

# SCORE A LEARNING TOUCHDOWN!

Kick off fun math and language lessons that meet national standards

Dear Educator:

One of the most effective ways to reach fifth-graders is to relate academic subjects to students' interests and hobbies—including sports. And there is no more popular sport in the United States than professional football—with more than 120 million men, women, boys and girls watching professional football each week.

Using sports as a springboard, the National Football League, PLAYERS INC (the marketing and licensing subsidiary of the NFL Players Association), and award-winning curriculum specialists Young Minds Inspired (YMI) are pleased to provide you with the second year of the phenomenally successful **Stay Cool in School with NFL Player Trading Cards** teaching program featuring topics in mathematics and language arts. These subjects are sure to capture your fifth-graders' interest and enthusiasm while meeting national standards.

Since the 1950s, young football fans have collected, memorized, played with, and traded cards of their favorite players and teams. Now, your students will discover that card collection and trading never go out of style.

**The materials in this program include:**

- 28 special packs of player trading cards to use with the activities. Each student gets his or her own pack, and each pack is different.
- A take-home component (printed in both English and Spanish) that encourages students to work with family members on a family history project
- A full-color poster to help your class gather "class stats"—fun facts about their own achievements, interests, and accomplishments
- A 50¢-off trading-card coupon, redeemable at any Target store—inside each pack—for you and your students to expand the learning process

Please note—this guide was specially designed to be engaging even if you or your students do not have an in-depth knowledge of the game or are not ardent NFL football fans.

Although these materials are copyrighted, feel free to make as many photocopies as you need or download extra copies at [www.ymiteacher.com](http://www.ymiteacher.com)

Sincerely,



Joel Ehrlich  
President and former teacher



**TEACHERS:** Please share these materials with your colleagues. You and your students can use the 50¢-off coupon in each pack for additional player trading cards available at all Target stores. For the location of a Target store near you, go to [www.target.com](http://www.target.com) and click onto Target Stores.

teach the mathematical standard of averaging. For example, compare your class averages with data from the NFL that shows that 80% of boys and 54% of girls ages 7-11 choose NFL football as their favorite sport to watch. Space is also provided for additional class "stat" categories.

## NATIONAL EDUCATION STANDARDS: FIFTH GRADE

|            |                                 |   |
|------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Activity 1 | <b>Plot the Path to Victory</b> | <b>Math:</b> Make and use coordinate systems to specify locations and to describe paths.  |
| Activity 2 | <b>Finish the Card!</b>         | <b>Math:</b> Recognize and generate equivalent forms of commonly used fractions, decimals, and percents.  |
| Activity 3 | <b>You're In the Game!</b>      | <b>Language Arts:</b> Understand writing strategies and elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.             |
| Activity 4 | <b>You're a Card</b>            | <b>Language Arts:</b> Use spoken, written, and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences. |

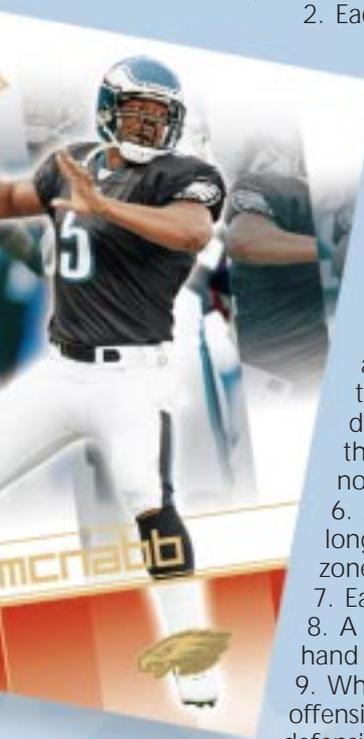
## GET READY FOR THE KICK-OFF

Before starting, ask if anyone collects and trades cards of any kind. Then, introduce the idea of NFL player trading cards as a way to learn about football players—accomplishments, background, and personal stats. Have students bring their NFL player trading cards home and ask family members if they ever collected similar cards and how they used them. Encourage students to compare and trade cards with their classmates before starting the activities.

