

The History of the NFL Scoring System

Field Trip/Video Conference Program



Fieldtrip / Video Conference Experience Outline:

10 minutes – Welcome

20 minutes – Discussion of the History of the NFL scoring system

10 minutes – Newspaper clippings of scores from 1892, 1897, 1904, 1909, 1912

10 minutes – Questions and Answers

Instructions:

Please use the following lesson to help prepare your students for a more meaningful and interactive educational experience.



Subject: Mathematics & Language Arts

Lesson Title: The History of the NFL Scoring System

Goals/Objectives:

- Students will:
 - Review addition facts
 - Practice problem solving skills
 - Read and interpret a chart
 - Demonstrate knowledge of language structure and conventions

Common Core Standards:

- **Mathematics:** Operations and Algebraic Thinking; Number Operations and Algebra
- **Language Arts:** Integration of Knowledge and Ideas; Production and Distribution of Writing; RI- Key Ideas and Details

Methods/Procedures:

Prior to the Program

- Students will read *The NFL Scoring System chart* and use problem solving to determine the potential different outcomes of Super Bowl V.
- Students will use *The NFL Scoring System Chart* and use problem solving skills to determine the various combinations of how teams could arrive at different point totals.
- Students will compile a list of questions to be asked during the program.

During the Program

- Students will learn about the rich history of professional football.
- Students will learn historical reason why the Pro Football Hall of Fame is located in Canton, Ohio.
- Students will also learn about why different rules changes occurred and how it affected the growth of professional football.

After the Program

- Students will complete a writing assignment following the lesson.
- Students can create algebraic equations to help determine scores of games played in various years.



Materials:

- The NFL Scoring System Chart
- Super Bowl V Worksheet
- Scoring Combinations Worksheet
- ProFootballHOF.com

Assessment:

- Written Assignment



The NFL Scoring System

From 1892 – to Present

The values of scoring have undergone several changes since the birth of professional football in 1892. So much so that if the scoring values that were in place close to 110 years ago were still the standard, it would have a dramatic effect on the outcome of many of today's games.

In fact, had an older scoring system been in place in the early '70s, the outcome of Super Bowl V would have been completely different. Baltimore Colts' first-year kicker Jim O'Brien booted a 32-yard field goal in the waning seconds of that title matchup against the Dallas Cowboys. His kick broke a tie game and gave the Colts a 16-13 victory for their first Super Bowl championship. Use the chart to determine how the outcome of the game would have been different.

	<u>1892</u>	<u>1897</u>	<u>1904</u>	<u>1909</u>	<u>1912</u>	<u>1994</u>
Field Goal	5	5	4	3	3	3
Touchdown	4	5	5	5	6	6
Point after Touchdown	2	1	1	1	1	1
Two-point Conversion	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2
Safety	2	2	2	2	2	2

1st Qtr.- Clark 14 yard field goal (Dallas)

2nd Qtr. – Clark 30 yard field goal (Dallas)

Unitas 75 yard touchdown pass to Mackey (Baltimore)

Extra point was blocked

Morton 7 yard touchdown pass to Thomas (Dallas)

Extra point was made

3rd Qtr. – Neither team scored

4th Qtr. – Nowatzke with 2 yard touchdown run (Baltimore)

Extra point was made

O'Brien 32 yard field goal (Baltimore)



What would the score have been if the game were played in 1904?

What would the score have been if the game were played in 1909?

What would the score have been if the game were played in 1912?



Scoring Combinations

In 2015, the Green Bay Packers played the Seattle Seahawks in the NFC Championship Game, a game that the Seattle Seahawks won in overtime. The final score of the game was:

Packers - 22

Seahawks - 28

Packers Field Goals = 5 for 15 points

Packers Touchdowns = 1 for 6 points

Extra Point = 1 for 1 point

2-Point Conversions = 0 for 0 points

Packers total = 22 points

Seahawks Field Goals = 0 for 0 point

Seahawks Touchdowns = 4 for 24 points (One occurred in overtime)

Extra Point = 2 for 2 points

2-Point Conversions = 1 for 2 points

Seahawks total = 28 points

Are there other ways the teams could have achieved the same scores? If so, please explain

If no, please explain

What would the score be if the game had been played in 1892? _____

1904? _____

1909? _____

1912? _____



Answer Key

In 2015, the Green Bay Packers played the Seattle Seahawks in the NFC Championship Game, a game that the Seattle Seahawks won in overtime. The final score of the game was:

Packers - 22

Seahawks - 28

Packers Field Goals = 5 for 25 points¹

Packers Touchdowns = 1 for 6 points

Extra Point = 1 for 1 point

2-Point Conversions = 0 for 0 points

Packers total = 22 points

Seahawks Field Goals = 0 for 0 point

Seahawks Touchdowns = 4 for 24 points (One occurred in overtime)

Extra Point = 2 for 2 points

2-Point Conversions = 1 for 2 points

Seahawks total = 28 points

Are there other ways the teams could have achieved the same scores? If so, please explain

Student responses will vary.

If no, please explain

Student responses will vary.

What would the score be if the game had been played in

1892? Packers 31 - Seahawks 18

1904? Packers 25 – Seahawks 15

1909? Packers 20 – Seahawks 15

1912? Packers 22 – Seahawks 21

