Free Time Around the World

Julie Penn

Read and discover all about favorite free-time activities around the world ...

- Where is dog sledding popular?
- What is beach cricket?

Read and discover more about the world! This series of non-fiction readers provides interesting and educational content, with activities and project work.

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Free time is very important. It's good for you to do something different after school or work. It's also fun! Many of our favorite free-time activities are popular all around the world.

Which activities can you see here?
What do you do in your free time?
What activities are popular in your country?

Now read and discover more about free-time activities around the world!
Some people think that Brazilians are good at soccer because they learn a special way to play when they are children. They learn to play a type of soccer called futsal. There are five players in each team. The ball is small, but it's full of sand so it's very heavy.

Futsal started in South America, but now it's popular in many other countries.

Soccer is the most popular sport in the world and it's a big part of life in Brazil. People here love to watch and play soccer in their free time.

In Brazil you don’t need a pitch or expensive boots to play soccer. People play soccer in the street and on the beach. Children often play with no boots.
In Nunavut in the north of Canada, winter is from September to June. So there’s a lot of time for snow sports. Skiing and toboggan are very popular. Dog sledding is another exciting snow sport. The driver sits in the sled and the dogs pull it over the snow. Every year there is a big dog sled race.

In Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, the summer is very hot. It’s even warm in winter, but it’s still a good place for snow sports!

Dubai has the biggest snow dome in the world. People come here for skiing, snowboarding, and toboggan. It’s very, very cold in the snow dome, but it’s much hotter outside. The snow dome is in the desert!

There aren’t many roads in Nunavut. In winter most people travel by snowmobile or plane.
In India there are many different types of dance. Bollywood dance is very popular, and many people are learning it in their free time. This type of dance is fast and colorful.

Bollywood is the name of India’s most famous movie industry. In Bollywood movies there is always singing and dancing.

Bollywood dancers wear colorful clothes. They also wear jewelry like earrings, necklaces, and lots of bangles. Between their eyebrows, they have a mark or jewel called a bindi.

Bollywood dance started in India, but now it’s popular all around the world. You can watch a Bollywood movie or go to Bollywood dance lessons in lots of countries.
Tae kwon do is a national sport in South Korea and it's the most popular martial art in the world. About 70 million people in 188 different countries practice tae kwon do in their free time.

Tae kwon do means 'the way of hands and feet'. Students learn different moves with these parts of the body. They also learn how to balance, and how to control the body.

Students wear different-colored belts to show their level. The first belt is white. The other colors are yellow, green, blue, red, and black. When students are practicing for the next level, they wear a striped belt. The last belt is the black belt.
Let’s Read!

All around the world, people like to read books, newspapers, magazines, and comic books. In Japan, reading manga is a really popular free-time activity.

Manga is a type of comic book. In manga there are words and pictures to tell a story or give information. There are lots of different types of manga, for example, adventure, mystery, science fiction, and comedy. There is manga for all ages.

You can find manga on the Internet, too. There are also manga computer games and manga cartoons on television. There are even manga cafés, where you can look at manga on the Internet, or read manga books and magazines.

Manga started in Japan, but it’s now popular in many countries. Some libraries in the USA have manga reading groups.
Basketball is the most popular team sport in the USA. Many students are in school or college teams. Lots of other people play the game in their free time, on courts or in their gardens.

Basketball is a fast game. It’s fun to play and it’s fun to watch. People like to support their friends or family at the games. They also watch their favorite team on television.

Basketball is very popular in China. About 300 million people play it, and 450 million people watch it on television.

Cheerleaders support their team at the games. About three million people in the USA are in cheerleading groups. Today most cheerleaders are female, but when cheerleading started it was only for men!

Cheerleading isn’t easy. You have to be good at dance and gymnastics.
Music is very popular all around the world. It's a very important part of life in Nigeria, in Africa. People here sing, dance, and play music at important times in their lives.

In traditional Nigerian music, there is singing, and people play instruments. There are percussion instruments like drums, bells, and rattles. There are other instruments like pipes and trumpets, too.

Nigerian children sometimes make their own instruments. They make drums from tin cans, and pipes from plants. They also make rattles from fruits.

Lots of different types of modern music are popular in Nigeria, too. Some modern music, like jazz, reggae, and rock, came from traditional African music.

**Discover!**

The kakaki trumpet can be 4 meters long. Only men play it.
In Australia there are about 26,000 kilometers of coast and about 11,000 beaches. Most people live near the ocean and many Australians spend a lot of their free time at the beach.

Many beaches in Australia are great for surfing. Kayaking, swimming, and snorkeling are popular water sports, too. Australia has thousands of surf lifeguards to keep the beaches safe.

On the sand, people play beach volleyball and beach cricket. Beach cricket started as a fun activity, but now it’s an official sport. There are beach cricket championships every year in Australia.