## A TEACHER'S PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL PLAYBOOK\*

Here are 10 professional football facts to get you in the game:

1. The object of professional football is for each team to get the ball into the end zone and score the most points. A touchdown is 6 points. Teams earn a chance to kick for an "extra" point after scoring a touchdown.
2. Each game is made up of four quarters, each 15 minutes long.
3. There are 11 players on the field for each team.
4. When a team has possession of the ball, it is called the "offense." When a team is trying to prevent the other team from scoring, it is called the "defense."
5. The offense has 4 attempts to gain 10 yards. If they do (this is called a first down), they can try again until they either score points or do not gain 10 yards in 4 attempts.
6. A football field is 100 yards long, not counting the end zones.
7. Each end zone is 10 yards long.
8. A ball knocked out of a player's hand is called a fumble.
9. When a pass meant for an offensive player is caught by a defensive player, it's called an interception.
10. A pass that isn't caught is called an incomplete pass.



## PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- This teacher's guide
- Four reproducible student activity sheets on mathematics and language arts, including one in English and Spanish
- 28 packs of NFL player trading cards
- A teaching wall poster for "class stats"
- A reply card for your comments

## WHO SHOULD USE THIS PROGRAM?

This program has been designed for fifth-grade students. Please share this material with other teachers.

## HOW TO USE THE WALL POSTER

Display the wall poster prominently and have your class record their own "stats"—information about their families, interests, and achievements. You can use this information to

If you want to know more about the rules and teams, go to [www.playfootball.com/footballfacts](http://www.playfootball.com/footballfacts)

**\*You do not need to know or understand these rules to use the activities in this guide.**



YMI is the only company developing free, creative and innovative classroom materials that is owned and directed by award-winning former teachers. All YMI teaching materials are pre-certified and approved by our exclusive Educational Advisory Board. E-mail us at [feedback@ymiclassroom.com](mailto:feedback@ymiclassroom.com) or visit our Web site at [www.ymiteacher.com](http://www.ymiteacher.com) to send feedback and download more free programs.

## IT'S ALL IN THE CARDS

Like any sport, NFL football has its own terms and abbreviations, but **understanding them isn't necessary to use this program.** The back of each player trading card includes a chart with each player's statistics. Not all cards have the same statistics.

The explanations below may be useful if your students have questions about the cards. They are NOT necessary to complete the activities.

**REC**—Receptions—the number of times a player catches a pass, usually broken down by season. It can also be the number of receptions in the player's lifetime.

**YDS**—Yards—any of several kinds of yards, i.e. passing, receiving or return

**AVG**—Average—If it follows REC and YDS, it means average yards per catch. It can also mean average rushing yards, average pass attempts, etc.

**LG**—Longest—If this appears on a receiver's card, it's the longest catch or reception. It could also be the longest rush, pass or kick. The T means the longest one resulted in a touchdown.

