

My MEP Projects: Y9

Y9 Project: Basketball



Name: _____

It's estimated that 300 million people in China play basketball! In school, in the streets and in professional teams, it is probably China's most popular sport. Millions more watch it. This project gives you an exciting insight into basketball in China, lots of useful words and expressions to help you talk about basketball and any other sport. Finally, you get a chance to try your hand at writing a sport commentary in Chinese.

Go for it!

Task 1: Warm Up 热身 (rè shēn)

You probably know lots of names of sports in Chinese. Here's a little warm-up exercise before you hit the basketball court. Find 14 names of sports in the wordsearch below (they can read diagonally too). Write the pinyin and English translation of them in the table on the next page. One has been done for you.

骑	马	板	秦	橄	谭	网	球	燕	篮
您	点	电	球	榄	黄	利	陈	禹	球
脑	滑	冰	猫	球	侯	吴	滑	黄	石
李	马	吕	骑	鱼	足	球	狗	板	兔
我	游	泳	车	叶	王	鱼	熊	谷	楚
滑	闻	曹	唐	乒	兵	球	方	杜	习
雪	刘	羽	毛	球	阮	管	周	跑	步

Pinyin	English	Pinyin	English
wǎng qiú	tennis		

★ Task 1 complete

Task 2: Some key basketball words

Now let's learn some words that will be key to talking about basketball. One radical that is extremely useful for words related to basketball is the 'hand radical', 扌. You will probably already be really familiar with this. It's in the left-hand part of characters like 打 dǎ 'to hit, strike' (as in 打网球 dǎ wǎng qiú 'to play tennis') and 报 bào 'to report' (as in 报纸 bào zhǐ 'newspaper'). It came from the way a hand was depicted in ancient Chinese scripts:



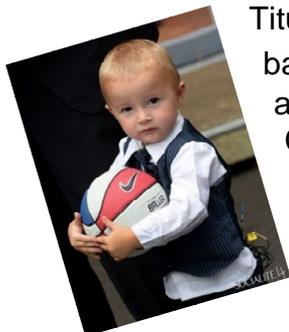
Task 2a

Here are seven Chinese characters that are linked to basketball vocabulary and which have the hand radical. Use your dictionary to find one other word or phrase that uses that character too. The first one has been done for you:

Character/pinyin	Basketball term	Translation	Example of another Chinese word that contains that character
扣 kòu	扣篮 kòulán	dunk	扣子 kòu zi 'button'
换 huàn	换人 huànrén	substitute	
投 tóu	投篮 tóulán	shoot	
挡 dǎng	阻挡 zǔdǎng	block	
推 tuī	推人 tuīrén	push	
抢 qiǎng	抢断 qiǎngduàn	steal	

拉 <i>lā</i>	拉手 <i>lāshǒu</i>	hold	
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Task 2b



Titus is a five-year old American boy with an amazing ability to shoot basketballs (投篮 *tóu lán*). Watch this incredible display of his skills when he appeared on a Chinese TV challenge show. The dialogue is in English and Chinese and it is 11 minutes long. Listen out for Chinese words you recognize, like numbers, ages, and words like 挑战 (*tiǎo zhàn*, 'challenge'), 投 (*tóu*, 'throw') and 球 (*qiú*, 'ball').

<http://bit.ly/5YearOldBasketball>

The TV programme is called 谁是挑战王. Translate this into English below:

★ Task 2 complete

Task 3: Team names

The CBA (Chinese Basketball Association) is the top men's league in China. There are 20 teams in the League and each name generally contains:

1. A geographic designation
2. A corporate sponsor name.
3. A nickname, such as the name of an animal.

Task 3a

The table below lists ten teams that have animals in their names. Highlight or underline the city or province in each name and also the animal. Write the English for the city/province and the animal in the next columns. The first one has been done for you.

(You may like to use maps on this website to help you: <http://bit.ly/ProvincesMap>)

Team name in Chinese	City or province	Animal in English
北京鸭篮球俱乐部	<i>Beijing</i>	<i>ducks</i>
四川金强蓝鲸		
新疆广汇飞虎		
辽宁飞豹		
广州龙狮		

上海哔哩哔哩大鲨鱼		
浙江广厦猛狮		
浙江稠州金牛篮球俱乐部		
江苏龙肯帝亚篮球俱乐部		
吉林通钢东北虎		

Task 3b: Team Logos

Here's the team logo for the Beijing Ducks:



Find a team logo from one of the teams above (they are all found easily online) and draw it in the box below:

What would be your ideal team name for a basketball team. Make one up! Include a place name and an animal in it. Write it below in English and Chinese. You could invent a team logo too.

