

READ THE PASSAGE As you read, ask yourself questions to help you think about the similarities and differences between rugby, football, and soccer.

The Rugged Sport of Rugby

My cousin Chris plays rugby. He says it's similar to football and soccer, but some things are different.

A rugby field is called a "pitch." However, Chris's rugby team plays on the soccer field since it's the same size as a pitch.

To score points, players kick, carry, or throw the ball down the pitch. A rugby "goal" is like a football touchdown, and it is worth five points. A rugby "drop goal" is like a football field goal. For both drop goals and field goals, you kick the ball between two posts to score three points.

The pitch is crowded during a rugby game. That's because each team has 15 players on the field at once. That is more players than in football and soccer, both of which have 11 players.

The ball that players use in rugby is similar to a football. It is made from leather and is shaped like an oval. But it doesn't have laces, and the ends are less pointed than a football's ends.

Chris enjoys playing rugby and hopes to join a league soon. I might join, too.

STRATEGY PRACTICE Do you think rugby is more like football or soccer? Why?

SKILL PRACTICE Read the item. Write your response.

1. Why did the author write this text?

2. How is rugby like soccer?

3. How is rugby like football?
