

Mini-Golf, Big Fun

Happy National Mini-Golf Day! On the second Saturday in May, you can play mini-golf in honor of this special day. Mini-golf is a fun game for family and friends. But how did it start?

In the late 1800s in Scotland, golf was very popular. But people wanted to play a shorter game. They wanted to be able to play in a smaller space. So they invented mini-golf. The first course was built at St. Andrews in Scotland.

The first American course was made in 1917 in North Carolina. James Well Barber built it in his back yard. In the 1920s, many people didn't have enough space in their back yards. They built mini-golf courses on their roofs instead.

During the Great Depression, people didn't have much money. They played mini-golf in the streets. They used any materials that they could find to build their courses, like trash can lids and tin cans. At this time, over 4 million people in the U.S. played mini-golf.

Don Clayton changed the game of mini-golf in the 1950s. He made a course with very short holes and metal rails. He did this so that players could get a hole-in-one.

Don's style of mini-golf courses spread all over the country. Then they spread all over the world. People added fun mechanical obstacles to make the



shots harder. Obstacles like flashing lights and twirling windmills were popular.

Over the years, mini-golf courses have gotten more and more complicated. They've also gotten more and more fun! In Scandinavia, where they have long nights and short days during the winter, they invented glow-in-the-dark golf. Who knows what they'll think of next!



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NAME: _____ DATE: _____

1. Where was the first mini-golf course built?
 - a. In North Carolina
 - b. In Scotland
 - c. On the roof
 - d. In Scandinavia

2. When did people start adding fun obstacles to their mini-golf courses?
 - a. During the Great Depression
 - b. In the 1800s
 - c. In the 1950s
 - d. In 1917

3. What did Don Clayton do to help people get a hole-in-one?
 - a. Made the holes short
 - b. Added metal rails
 - c. Used tin cans
 - d. A and C

4. Which of the following was LEAST likely to make mini-golf more fun?
 - a. Adding mechanical obstacles
 - b. Making it glow-in the dark
 - c. Using trash can lids
 - d. Making it easier to get a hole-in-one

Instructions for teachers:

These questions can be used to assess understanding of the reading passage.

The item in bold is the correct answer for each question.

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