

Use the word box to complete the story. Write your answers on the Olympic Log.

## A Sport with a Funny Name! Curling

By Colleen Messina



speed	person	easy	cost
canada	dart	enjoys	coin
board	something	decide	embarrass
granite	phone	enjoy	

**Directions:** Fill in each blank with the word that best completes the reading comprehension.

*Caption: The U.S. Olympic curling team in 2006*

Curling is often (1) \_\_\_\_\_ people do to their hair. But did you know that curling is also an Olympic sport? Olympic curlers don't use rollers and hair gel. They don't style their hair at lightning (2) \_\_\_\_\_ for gold medals. Curling is a sport played on ice.



In curling, two teams play against each other. Each team has four members. The players, or curlers, push a stone into a scoring area. The area looks a little like a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_ ! There is a white dot in its center. This dot is called the button. Curlers use a broom to sweep the ice in front of the stone as it skids along. This helps the stone get to a good position. Then, the team will get a good score!

Curlers wear special shoes. They wear special clothes. They use odd gear. The stone they use is not a regular rock. It looks like a flattened ball. It has a handle on top. It weighs 42 pounds! These stones are made from a kind of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ from Scotland. They are expensive. One stone can (6) \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000.00!

Curling started a long time ago in Scotland. Peasants pushed stones across icy ponds. They got the stones from the river. The word "curling" comes from a Scottish word, curr. This word means "a low rumble." The peasant thought that the stones made a rumbling sound as they slid across the ice.

Curlers have learned that being polite to each other is important! They shake hands before a game. They wish each other "good curling." A (7) \_\_\_\_\_ is tossed to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ which team goes first. Curlers are not supposed to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ each other. They praise each other after a game. One team has a rule that no one can use a cell (10) \_\_\_\_\_ during a game!

Today, curling is in the Olympic Games. Curling is played in at least 35 countries. (11) \_\_\_\_\_ has lots of people who (12) \_\_\_\_\_ this sport. Canada has more curlers than anywhere else. This sport is harder than it looks. One (13) \_\_\_\_\_ who (14) \_\_\_\_\_ curling said, "If curling were (15) \_\_\_\_\_ , they'd call it hockey."