My ideal team name:

Task 3c: Team colours

Here's a good opportunity to revise colours in Chinese. Research the team colours worn by the teams below (you'll find them on Wikipedia) and write them in English and Chinese on the table below. Then decide what colours your ideal team should play in and add those to the table. If you're feeling creative, you could sketch someone wearing that strip.

Team name in Chinese	Team colours
北京鸭篮球俱乐部	<i>Steel blue, white, black</i> 钢蓝色, 黑色, 白色
四川金强蓝鲸	
新疆广汇飞虎	
辽宁飞豹	
广州龙狮	
上海哔哩哔哩大鲨鱼	
浙江广厦猛狮	
浙江稠州金牛篮球俱乐部	
江苏龙肯帝亚篮球俱乐部	
吉林通钢东北虎	
My team name:	

Task 3d: Foreign coaches and players

When you were researching these teams online, did you notice lots of non-Chinese names of players and coaches. Many foreigners, especially Americans, play for Chinese teams. Here's a short clip of an Italian basketball player showing how much

Chinese he's learnt in just one year. Impressive! But you probably already speak more Chinese than he does. While you're watching this clip, jot down any phrases or words that he uses which you haven't learnt yet.

<http://bit.ly/ItalianChinese>



If you're interested in finding out more about basketball players from the US NBA league who have played in China, here's an article about some of them.

<http://bit.ly/NBACHina>

★	Task 3 complete	
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Task 4: Basketball League for Young Players

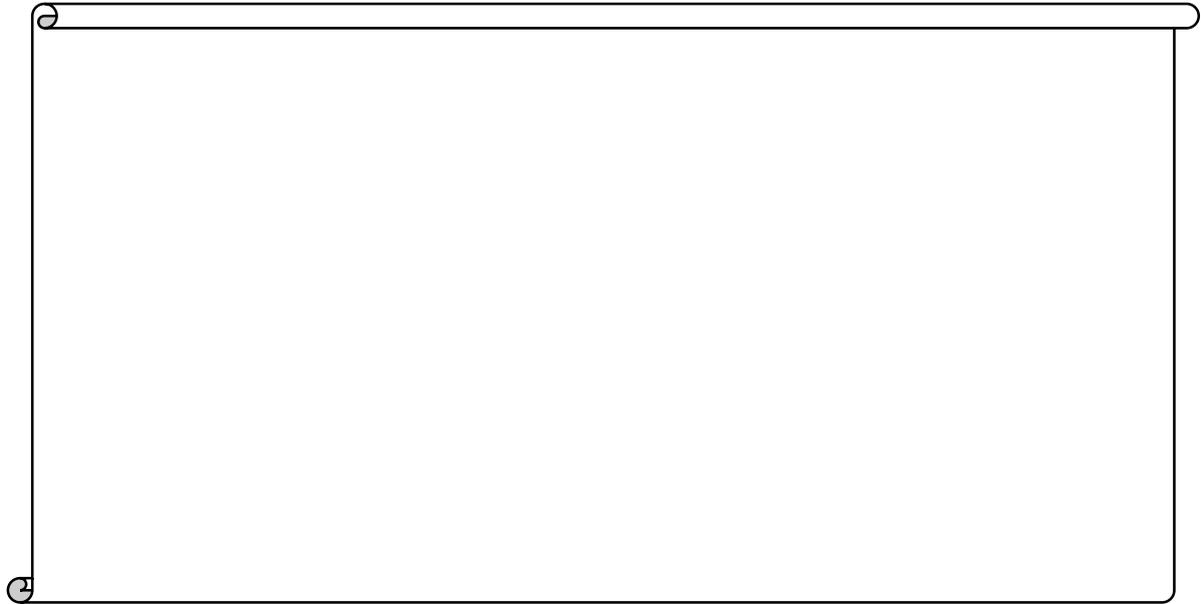
Here's a really interesting article about a new league for younger basketball players in China. The article is on the website The Chairman's Bao, which your teachers may have used in class. Click on the link below and take the following steps to ensure that you get the most out of this important learning resource.



