



Theme 4



The Origins of the Clubs

Pupil Activity Sheet 2

1a. Read about the formation of Huddersfield and Swinton. Name two sports in which clubs existed before rugby football clubs were formed.

1b. Do you think these sports were invented before or after rugby football?

2. Tick the **two** statements that best explain why **churchmen** in places such as Keighley, Leeds and Wakefield were keen to start rugby football clubs.

a	They wanted to prove that their town or city was better at rugby than other towns and cities.	
b	They wanted young men to have a leisure time activity to channel their energy and to keep them out of mischief and trouble.	
c	They believed that young men would learn to play fairly to the rules, and would then know how to be fair and obey the rules in everyday life, an idea called 'Muscular Christianity'	
d	They wanted to attract large crowds to their clubs' matches so that they could make lots of money.	

3. Why do you think there are so many examples of boys who had been to public school starting rugby football clubs? Tick the best answer.

a	They had learned to play rugby football at public school and wanted to carry on playing and watching rugby when they returned to their home towns and cities.	
b	They wanted to prove that their town or city was better at rugby football than other towns and cities.	
c	Some of their employees would have to leave work early on Saturdays to travel to matches in which they were playing.	

4. Tick the **two** statements that best explain why mill owners were in a strong position to start up rugby football clubs.

a	The mill owners were the best players.	
b	The mill owners were wealthy enough to help to pay for things that the club needed.	
c	The mill owners were the best coaches of rugby football skills.	
d	The mill owners had a large workforce of men whom they could influence to play, work for and support their club.	

5. What clues are there that Barrow and Hull are on the coast?

6. Tick the best reason that explains why the Chief Constable and the Head of the Watch Committee founded a rugby football club in Oldham.

a	They wanted to prove that Oldham was better at rugby football than other towns and cities.	
b	They wanted to attract large crowds to their clubs' matches so that they could make lots of money.	
c	They wanted young men to have a leisure time activity to channel their energy and to keep them out of mischief and trouble.	

7a) What is the year of formation of:

i) the earliest of the rugby football clubs listed? _____

ii) the latest of the rugby football clubs listed? _____

7b) How many years passed between the formation of the earliest club and the latest club?

i) 29 ii) 39 iii) 49 iv) 59

7c) Many famous rugby clubs, including Huddersfield, plus hundreds of amateur clubs, were founded in this short period of time in the north of England. Does this suggest that conditions in towns and cities across the north of England were very different from or very similar to one another at this time?

a) similar b) different

8a) What is your favourite sport?

8b) Why is this your favourite sport? (Think about what you like/enjoy about it compared to other sports.)

8c) List all the ways that you have learned about your favourite sport's rules, skills, clubs, players and matches. (Think about clubs, players and matches in modern times and in the sport's history).

8d) How do you think the working men or boys who started up rugby football clubs between the 1860s and early 1900s learnt about the game and how to play it?

8e) Which of the following is a way in which you can learn about sports that the working men and boys of the 19th century (1800s) could not?

i	reading books and newspapers	
ii	viewing electronic technology	
iii	listening to friends	
iv	watching others play	
v	being coached	