**TD**—Touchdowns—the number of touchdowns scored

## ON A QUARTERBACK'S CARD:

**G**—the number of games played, usually broken down by season. Can also refer to lifetime games played.

**ATT**—Attempts—the number of passing attempts

**COMP**—Completions—the number of passes completed

**PCT**—Completion percentage—completed passes divided by attempts

**YDS**—Yards—passing yards for a quarterback

**LG**—Longest—the longest pass completed. If there is a T beside it, it resulted in a touchdown.

**TD**—Touchdowns—the number of touchdowns scored

**INT**—Interceptions—the number of times the quarterback has been intercepted

**RTG**—Rating—a quarterback rating—a complex formula that assigns a numeric rating to performance

## ON A DEFENSIVE PLAYER'S CARD:

**TACK** or **TKL**—Tackles—the number of tackles the defensive player made during the season

**SACKS**—A term used when a defensive player tackles the quarterback behind the line of scrimmage

**INT**—Interceptions—the number of passes a defensive player has intercepted

**FF**—Fumbles Forced—the number of fumbles the defensive player caused

**FR**—Fumbles Recovered—the number of fumbles the defensive player recovered

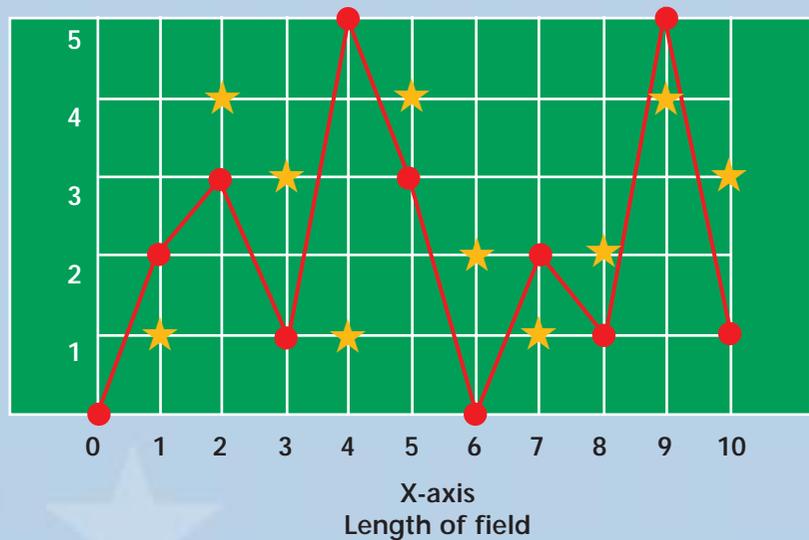
## ACTIVITY 1

# PLOT THE PATH TO VICTORY

- This activity teaches students to read and plot points on a line graph.
- The object is to move down the football field (the graph) and score a touchdown without being tackled by a defensive player.
- For each step, students will have to choose between two sets of ordered pairs. One set will place them on a pair of coordinates on which a defensive football player is located. This will result in them being tackled. If they select the correct ordered pair, students will avoid the defensive player and continue to run down the field. When students have correctly chosen each of the 10 correct ordered pairs, they will reach the end zone and score the game-winning touchdown.
- Remind students that the horizontal axis of the graph is the **X-AXIS**, and that the vertical axis of the graph is the **Y-AXIS**.
- Point out that the first point (0,0) is already plotted on the graph.
- Have students look at Step 1, and find each of the two points on the graph, based on the ordered pairs given, (1,1) and (1,2). Ask which of the two points leads them into a defensive player and which does not. Have them then draw a point on the graph using the ordered pair that does not lead them into a defensive player [(1,2) in this case].
- Have students repeat this process for each of the 10 steps, drawing a line from point to point to indicate the route along which they are running.
- **Answers:** (1,2); (2,3); (3,1); (4,5); (5,3); (6,0); (7,2); (8,1); (9,5); (10,1)

Y-axis

Width of field



## RELATED ACTIVITIES

- **ANOTHER WAY IN**—Ask students to look at the graph again and plot a set of alternate points across the field so they can score a touchdown without getting tackled by a defensive player. For each point they plot on the graph, have them write down the ordered pair (x,y) which that point represents.
- **GRAPH THE STATS**—Ask students to pick one statistical category (touchdowns, yards, interceptions, etc.) from the back of a card. Then have them draw a line graph with the X-axis representing the years of the player's career and the Y-axis representing the number of touchdowns, yards, interceptions, etc.

## ACTIVITY 2

# FINISH THE CARD!

- This activity teaches how to calculate percentages.
- Ask students to look at the card shown on **Activity 2**. First, have them pretend they are the quarterback and fill in their name and team at the top. They can even draw a picture of themselves in the right-hand corner.
- Point out that the column labeled PCT (percentage of passes completed) is blank, except for the first year.
- Have students calculate their completion percentage for the next five years.
- To calculate the percentage, they must divide the number of completions (COMP) by the number of attempts (ATT).
- To convert the decimal into a percentage, have them move the decimal point two places to the right.
- Ask students to round the result off to the nearest tenth of a percent and write their answers in the PCT column on the card.
- **Answers:** 63.9, 62.1, 60.2, 60.8, 59.8

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

- **PASSING PERCENTAGES**—Ask students to use the other stats on the back of the card to calculate the percentage of passes thrown for a touchdown each season. Have them do the same for the percentage of passes thrown for an interception each season.
- **STAT SOUP**—Ask students to calculate similar percentages based on the stats on the backs of the cards in their pack—for example, the percentage of tackles a defensive player made that were sacks, or percentage of receptions a receiver made that were touchdowns.