Tick each step as you complete it on the table below. Remember, **repetition, repetition, repetition** is a key trick for successful language learners. You'll listen to the short audio five times (don't worry it's only one minute long!) *but don't skimp on it!*

<http://bit.ly/TCB-Basketball>

Tasks	✓
Listen to the audio without looking at the text. Jot down in pinyin any words you recognize in the scroll below.	
Listen to the audio again while reading the text.	
Listen to it again while reading the text.	
Hover your mouse over the words you don't know; the website will give you the translation.	
Listen to it again while reading the text.	
Click on 'Comprehension Questions' and do the exercises.	
Choose five Chinese characters that are new to you, use the Stroke Order and Writing Tool to check and practice stroke order for those characters.	
Listen to the audio one more time without reading the text. Enjoy how much better you understand it now!	



☆ Task 4 complete

Task 5: How tall is he? 他多高? tā duō gāo?

Task 5a

China's most famous basketball star, Yao Ming (姚明 yáo míng) towered above his American team mates. He stands 2.29 m tall, that's 7ft 6in.



Research the answers to the following questions.

1. When and where was Yao Ming born?

2. Which US team did Yao Ming play for?

3. In which 3 Olympic Games did Yao Ming play for China?

There are two ways of asking about someone's height in Chinese:

你身高多少? *nǐ shēn gāo duō shǎo?*

你多高? *nǐ duō gāo?*

Here are some ways of replying to that question

我身高六英尺	wǒ shēn gāo liù yīng chǐ	"I'm six feet tall"
我身高五英尺八	wǒ shēn gāo wǔ yīng chǐ bā	"I'm five foot eight"
我身高一米八	wǒ shēn gāo yī mǐ bā	"I'm 1.8 metres tall"
我身高一米八左右	wǒ shēn gāo yī mǐ bā zuǒ yòu	"I'm about 1.8 metres tall"

If you asked Yao Ming that question he would reply:

“我身高兩米二九” “I'm 2.29 m tall”

Notice how you leave out the
十 in the word for 29!

Similarly, 1.16 would be
兩米一六

This is because they are like
decimal places after the
number.

Task 5b: 你多高?

Write your height in Chinese below:

Task 5c

The table below lists five famous basketball players. Use the information to answer the questions below in Chinese. Use full sentence answers.

名字	他多高?
Yao Ming	2.29m
LeBron James	2.03 m
Michael Jordan	1.98m
Shaquille O'Neal	2.16m
Stephen Curry	1.91m

1. Shaquille O'Neal 身高多少?

2. Michael Jordan 比谁高?

3. 谁比 LeBron James 高?

4. 最高的是谁?

5. 最矮的是谁?

Task 5d: Cool nicknames

There are millions of fans of basketball in China and they follow the American NBA league with the same devotion as fans all around the world. Chinese fans love giving stars nicknames. They can be descriptions, puns or word-plays on foreign names.

For example, Shaquille O'Neal is 大鲨鱼 (*dà shā yú* "big shark") and Giannis Antetokounmpo is 字母哥 (*zì mǔ gē*, "alphabet bro")... can you guess why!?

Here's a four-minute clip about the Chinese nicknames for LeBron James. Watch it and answer the following questions:

<http://bit.ly/LeBron-China>

1. Two Chinese terms for the English word 'nickname' come up in the clip. What are they?

2. What is Le Bron's Chinese nickname and why?

3. Some people also call him 老北京 even though he's not from Beijing. Why?

4. Do you have a favourite sports or pop star with an international following? Find out his or her Chinese nickname and write it here.

5. Did you catch that phrase for ‘he’s a legend!’ That’s a good expression to add to your Chinese vocabulary. Write it on a post-it and memorize it!



☆ Task 5 complete	
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Task 6: Basketball on Screen

When a new reality show hit Chinese TV screens in August 2018, it attracted over 51 million views in the space of four days. “Dunk of China” (这就是灌篮 *Zhè jiù shì guàn lán*; literally “This is Slam Dunk”) had a second season in 2019.

