

Materials used in the Sport of Football

Football is one of the most globally recognised sports. It does not require much specialist equipment to play but what little equipment and materials are required have seen many advances to them, since the game was first played as long ago as the 8th century. Traditional materials for the football, and even the boots, came from natural sources. Modern day footballs, and all other materials associated with today's game, are now entirely made from synthetic or manmade materials. Answer the following questions to reinforce what you have learned about materials, their characteristics and properties.

1. Footballs are made up of two layers, an outer layer and an inner layer. Answer the following questions on the inner layer of a football.

a) What is the inner layer of a football often called?

b) What natural material did the inner layer of a football used to be made from?

c) What material is the inner layer of a football made from in modern day footballs?

Fact

Latex can be found naturally as well as it being a manmade material. Natural latex is used in the making of chewing gum. Manmade latex is sometimes used to make the inner layer of a football.

2. What are the common properties or characteristics of a metal? Write down four in the spaces below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

3. Why have modern manmade materials replaced traditional materials in a goalkeeper's gloves?