

## Super Bowl 50



photo by Jim Bahn

### Mini Fact:

Super Bowl 50 will be played in the home stadium of the San Francisco 49ers.

Are you looking forward to a special Sunday coming up next week? Super Bowl 50 will be played on Sunday, Feb. 7, in California. It's a big anniversary of the annual game that decides a professional football champion.

The Mini Page takes a timeout to learn more about the Super Bowl.

### Early leagues

The National Football League was founded in 1920. For many years, there was no championship game. The champions were the team that had the best record during each season.



But in 1933, the league split into two divisions, the Eastern and Western divisions. Division winners played a final game to declare a champion.

The American Football League was started in 1960 to challenge the NFL. The two leagues decided to have their champions meet in a game in 1967, after the regular season had ended. The NFL's Green Bay Packers and the AFL's Kansas City Chiefs played in Los Angeles in the first Super Bowl. It was the only Super Bowl that was not sold out. The Packers won, 35-10.

In 1969, the NFL and AFL merged into one league with two conferences, or groups: the American Football Conference and the National Football Conference. Today, the winners of each conference play in the Super Bowl.

### A super name

Lamar Hunt, the original owner of the Kansas City Chiefs, started calling the championship game the Super Bowl, and the name stuck. Each year, a Roman numeral is used to identify the Super Bowl game.\* Do you know what the Roman numeral is for 50? (Find the answer hidden in this issue.)

So far, no team has played in its home stadium. New Orleans and Miami have hosted more Super Bowls than any other cities.

### A big event

Today, the Super Bowl is a huge event. Advertisers pay millions of dollars and create clever new commercials to show to the hundreds of millions of people watching on TV all across the world. Halftime shows feature popular singing acts. This year, Coldplay will perform at halftime.

Most Super Bowl fans will watch on TV, but thousands will get to see the game in person. The top ticket price for the 1967 Super Bowl was \$12. Today, people pay in the tens of thousands of dollars for a Super Bowl ticket!



The winning team of the Super Bowl receives the Vince Lombardi trophy, named after the coach of the Green Bay Packers, who won the first two Super Bowls.

L = 50

### Super Bowl fun facts

- The highest winning score in a Super Bowl was 55, earned by the San Francisco 49ers against the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXIV in 1990.
  - The Pittsburgh Steelers have won more Super Bowls than any other team (6).
  - The Super Bowl is played on the first Sunday in February.
  - The "home team" is the NFC team one year and the AFC team the next.
  - Members of winning teams receive a Super Bowl ring. Each is designed a little differently, but all include jewels and the words "World Champions."
- Pictured is the New England Patriots ring from Super Bowl XLIX.
- Quarterbacks Terry Bradshaw (Pittsburgh Steelers), Joe Montana (San Francisco 49ers) and Tom Brady (New England Patriots) have won the most Super Bowls, with four each.
  - There are 120 footballs used in each Super Bowl game.



photo courtesy nfl.com

### Resources



#### On the Web:

- NFLRush.com
- usat.ly/1NnqsvS

#### At the library:

- "Super Bowl" by James Buckley Jr.
- "What Is the Super Bowl?" by Dina Anastasio

\* This is the first Super Bowl that will use the Arabic number (50) instead of a Roman numeral.

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the Super Bowl are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



- ADVERTISING,
- AMERICAN, BOWL,
- CHAMPION,
- CONFERENCE,
- DIVISION, FOOTBALL,
- GAME, LEAGUE,
- NATIONAL, NUMERAL,
- QUARTERBACK, RING,
- ROMAN, SCORE,
- SUPER, TEAM, TELEVISION, TICKET, TROPHY.

W	V	G	N	I	S	I	T	R	E	V	D	A	N	D
L	E	T	E	L	E	V	I	S	I	O	N	A	A	I
L	M	E	C	N	E	R	E	F	N	O	C	E	T	V
A	A	K	H	B	M	U	Y	S	I	R	R	I	I	S
B	G	C	Z	A	G	H	U	P	R	O	I	O	O	S
T	B	I	E	A	P	P	M	E	M	N	M	C	N	I
O	O	T	E	O	E	A	M	A	G	L	Q	S	A	O
O	W	L	R	R	H	A	N	U	M	E	R	A	L	N
F	L	T	K	C	A	B	R	E	T	R	A	U	Q	X

## Cook's Corner

### Nutty Cheese Log

#### You'll need:

- 1 (8-ounce) package reduced-fat cream cheese
- 1/2 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese

- 1/3 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans, divided
- crackers



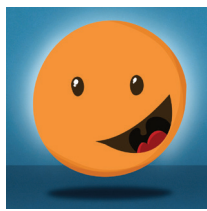
\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

#### What to do:

1. Allow cream cheese to soften in a bowl.
2. Mix in other cheeses and 1/4 cup chopped pecans.
3. Using a sheet of aluminum foil, shape cheese mixture into an 8-inch log.
4. Roll log in remaining chopped pecans.
5. Chill to combine flavors. Serve with crackers.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. where food is digested (7) \_\_\_\_\_
  2. it heats your house (7) \_\_\_\_\_
  3. what you eat after supper (7) \_\_\_\_\_
  4. not empty (4) \_\_\_\_\_
  5. someone attending school (7) \_\_\_\_\_
  6. crunchy green vegetable (6) \_\_\_\_\_
  7. what you color with (6) \_\_\_\_\_
- |      |     |      |      |
|------|-----|------|------|
| STOM | ERT | DENT | DE   |
| LE   | ON  | SS   | LL   |
| FU   | ACH | CE   | NACE |
| FUR  | STU | CRAY | RY   |

Answers: stomach, furnace, dessert, full, student, celery, crayon.

## Mini Jokes



- Eli:** What did the football coach say to the broken vending machine?  
**Tom:** "Give me my quarterback!"
- Alex:** What should a football team do if the field is flooded?  
**Aaron:** Bring on their subs!

## Eco Note



Even a tiny leak in your home can waste a lot of water. A leak that fills up a coffee cup in 10 minutes will waste more than 3,000 gallons of water in a year! The biggest leakers are faucets and toilets. Fixing leaky plumbing can save up to 22 gallons of water every day!

adapted with permission from "The New 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth" by The Earthworks Group, Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com)

## For later:

Is your favorite team playing in Super Bowl 50? Ask your classmates and family who they'll be rooting for.

## Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching\\_guides.html](http://bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching_guides.html)

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