Task 6a

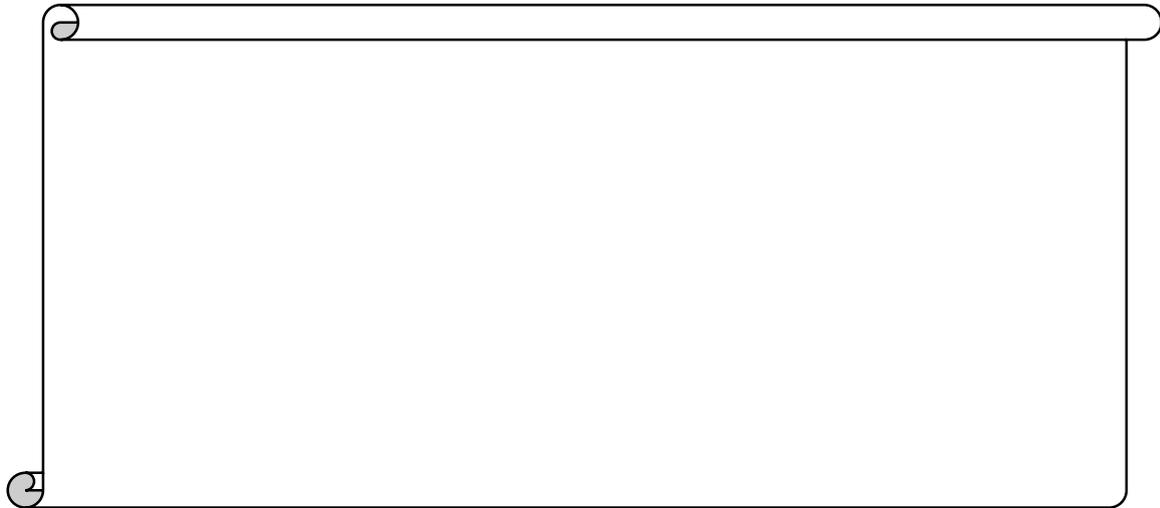
1. What does the character 灌 *guàn* mean by itself?

2. Write ‘51 million’ in Chinese characters.

Task 6b

Watch the first five minutes of this episode of Dunk China and jot down any Chinese words or expressions that you recognize (you can use pinyin if you prefer):

<http://bit.ly/DunkChina>



Task 6c



One of the judges on the programme is Jay Chou (周杰伦 *Zhōu Jiélún*). He is not, in fact, a basketball player but a pop star and actor. He's on the show because of a 2008 film he starred in where he played the role of an orphan who trains in a kung fu school and then applies his kung fu skills to basketball. Appropriately, it's called Kung Fu Dunk 功夫灌籃. Here's the English trailer for the movie:

<http://bit.ly/Kung-Fu-Dunk>

Language Tips!

照片里有...

zhàopiàn li yǒu...

"In the photo there is..."



The photo above is a still from the movie. The year the movie was made, 2008, was the year the Olympics were held in Beijing. You can see the Birds Nest Stadium 鸟巢 *niǎo cháo* in the background.

Write **3 sentences** of your own and **3 questions** in Chinese characters about the picture.

Sentences:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Questions:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

☆ Task 6 complete

Task 7: Basketball as a way of expanding opportunity

Now you are going to read and listen to an article on The Chairman's Bao website. It is a little longer than most of the TCB articles in these Y9 projects (two minutes) but you'll find a lot of the vocabulary and sentence patterns will be very familiar. You'll be able to pride yourself that you can handle an HSK Level 3 reading passage.



Many children in rural areas of China struggle to get the same opportunities in education that city kids enjoy. This article is about how one inspired teacher has changed that by introducing basketball into his remote mountain school.