## ACTIVITY 3

# YOU'RE IN THE GAME!

- **A bilingual, double-sided sheet in English and Spanish**
- Use the television broadcast of an NFL football game as a springboard for creative writing.
- Ask students to watch at least one quarter of an NFL

game with their family. Then, have students answer the questions on the reproducible.

- Have students ask family members for their answers, as well. Have students share the answers with the class.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

- **IT'S YOUR TEAM**—On a separate sheet, ask students to create and draw a picture of the helmet, logo, and uniform of their own NFL team.
- **MY NFL GAME**—Ask students to be sports reporters and write their own newspaper or radio report of either a real or imaginary game.

## ACTIVITY 4

# YOU'RE A CARD

- This activity encourages students to think creatively by examining their personal accomplishments and preferences.
  - Students will create their own trading cards—of themselves and family members.
    - Ask students to cut out the blank trading cards and to decide how they want to appear on the front, either in a photo or drawing.
    - Then, help them decide what personal "stats" they want on the back of the card.
    - Ask students to interview family members and make cards for them.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

- **BEST BUDDIES**—Ask students to create trading cards of their best friends. Then have them interview their friends to learn their stats.
- **DON'T FORGET THE PET!**—Ask students to create trading cards for their pets, using a photo or drawing for the front. They can create stats for the back of the card such as their pet's favorite food, favorite toy, etc.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[www.nfl.com](http://www.nfl.com)—the official Web site of the National Football League

[www.nflplayers.com](http://www.nflplayers.com)

[www.nflpa.org](http://www.nflpa.org)

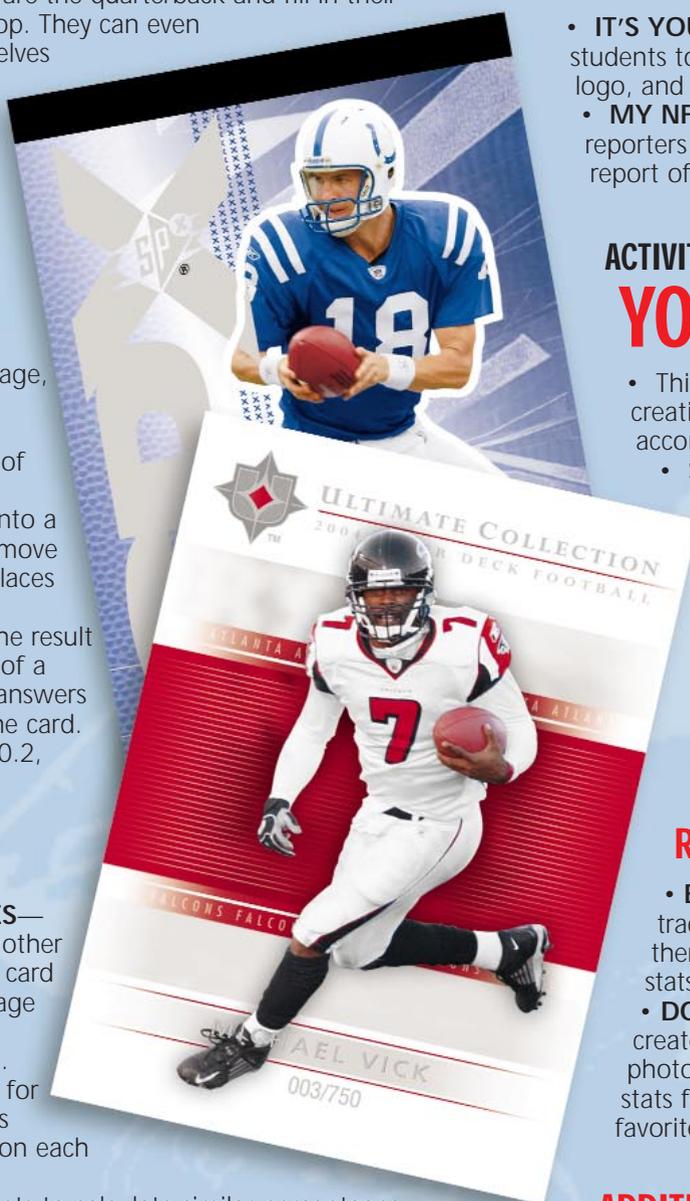
[www.nflyouthfootball.com](http://www.nflyouthfootball.com)—the official NFL site for kids