You can go sandsurfing on some beaches, and also in the desert in countries like Peru and Egypt.
Scouting started in the United Kingdom in 1907. The first Scouts were boys from 11 to 18 years old. They went camping and walking in their free time. They learned how to read maps and make fires.

Today, Scouting isn’t only for boys. Anyone from 6 to 25 years old can be a Scout. Scouts still go camping and walking, but there are lots of other exciting activities.

Scouts can do land activities like climbing and skateboarding, and water activities like sailing, kayaking, and snorkeling. Sometimes they can even do air activities like paragliding.

Scouts have fun, but they also work together to help other people and the countryside. Do you have Scouts in your country?

There are more than 28 million Scouts in 216 different countries.
BMX riding is another popular activity in many countries. There are two types of BMX riding – racing and freestyle.

BMX racers travel around a track and try to win a race. It isn’t easy, and there are lots of jumps and turns. In BMX freestyle, riders do jumps and tricks. The best place to practice BMX freestyle is in a skatepark.

Which new free-time activities do you want to do now?

Cycling is a very popular free-time activity all around the world. In the Netherlands about 85 percent (%) of people go cycling. Most of the land is flat, so it’s a good place to cycle. It’s also very safe. There are 17,000 kilometers of cycle paths, and most of the time, cars have to wait for bicycles.
1 Write the words.

- boots
- pitch
- ball
- player
- team

2 Complete the sentences.

- sand
- popular
- street
- boots
- five

1 Soccer is the most _______ sport in the world.
2 In Brazil people play soccer in the _______.
3 Brazilian children often play soccer with no _______.
4 There are _______ players in each futsal team.
5 A futsal ball is full of _______.

3 Write soccer or futsal.

1 People play this game outside. _______
2 There are five players in each team. _______
3 It’s the most popular game in the world. _______
4 The ball is small. _______
5 The ball is heavy. _______
6 It started in South America. _______

4 Order the words.

1 popular / Soccer / very / a / sport. / is
   Soccer is a very popular sport. _______
2 watching / playing / like / People / and / soccer.
   _______
3 expensive / need / boots / don’t / You
   _______
4 Brazilian / children / Many / futsal / play
   _______
5 five / There / a / team. / players / are / in / futsal
   _______
6 ball / sand / full / of / The / is / futsal
   _______
2 Snow Sports

1 Find and write the snow sports.

1 toboganning 3 __________
2 __________ 4 __________

2 Write the words.

cloudy sunny hot warm windy cold

3 Write colder or hotter.

1 Winter in Nunavut is ________ than winter in Dubai.
2 The temperature in the snow dome is ________ than the temperature outside.
3 It’s usually ________ in Dubai than in Nunavut.
4 Summer in Dubai is much ________ than summer in Nunavut.

4 Answer the questions.

1 What snow sports can you do in Nunavut?
   Skiing, tobogganing, and dog sledding.
2 What happens every year in Nunavut?
   __________
3 Can you go dog sledding in Dubai?
   __________
4 How is the weather outside the snow dome?
   __________
5 What sports do you do in summer?
   __________
6 What sports do you do in winter?
   __________
Let's Dance!

1 Circle the correct words.
   1 Bollywood dance started in **India** / Japan.
   2 In Bollywood movies there is sometimes / always singing and dancing.
   3 The dances are slow / fast.
   4 The dancers wear colorful / black clothes.
   5 Bollywood dance is / isn’t popular in other countries.
   6 Bollywood makes 1,000 dances / movies every year.

2 Write the words
   - necklace
   - earring
   - bangles
   - bindi

3 Order the words.
   1 dance / many / of / there / different / In / India / are / types

   2 popular / world / Bollywood / all / is / dance / around / the

   3 and / dance / fast / Bollywood / colorful / is

   4 1,000 / makes / movies / about / year / Bollywood / every

   5 wear / Bollywood / clothes / colorful / and / dancers / jewelry

4 Answer the questions.
   1 Do you like dancing?

   2 What dances are popular in your country?

   3 What do people wear for these dances?
4 Martial Arts

1 Write true or false.
1 Tae kwon do is a national sport in the USA. false
2 It isn’t popular in other countries. 
3 It means ‘the way of hands and feet’. 
4 Students learn how to balance. 
5 Students wear different-colored belts to show their age. 
6 The first belt is the yellow belt.

2 Match.
1 side kick
2 flying side kick
3 back kick
4 jumping back kick

3 Find and write the colors. Then color the belts.

4 Match. Then write the sentences.
About 70 million people practice tae kwon do.
Students learn different moves.
Students wear different-colored belts.
The black belt is the last belt.
Practice tae kwon do to show their level.

In Taeglish lessons, students learn

1 About 70 million people practice tae kwon do.
5 Let’s Read!

Read pages 12–13.

