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Tech Lit

Period 2

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History of Basketball

I've watched basketball and played basketball a lot! I really wanted to play on a team. A couple years ago I started to play on a YMCA team. In December of 1891 a Canadian James W. Naismith invented the game of basketball. Naismith was a PE instructor at YMCA in Springfield, Massachusetts. I thought that was really interesting since when I first played basketball I played with the program YMCA.

Basketball is an indoor sport that keeps people healthy and warm during cold days. Basketball was also supposed to be a safer sport than football. The game caught on fairly quickly, it became very popular as the 20th century progressed. Starting in America, then throughout the world. Now basketball is a big part of American history. Its played by more then 250 million people worldwide. It started as a "pickup game" and now an organized game. The first national game was played in 1898. The players earned \$2.50 for home games and \$1.25 for away. About 100 years later, Juwan Howard had completed offers of more then \$100 million over seven seasons from the Bullets and the Miami Heat. People first wanted to call the

game “Naismith Game” because Naismith created it. Now they call it basketball because there are two baskets and a ball.

In 1950 Tony Hinkle created a ball specifically for basketball. It was a brownish ball. Before he created that they played with an orange soccer ball. The last thing Tony did was made the ball orange again so it was more visible. When basketball was first invented they used peach baskets. They had a hole drilled through so the ball could go through. By 1906 we replaced the peach baskets with metal baskets that have backboards.

There are 13 rules of basketball. A couple interesting rules are that past a certain line the shot is worth three points instead of 2. Also Referee is like a judge that makes all decisions in basketball. Naismith thought of the rules and wrote them down in about a hour. Most of them still apply in some form today. After I learned all this I’m even more interested in playing basketball.