[www.playoffinc.com](http://www.playoffinc.com)

[www.topps.com](http://www.topps.com)

[www.upperdeck.com](http://www.upperdeck.com)

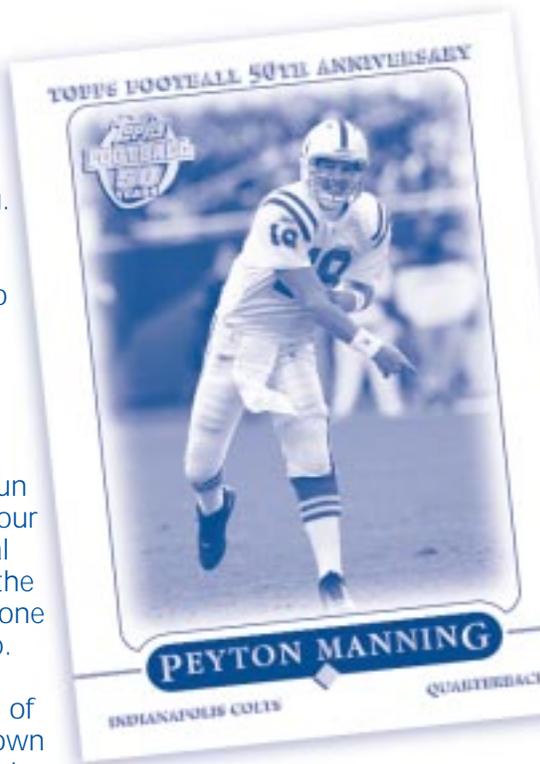
[www.ymiteacher.com](http://www.ymiteacher.com)



© 2005 YMI, Inc.

# PLOT THE PATH TO VICTORY

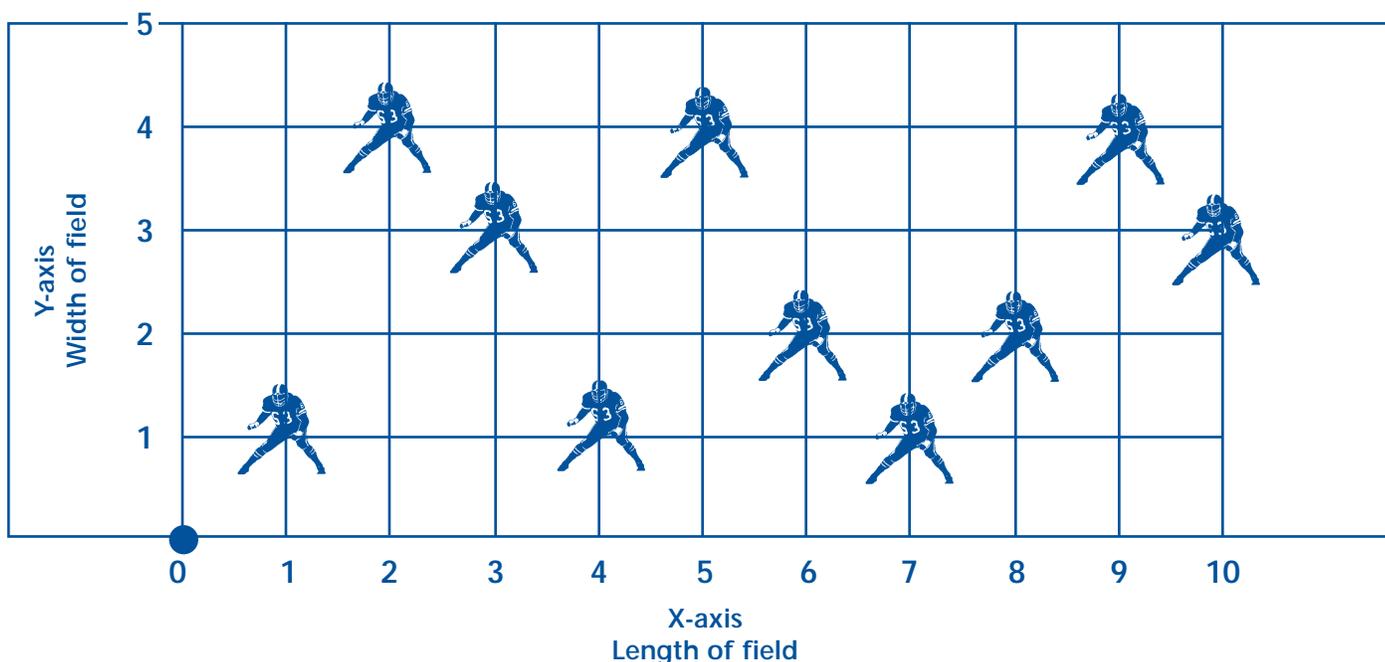
There's less than a minute to go in the game. The score is tied. You're the running back, and the quarterback hands the ball off to you. Now you've got to run the length of the field, past defensive players, to score the game-winning touchdown. How? By plotting points on a line graph.