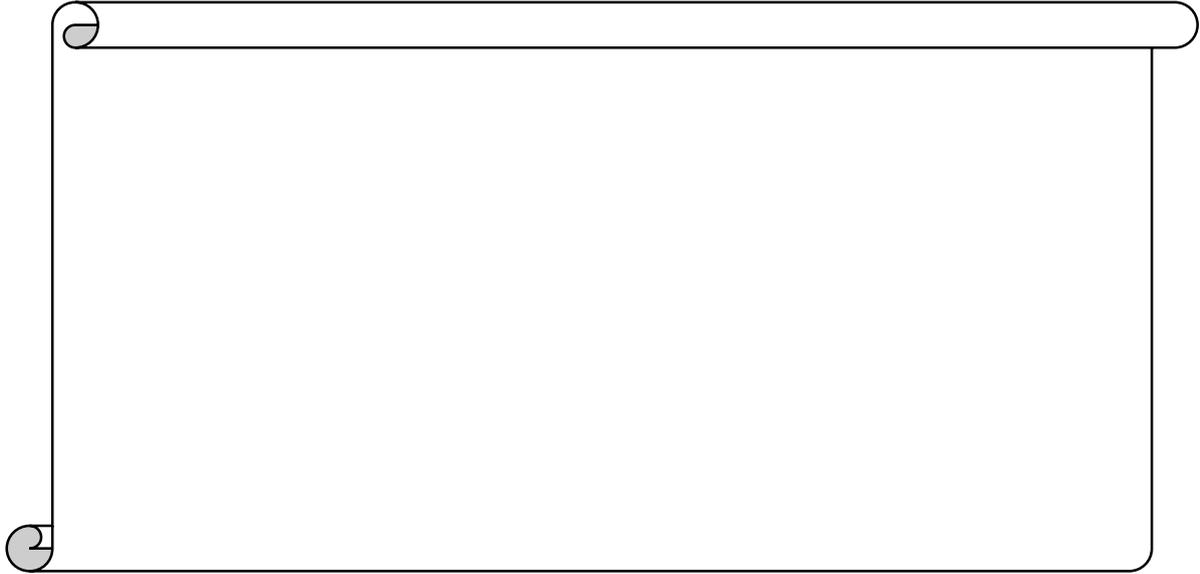
Tick each step as you complete it on the table below. Remember, **repetition, repetition, repetition** is a key trick for successful language learners. You'll listen to the short audio five times *but don't skimp on it!*

<http://bit.ly/TCB-Mountain>

Tick each step as you complete it:

Tasks	✓
Listen to the audio without looking at the text. Jot down in pinyin any words you recognize in the scroll below.	
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Listen to it again while reading the text.	
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Click on 'Comprehension Questions' and do the exercises.	
Choose five Chinese characters that are new to you, use the Stroke Order and Writing Tool to check and practice stroke order for those characters.	

Listen to the audio **one more time** without reading the text. Enjoy how much better you understand it now!



★ Task 7 complete

Task 8: A Match Commentary

This task will give you lots of good vocabulary for talking about or commenting on sports games. First, here's an English language commentary from a school newsletter about their basketball team's recent match:



Last Saturday, our school's U16 basketball team played Red Hill School's U16 team. The score was very close. Because Red Hill School are the top team in the U16 league, we knew the match was going to be tough. In the first quarter, our team were 11:8 up, leading by 3 points. However, by the last quarter the score was 27:29, the other side was ahead 2 points. The spectators were very tense. Right up until the final whistle, both teams played hard, but Red Hill's star player, Louie, dunked. The final score was our team 38, Red Hill 39, our opponents won by only one point! That was really disappointing.

Task 8a

Here's that same report in Chinese. There are ten characters missing. Read it carefully with the English and try to work out what the missing characters might be. Highlighted characters are in the glossary below.

上个星____六，我们学校的 U16 篮球队对阵了红山学校的 U16 队。比分很接近。____为红山学校球____是 U16 联赛的第一名，我们都____道比赛会非____激烈。第一节我们队的得分是 11 比 8，领先 3 分。但____到了最____一节，得分是 27 ____ 29，对方领先 2 分。观众都很紧张。一直到终场哨响，两____队都打____很努力，但是红山学校队的明星球员，Louie，扣篮了。最终得分是我们队 38，红山学校队 39，对方只领先 1 分！真令人失望！

对阵 *duì zhèn* "to play against"

联赛 *liánsài* "league"

激烈 *jīliè* "intense, tough"

