those dates.

8. Who do you think might win 2020 Six Nations. Explain why?

Children's answers will differ but may suggest Wales or England as they are the current champions and Wales have won the tournament the most times. They may also choose another team that they know about, for example one of the teams that reached the men's or women's finals in 2019.