To score a touchdown, run from the (0,0) point at your own goal line to the goal line at the other end of the field. To do this, choose one ordered pair in each step. Pick the wrong pair, and you'll get tackled by one of the defensive players shown on the field. Pick the right pair, and you'll move down the field.

After you have plotted all 10 ordered pairs, draw a line from point to point and watch as you race down the field to score the winning touchdown!

| The Steps |                   | The correct ordered pair |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Step 1    | (1,1) or (1,2)?   | ( , )                    |
| Step 2    | (2,3) or (2,4)?   | ( , )                    |
| Step 3    | (3,1) or (3,3)?   | ( , )                    |
| Step 4    | (4,1) or (4,5)?   | ( , )                    |
| Step 5    | (5,4) or (5,3)?   | ( , )                    |
| Step 6    | (6,0) or (6,2)?   | ( , )                    |
| Step 7    | (7,1) or (7,2)?   | ( , )                    |
| Step 8    | (8,1) or (8,2)?   | ( , )                    |
| Step 9    | (9,4) or (9,5)?   | ( , )                    |
| Step 10   | (10,1) or (10,3)? | ( , )                    |



Go to [www.nflyouthfootball.com](http://www.nflyouthfootball.com), the official NFL Web site for kids.

# FINISH THE CARD!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

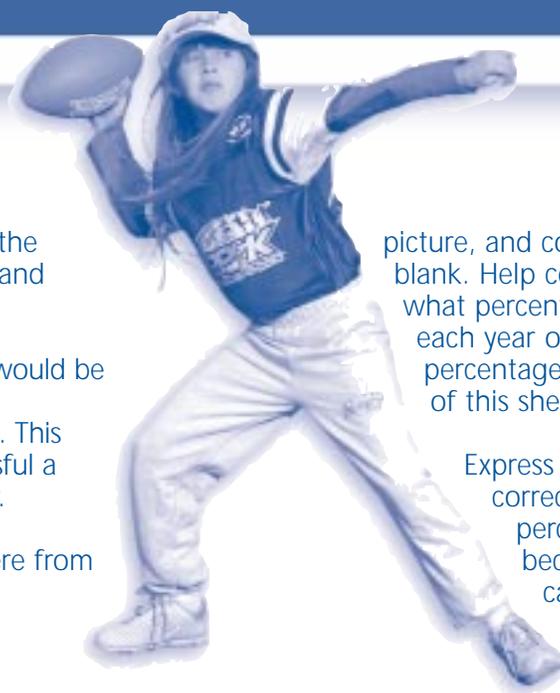
Team \_\_\_\_\_

Height \_\_\_\_\_

Weight \_\_\_\_\_

Born \_\_\_\_\_

| YR | ATT | COMP | PCT  | TD | INT |
|----|-----|------|------|----|-----|
| 00 | 3   | 1    | 33.3 | 0  | 0   |
| 01 | 413 | 264  |      | 18 | 12  |
| 02 | 601 | 373  |      | 28 | 14  |
| 03 | 527 | 317  |      | 23 | 12  |
| 04 | 474 | 288  |      | 28 | 14  |
| 05 | 500 | 299  |      | 30 | 13  |



You're the quarterback. You take the snap. Drop back. Look downfield and throw a pass. It's complete!

