

**READ THE PASSAGE** Look for details that help you visualize each competition described in the passage.**Crazy Contests**

When you think about competitions, you probably think of sports such as basketball and football. Not all serious competitive events are athletic, though. One example is the Rock Paper Scissors World Championship, in which contestants compete for large cash prizes.

Rock Paper Scissors is a simple game between two players. Each player counts to three and then "throws" one hand forward, making one of three hand signals. A fist means "rock," a flat hand means "paper," and two extended fingers in a V shape means "scissors." Rock wins against scissors, scissors wins against paper, and paper wins against rock. Although the game is simple, many players claim that they have developed complex strategies for winning.

Some people might consider a Rock Paper Scissors contest to be strange. Around the world, though, people compete in many events that others think are crazy. In England, a 200-year-old competition sends hundreds of people running down a hill, chasing a giant wheel of cheese. In Finland, hopeful guitar heroes compete in the Air Guitar World Championships by strumming invisible guitars in front of an audience. Wales hosts the yearly World Bog Snorkelling Championships, in which contestants wear silly costumes—dressed, for example, like a mermaid or an octopus—and swim through dark, stinky bog water as the crowd cheers.

These competitions are just a few of the crazy games that people play around the world. With some practice and training, maybe you could be a prize-winner in one of those contests yourself!

**STRATEGY PRACTICE** Which competition was easiest for you to visualize? Why?

---

---

**SKILL PRACTICE** Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. The passage is mainly about _____</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ⓐ playing Rock Paper Scissors</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ⓑ playing sports around the world</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ⓒ unusual competitions</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ⓓ popular ways for people to compete</p> <p>2. Where do the competitions mentioned in this passage occur?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ⓐ mainly in England</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ⓑ all over the world</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ⓒ only in Europe</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ⓓ wherever people do not play basketball</p> | <p>3. The author probably thinks that the contests are strange because _____</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ⓐ they have no rules</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ⓑ they are dangerous</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ⓒ cash prizes are small</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ⓓ the activities are silly</p> <p>4. How are the contests mentioned in the passage similar to basketball, football, or other sports?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ⓐ They all involve competition.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ⓑ They all require physical strength.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ⓒ None offer prizes to winners.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ⓓ None are entertaining.</p> |
|---|--|