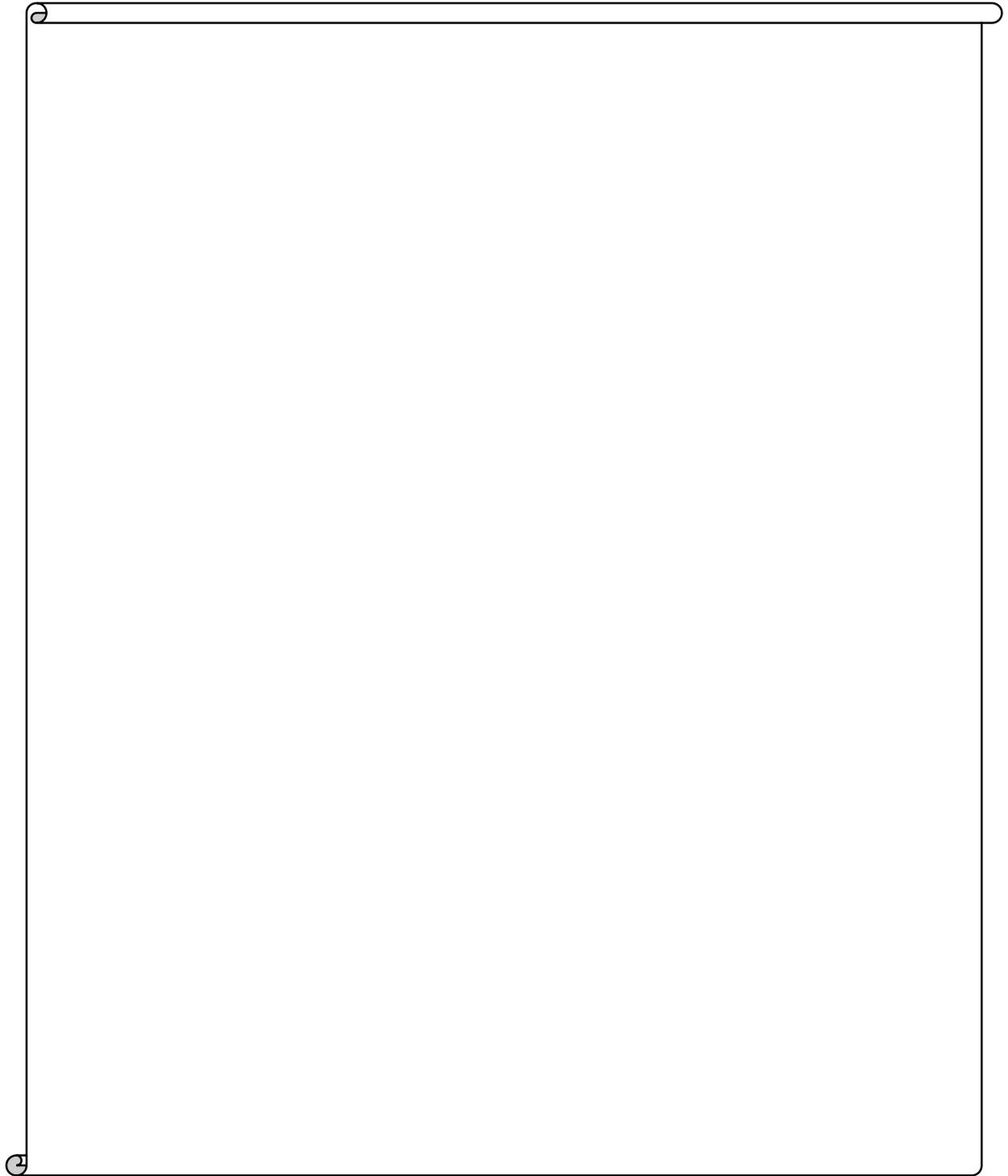
领先 *lǐngxiān* "to be in the lead"

观众 *guānzhòng* "spectators"

终场哨响 *zhōngchǎng shàoxiǎng* "final whistle"

Task 8b: Now it's your turn!

Using some of the words and sentence patterns from the commentary above as well as sports vocabulary you already know, write a commentary in Chinese characters about a sports match. It doesn't need to be basketball, or even a match that really happened. Enjoy the challenge and share your paragraph with your classmates. Maybe your school newsletter will be so impressed they'll print it in Chinese! Aim high, for about 250 characters.



★	Task 8 complete	
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Task 9: Reviewing this project

Which tasks in this project did you find most interesting and why? Which tasks were the hardest? Which task did you not enjoy doing and why?

Complete the following three sentences **in Chinese characters**. You'll find some useful vocabulary in the box below:

1. 我觉得最有意思的练习是 task number..... 因为

.....

2. 我觉得最难的练习是 task number..... 因为

.....

3. 我不喜欢 task number..... 因为

.....

Language Tips!

练习	<i>liàn xí</i>	“task/exercise”
难	<i>nán</i>	“difficult”
有意思	<i>yǒu yì si</i>	“interesting”
没意思	<i>méi yì si</i>	“boring”



Your Achievements

Congratulations on completing 1 MEP Project!

- You've gained an insight into one of the most popular sports in China.
- You've learnt lots of new vocabulary and expressions that you can apply not just to basketball but to other sports as well.
- You've explored the way Chinese people play with words to make nicknames.
- You've practised using expressions related to height,
- And you've taken your first step to being a sports journalist in Chinese!

***If your teacher
signs you off,
you will collect 1
Badge!***