

**SAVVAS**



# **The Big Game That Fuels America**

## **Hook & Inspire! Connections to Today**

Ignite students' interest by sharing these resources, which demonstrate connections between the past and present. Please be sure to preview all resources.

# February's Big Game

Toward the middle of January the air seems to change, and it has nothing to do with the weather. As the National Football League continues toward the final games of the season, fans discuss who will go to the Big Game. People begin planning Big Game watch parties, businesses prep for crowds, grocery store aisles sell out, and tickets become non-existent.

The Big Game began in 1967 with the Kansas City Chiefs playing the Green Bay Packers in Los Angeles. The game went off without a hitch, but did not have a full crowd. The popularity of the Big Game would not arrive until years later. The Green Bay Packers won the first Big Game and even went on to win the next year too.

Today the Big Game is televised around the world. You do not need a ticket to watch this national pastime. However with ticket prices starting at \$3,000 and up, you do need a padded wallet. Many tickets sell for over \$20,000. Fans come out in their team gear, tailgate prior to the game, and wait in anticipation for the musical halftime show. The Big Game has definitely become a national pastime, stopping America and other parts of the world for one night each year.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 1). Why do you think the league decided to have an official playoff game?

Student answers may vary depending on past knowledge. The National Football League wanted to have a final game that would end the season and give a final winner. This game would merge the National Football League and American Football League as one. This would help both leagues not compete for fans.

### 2). Why do you think fans initially didn't want to watch or purchase tickets for the first Big Game?

Student answers may vary depending on past experiences. During the first game, tickets sold for about \$12. In 1967 this price was not cheap but fans also had to travel to Los Angeles to see the game. So if you didn't have money for travel, you watched the game on television.

### 3). Why do you think companies spend so much money on ads during the Big Game?

Student answers may vary depending on experiences. The first game charged about \$40,000 for a 30-second spot. This number has continued to go up as popularity grows. Millions of consumers watch the game so companies spend a lot of money to gain a small bit of time.

### 4). At the beginning of the game they toss a coin to determine who begins the game. Game officials once held this right, now it is given to someone to honor them. Who would you choose to complete the coin toss at the beginning of the game?

Student answers may vary depending on experiences. Any answer would be good as long as the student can back up their opinions.

### 5). The halftime show has continued to gain popularity, many years surpassing viewing numbers compared to the game itself. Who would you choose to be a part of the halftime show?

Student answers may vary depending on experiences. Any answer would be good as long as the student can back up their opinions.

**Share the online resources below with your class to stimulate discussion on these questions. Be sure to preview the clips before showing or sharing them in class to ensure the content is appropriate for your students.**

## **LINKS TO RESOURCES**

### **Videos**

- 1). [The Illustrated History of the Super Bowl](#): This is a neat animated history of the Super Bowl video.
- 2). [5 Facts About SUPER BOWL Sunday](#): This video gives 5 facts about the Super Bowl.
- 3). [How EVERY Team Got Its Name & Identity!](#): This video gives information about each team within the NFL and how they got their name.
- 4). [Super Bowl 2025 - Super Bowl Conspiracy Theory & Celebrating Local Artist](#): Learn about the conspiracy theory behind each year's logo and meet Tahj Williams, the New Orleans artist behind this year's logo.
- 5). [\[2019\] Ranking every Super Bowl Ring WORST to BEST](#): This video shows Super Bowl rings past and present. It ranks them by how beautiful they are.

### **Media**

- 1). [The History of the Super Bowl](#): This website has a picture of the first Super Bowl, including some other information.
- 2). [Top 100 plays in Super Bowl history](#): This website gives the top 100 plays in the Super Bowl and other neat facts.
- 3). [An Illustrated History of the Super Bowl Halftime Show](#): This is an animated history of the Super Bowl. It's really cool!
- 4). [Rams and Bengals will meet in LA for Super Bowl LVI. Here's what to know](#): This website gives basic information about the Super Bowl of 2022.
- 5). [Before the Bowl Was Super](#): This website gives some cool vintage photos from the Super Bowl.

### **Websites**

- 1). [Super Bowl History](#): This website gives a detailed history of the Super Bowl.
- 2). [Super Bowl](#): This website gives details about the history of the Super Bowl. There is also a very cool infographic.
- 3). [Super Bowl History](#): This website gives details about each Super Bowl, including statistics.
- 4). [10 Things You May Not Know About the First Super Bowl](#): This website gives 10 things that people often don't know about the first Super Bowl.
- 5). [Football: Super Bowl Fun Facts and Records](#): This website gives some cool facts about the Super Bowl for kids.

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