

CAT TALES™

Winter 2008



Winter in Canada means HOCKEY!

Hockey has been around officially since 1877, when the rules were published in the Montreal Gazette, but the game has been around a lot longer, unofficially, with its roots in winter sports from many other countries.

In England, a form of “field hockey” was also called “bandy”; in Ireland they referred to it as “hurling”; the Scottish called it “shinty” and the Americans called their version “ice polo”. While the game was called “shinny” by many Canadians, native Canadians had been played a similar winter game called “baggataway” long before Europeans brought their versions here.

The game was first played outdoors on mammoth ice rinks, with no limit to the

number of players on each team, although it was considered good sportsmanship to keep the teams the same size as each other. When the game moved to indoor skating rinks, the number of players was reduced to six on each team to fit the smaller playing area.

The first exhibition hockey games were played in 1889 in Montreal and Quebec City, which popularized the game as a spectator sport. In 1893, Canadian Governor General Lord Stanley donated a trophy to be presented to Canada's best hockey team each year, known as the Stanley Cup.

The first hockey player to wear any kind of safety gear was goalie Elizabeth Graham, who put on a fencing mask in 1927 to protect her face. It took a while for protective gear to catch on, and most of it was borrowed: construction hard hats doubled as hockey helmets and cricket pads protected knees and shins. In 1979 the National Hockey League required new players to wear helmets. Many veteran players refused to wear them, and it wasn't until 1996 that every league player on the ice was helmeted.

FAT CAT® JOKES

Q. What do you call rodents who play hockey?

A. Rink Rats!

Q. What does an octopus wear in winter?

A. A coat if arms!

Q. What does a cat like on a hot summer day?

A. A mice-cream cone!

Q. What is a mosquito's favourite sport?

A. Skin diving!

Q. Where do cows go on Saturday night?

A. To the moo-oo-vies!

Q. Why do animals play baseball at night?

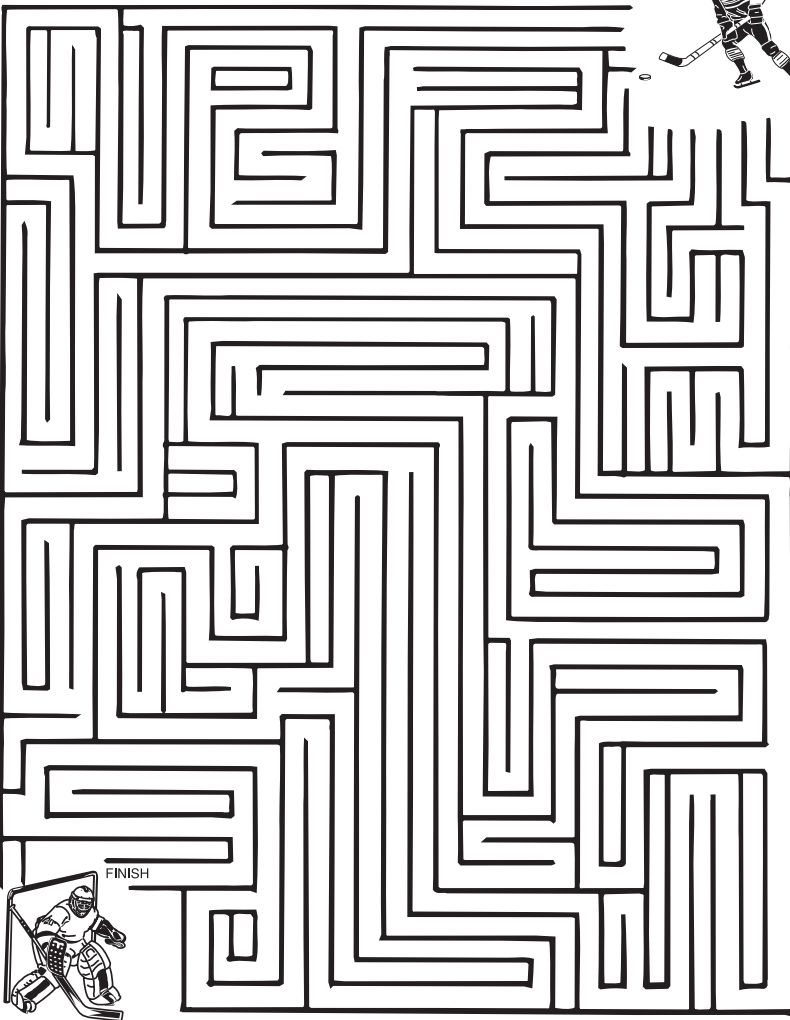
A. It's the only time the bat can make it!



Hockey Firsts

- Since 1893, the Stanley Cup playoffs have been cancelled only once, when an outbreak of the Spanish flu hit almost every member of the Montreal Canadiens during the playoffs in Seattle in 1919. Seattle and Montreal had each won two games and tied another in the five games played before the flu ended the series.
- The longest NHL game was on March 24, 1936, when the Detroit Red Wings scored the only goal of the game against the Montreal Maroons in the sixth overtime period, after almost 6 hours of play.

FAT CAT® Fun Page



Help the hockey player make his way down the ice and score the winning goal. Then colour the Stanley Cup, below. Did you know the original 1893 Stanley Cup is the bowl at the top of the trophy? The pedestals were added to make room to name all the teams who have won the trophy.



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