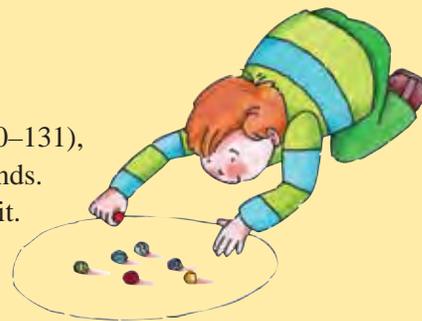


## SPORTS

**1. Compile a book of records** for your “Backyard Olympics” (pages 130–131), keeping track of your “personal best” or the best attained by competing friends. Make a calendar of when each record was set and name the person who set it. Keep updating your record book as new heights are achieved, either by you or by your friends.



**2. Write a rhythmic cheer or competition fight song** for one of the events in your “Backyard Olympics.”

**3.** Technology has improved football helmets over the years, making them lighter, stronger, and more comfortable. **Find pictures of football helmets** from the past and make a collage to show how they have changed.

**4. Play sports charades.** Write the names of different sports on slips of paper and put them in a bowl. Each player draws one slip of paper and acts out the sport for others to guess. Some sports, such as baseball, may be easy. Others, such as water polo, may be hard.

**5. Design a logo** for members of a real or imaginary sports team to wear on their helmets. You might want to use the team’s city, mascot, or name in your logo. Be sure to use memorable team colors.

**6. In youth baseball,** the bases are 60 feet apart. If a player throws a baseball from first to second base at 50 miles an hour, how long does it take the baseball to travel to second base?  
(Answer: 0.82 second.)

**7.** Challenge project: This isn’t easy, but it can be done. **Try making a 3-D model of a real soccer ball.** Cut pentagons from black card stock and hexagons from white card stock. You’ll need to measure your pieces carefully so that you can tape them together into a soccer ball shape. This drawing may help you to get started:



**8. Pretend that you are Cy Young at different stages in his life**—as a boy on the family farm and later on different ball teams (see pages 120–121). Write a day’s entry in your diary for each stage. Try to capture some of the sensory details of the life of this accomplished athlete.

**9. Find out who the Cy Young Award winners have been** since 1990. On a large map of the United States, mark the cities where the award winners played. Is one part of the country more likely than another to produce an award winner?

**10.** Pretend that you are a member of the Baseball Writers Association of America. **Write an editorial about your favorite baseball pitcher,** making a case for why you think he should be one of this year’s Cy Young Award winners.

**11. Write an illustrated training manual** for beginners who want to learn to fish. Be sure to include information about fishing regulations in your state.

**12. Write and perform a rap** about Cornelia Thurza Crosby (her story, “Hooked on the Outdoors,” begins on page 122).

**13. Learn to tie flies.** The instructions at <http://zebu.uoregon.edu/~dmason/Mckenzie/flies.html> will help you to get started.

**14. Curl up with a good book:** Readers in the 4th grade and up will enjoy *Tom Longboat* by Bruce Kidd (Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 2004). For advanced readers, we recommend the biography *Fly Rod Crosby: The Woman Who Marketed Maine* by Julia A. Hunter (Tilbury House, 2000).

**15.** Using only Styrofoam cups, candy wrappers, craft sticks, glue, and rubber bands, **make a trophy for Tom Longboat**, (whose story is on pages 126–129). Give reasons for your trophy’s size, shape, and design.



## PETS

**1. Do some creative writing.** Write a short story about a small, shy, seemingly defenseless rabbit that becomes a hero.

**2. Design a menu for the Rabbit Cafe.** Put in dishes made from the foods that rabbits love. Careful! Don’t list anything that’s poisonous.



**3. Make your own board game** called “Race to the Warren.” On a large sheet of cardboard, draw a windy path, with questions about rabbits written on squares along the path. When players roll the dice, they move their tokens that number of squares and must answer the question that they land on. If they answer wrong, they must go back where they came from. The first player to reach the warren at the end of the path wins.

**4. Interview a person who works with an animal on the job.** You might talk to a rancher who rides the range on a horse, an emergency worker who finds accident victims using a rescue dog, or a police officer who uses a “sniffer dog.” Or talk to a person who trains companion dogs for the blind. Ask about the person’s experience in working with the animal. Write up a story for your school or community newspaper.

**5. Write, edit, and publish an issue of the Fleas’ Daily News.** Interview a veterinarian or animal groomer for the front-page story. Report the expert’s opinion about how pets get fleas and how best to get rid of fleas. Write and illustrate “A Day in the Life of a Flea” for your paper’s magazine section. Show flea fashions on the style pages. Don’t forget the flea comics, crossword puzzle, and horoscope.