1 Find and write the things that you can read.

book, newspaper, story

magazine, comic, book

1 _____________ 4 _____________
2 _____________ 5 _____________
3 _____________

2 Write true or false.

1 Manga started in Japan. _________
2 Manga books don’t have pictures. _________
3 There’s manga for all ages. _________
4 There isn’t any manga on the Internet. _________
5 There are manga cafés in Japan. _________
6 There are manga reading groups in the USA. _________

3 Complete the puzzle.

1 sci _____________
2 c _____________
3 en _____________
4 ce _____________
5 fic _____________

6 tion

4 Answer the questions.

1 What do you read?
   ____________________________

2 When do you read?
   ____________________________

3 What’s your favorite story?
   ____________________________

4 What do people like to read in your country?
   ____________________________
6 At the Game

1 Write the words.
cheerleaders  team  gymnastics  court

3 Write basketball or cheerleading.
1 It's the most popular team sport in the USA.
2 Most people who do this activity are female.
3 A lot of people play this game in their free time.
4 You have to be good at dance to do this.
5 You can watch your favorite team on television.

4 Match. Then write the sentences.

Many students are in
dance and
gymnastics.
You can play basketball
on television.
It's fun to watch
college basketball
team.
Cheerleaders are
good at
in a garden.

2 Circle the correct words.
1 Basketball is a fast / slow sport.
2 People play basketball in their houses / gardens.
3 Basketball is / isn't very popular in China.
4 Cheerleaders support their teacher / team.
5 There are 3 / 30 million cheerleaders in the USA.
6 Cheerleading is / isn't easy.
7 Making Music

1 Find and write the words. Then complete the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>edasplp</th>
<th>eroniez</th>
<th>iatjpit</th>
<th>stbseho</th>
<th>ltpralu</th>
<th>fladrum</th>
<th>belluxi</th>
<th>trummet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1

2

3

4

5

2 Complete the sentences.

life singing plants times instruments

1 Music is an important part of ________ in Nigeria.

2 There is singing and dancing for important ________.

3 In traditional Nigerian music, there is ________ and people playing instruments.

4 Children sometimes make their own ________.

5 They make pipes from ________.

3 Answer the questions.

1 Do you like singing?

2 Can you play any musical instruments?

3 What is your favorite type of music?

4 What type of music is popular in your country?
2 Write true or false.

1 In Australia there are about 1,000 beaches.
   
2 Most people in Australia live near the ocean.
   
3 Many beaches in Australia are great for surfing.
   
4 People don’t play cricket on the beach.
   
5 There are thousands of kayak lifeguards in Australia.
   
6 The lifeguards keep the beaches safe.
   
3 Answer the questions.

1 What beach sports can you do in Australia?
   
2 Where can you go sandsurfing?
   
3 What beach sports do you like?
Scouting

1 Find and write the activities. Then complete the diagram.

1 sailing
2 k q p k v e s n
3 a d a e r c n r s
4 t a r x g l o i n
5 e w a l k i n g o
6 b c g p c m s k r
7 o x l y a b e a k
8 a h i o d i h y e
9 r u d e p n n a l
10 d d i w i g f k i
11 i f n l g i n i n
12 n c g l a s u n g
13 g c a m p i n g g

2 Write the numbers.

25 1907 216 28 11 6 18

1 Scouting started in ________.
2 When Scouting started it was for boys from ________ to ________ years old.
3 Today, anyone from ________ to ________ years old can be a Scout.
4 More than ________ million people around the world are Scouts.
5 There are Scouts in ________ different countries.

3 Answer the questions.

1 When did Scouting start?

2 Who were the first Scouts?

3 What did the first Scouts learn to do?

4 Who can be a Scout today?

5 Which Scouting activities do you want to try?
1. Circle the correct words.
   1. Climbing / Cycling is very popular in the Netherlands.
   2. The land is flat, so it's a good / bad place to cycle.
   3. There are 17,000 kilometers of cycle parts / paths.
   4. In the Netherlands 25% / 85% of people go cycling.
   5. Cars have to wait for bicycles / planes.

2. Write cycling or BMX.
   1. There are special paths for this.
   2. You can do this on a track or in a skatepark.
   3. There are two types – freestyle and racing.
   4. It's a good sport for where the land is flat.

3. Match. Then write the sentences.
   BMX riding is popular
   There are two types
   You can do BMX racing
   The best place to practice BMX freestyle

   1.
   2.
   3.
   4.

4. Answer the questions.
   1. What type of cycling is popular in your country?
   2. Which do you like best, cycling or BMX riding?
   3. Which new free-time activities do you want to do?
My Free-Time Diary

1. Keep a record of the free-time activities that you do in a week. Write them in this diary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. At the end of the week write about the activities.

On Monday I went to reading club. We read a book by Roald Dahl. It was very funny. We all liked it.

On Tuesday I played soccer with my friends ...

A Free-Time Survey

1. Write four more free-time activities in the chart.

2. Interview your friends and family. Write ✔ or ✗.

   Ana, do you like playing tennis? [Yes, I do.]
   Do you like dancing? [No, I don’t.]

3. Count how many people like each activity. What’s the most popular free-time activity?

4. Display your results.
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