But no quarterback's football card would be complete without a listing of what percentage of passes you complete. This stat lets you know just how successful a QB is in helping the team to victory.

But wait! Something is missing here from this card. Your name, team, stats,

picture, and completion percentage (PCT) is blank. Help complete the card by figuring out what percentage of your passes you completed each year of your career. Then write the percentage in the PCT column. Use the back of this sheet for your calculations.

Express your answers as a percentage correct to the nearest tenth of a percent. For example, 54.38% would become 54.4%. The first year of your career (2000) is done for you.

Go to [www.nfl youthfootball.com](http://www.nfl youthfootball.com), the official NFL Web site for kids.

Copy and send this home to parents.

# YOU'RE IN THE GAME!

Watching an NFL football game is a great way to have fun with your family. Watch at least one quarter of an NFL game with your family, and then answer the following questions. Be sure to ask your family members what they think, as well.

**Which player or group of players has the toughest job? Why?**

---

---

---

Your family member's answer:

---

---

---

**If you played professional football, which position would you like to play and why?**

---

---

---

Your family member's answer:

---

---

**If you scored a touchdown, how would you show your excitement in the end zone?**

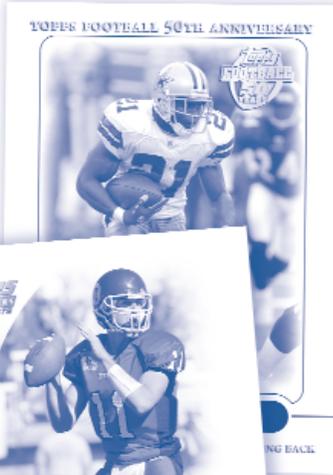
---

---

Your family member's answer:

---

---



**What was the weirdest or funniest thing you saw someone in the stands wearing?**

---

---

Your family member's answer:

---

---

**If you owned an NFL team, what colors would you make the uniforms? Describe the designs you would put on them.**

---

---

---

Your family member's answer:

---

---

**What would you name your team? What logo (symbol) would you put on their helmets?**

---

---

Your family member's answer:

---

---

**What was the most exciting part of the game?**

---

---

Your family member's answer:

---

---

Go to [www.nflyouthfootball.com](http://www.nflyouthfootball.com), the official NFL Web site for kids.



# ¡ESTÁS EN EL PARTIDO!

Una manera fabulosa de divertirse con tu familia es mirar juntos un partido de fútbol americano. Mira por lo menos un período de un partido de la NFL con tu familia, y entonces contesta las siguientes preguntas. No te olvides de pedirles a los miembros de tu familia que pongan sus opiniones también.

**¿Cuál jugador o grupo de jugadores tiene el trabajo más duro? ¿Por qué?**

---

---

---

La respuesta del miembro de tu familia:

---

---

---

**Si jugaras fútbol americano profesional, ¿cuál posición quisieras jugar y por qué?**

---

---

La respuesta del miembro de tu familia:

---

---

---

**Si marcaras un tanto, ¿cómo demostrarías tu entusiasmo en la zona final?**

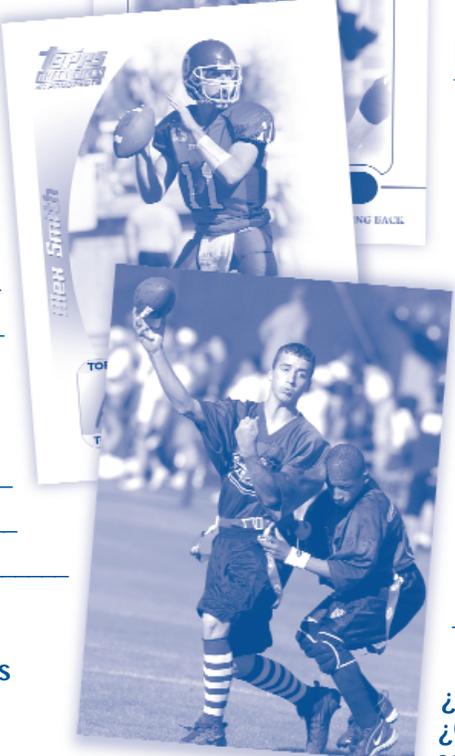
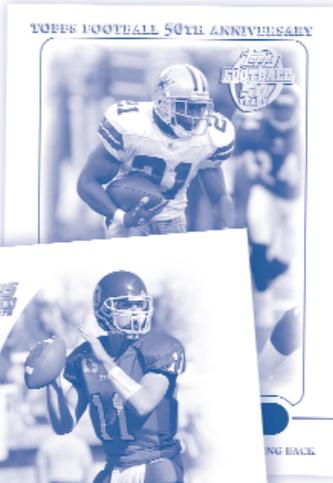
---

---

La respuesta del miembro de tu familia:

---

---



**¿Cuál fue el traje más extraño o cómico que viste llevar a una persona en el estadio?**

---

---

La respuesta del miembro de tu familia:

---

---

**Si fueras dueño de un equipo de la NFL, ¿de qué colores harías los uniformes? Describe los símbolos que pondrías en ellos.**

---

---

La respuesta del miembro de tu familia:

---

---

**¿Qué nombre le darías a tu equipo? ¿Cuál símbolo pondrías en sus cascos?**

---

---

La respuesta del miembro de tu familia:

---

---

**¿Cuál fue la parte más emocionante del partido?**

---

---

La respuesta del miembro de tu familia:

---

---

Ve a [www.nflyouthfootball.com](http://www.nflyouthfootball.com), el sitio Web oficial para niños de la NFL.

# YOU'RE A CARD

Make your own player trading card—starring YOU!

Now you and your family can be featured on your own personalized trading cards. Here's how:

Cut out each of the three blank cards, following the dotted lines. On the first card, paste a photo of yourself or draw a picture of yourself. Below the picture, write in your name. Then flip the card over and write in your stats. Not your NFL stats—your personal stats. For example: your height, weight, and birthday,

the city or town in which you live, the name of your school, your favorite hobbies, favorite foods, favorite NFL team, favorite sport to play. What are your accomplishments and achievements? List them, too.

Now do the same for two family members. Paste photos or draw pictures of your family members onto the other cards, and write in their names. Interview your family members to learn their "stats." Then write them on the backs of the cards.

Go to [www.nfl youthfootball.com](http://www.nfl youthfootball.com), the official NFL Web site for kids.

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |



# GET IN THE GAME!



## OUR CLASS "STATS"

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Hometown and state _____                      | Average number of people in a family _____                                  |
| School name _____                             | Average number of pets _____  |
| Class team name _____                         | Number of students who play a musical instrument or go to dance class _____ |
| Teacher's name _____                          | Number of students who play organized sports _____                          |
| Number of boys in our class _____             | Percentage of boys who rate football as their favorite sport _____          |
| Number of girls in our class _____            | Percentage of girls who rate football as their favorite sport _____         |
| Average height of students in our class _____ |   |

## CLASS STANDINGS AND SCOREBOARD

| Record                            | Achievement | Name of Record-Holder |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Read the most books in a week     | _____       | _____                 |
| Has the most trading cards        | _____       | _____                 |
| Traveled the furthest on vacation | _____       | _____                 |
| Ran the fastest 100-yard dash     | _____       | _____                 |
| Volunteered in the community      | _____       | _____                 |
| _____                             | _____       | _____                 |
| _____                             | _____       | _____                 |
| _____                             | _____       | _____                 |



Go to [www.nflyouthfootball.com](http://www.nflyouthfootball.com), the official NFL Web site for kids.