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PRINTABLE | GRADES 6-8 · AGES 11–14

Icing Close Reading

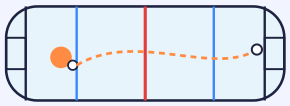
Read the article about hockey's icing rule, then answer. Some answers are stated in the text. Others need evidence and careful reasoning. The rule and history are real. Teams and players on page 2 are made up.

Name _____

Date _____

READING TOOLKIT

Context clue	Central idea	Evidence	Cause & effect	Apply the rule
nearby words that explain a new word	what the whole text is mostly about	the exact sentence that proves it	what happened and why	use the text to make a call



CENTER RED LINE

RULE 81 · OWN HALF TO GOAL LINE

READ THE ARTICLE

All the Way Down the Ice

1 **Icing** stops a team from shooting the puck the length of the ice just to rest or waste time. A player ices the puck by shooting, batting or deflecting it from that player's own half past the other team's **goal line**, without scoring. The **center red line** divides the ice into halves. To avoid icing, a team must **gain the line**: the puck, while on a player's stick, must touch the center red line. After icing, the next **faceoff** is held in the defensive zone of the team that iced the puck.

2 If the puck goes into the net, it is a **goal**, not icing. In the NHL, a team that is **shorthanded** — playing with fewer skaters because of a penalty — may shoot the puck the length of the ice with no whistle. Officials also **wave off** icing if a defending skater other than the goaltender could have played the puck, or if the goaltender leaves the **crease** and moves toward the puck.

3 The rule was written to stop a stall. In the early 1930s, teams that were ahead would shoot the puck the length of the ice to run out the clock. The NHL introduced rules governing icing the puck for the **1937–38** season, so a long dump from a team's own half would stop play and force a faceoff back at the spot where the puck was shot.

4 Even after icing became a whistle, tired players would ice the puck so they could change for fresh teammates. Starting with the **2005–06** season, the NHL closed that loophole: the team that ices the puck is **not permitted to substitute** any players before the next faceoff. Icing still stops play, but the tired line has to stay out and defend the faceoff in its own zone.

5 In **touch icing**, a defender must touch the puck after it crosses the goal line, a chase into the end boards. In **no-touch**, or automatic, icing, play stops when the puck crosses the goal line. The NHL began using **hybrid icing** in the **2013–14** season. A linesman judges who would touch it first, no later than when the first player reaches the end-zone faceoff dots. If the attacker would get there first, play continues. If the defender would, or the race is too close, icing is whistled. The **IIHF**, the group that writes the rules for international hockey, switched to hybrid icing in **2014**. Starting with the **2019–20** NHL season, the team that did not ice the puck chooses which end-zone faceoff spot is used.

ROOKIE

1 According to paragraph 1, which line divides the ice into halves when officials judge icing?

_____

ROOKIE

2 After an icing call, where is the next faceoff held? Use paragraph 1.

_____

STARTER

3 In paragraph 2, the word **shorthanded** most likely means

A sitting on the bench
B playing with fewer skaters because of a penalty
C skating with only one hand on the stick
D playing with an extra attacker

Letter _____

STARTER

4 According to paragraph 3, in what season did the NHL introduce rules governing icing the puck?

_____

PRO

5 Use paragraphs 3 and 5. How many years after the start of the 1937–38 season did the NHL begin using hybrid icing in 2013–14?

WORK SPACE

_____ years

PRO

6 Which sentence best states the **central idea** of the whole article?

A Hockey goalies should never leave the crease.
B Icing stops teams from dumping the puck the length of the ice to stall, and the rule has been updated to stay fair and safer.
C Hybrid icing began in 1937.
D Teams may always change players after icing.

Letter _____

ALL-STAR

7 **Cause and effect:** What loophole did the 2005–06 change close? Give one detail from paragraph 4 as evidence.

_____

_____

CHALLENGE ★

8 A team killing a penalty shoots the puck the length of the ice from its own half. Is this icing in the NHL? Which sentence in paragraph 2 proves it?

_____

_____

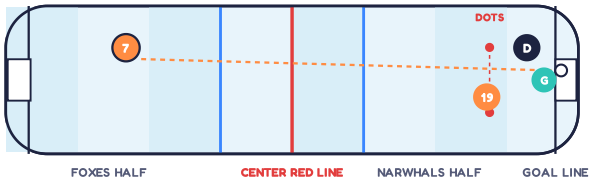
A Make the Call

Each diagram freezes the moment Foxes #7 shoots. The Foxes are at even strength unless the diagram says otherwise. Use the article to make the call.

Cedar Foxes, shooting toward the goal on the right **D = Frost Bay Narwhals defender** **G = Narwhals goaltender**

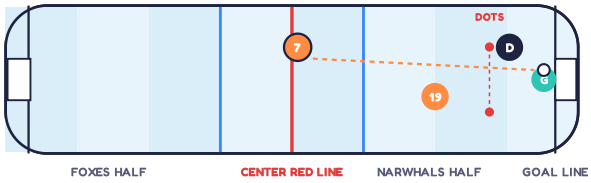
7 = shooter · 19 = Foxes forward racing for the puck · dashed line = puck path

1 **Diagram 1.** Foxes #7 shoots from her own half. The puck crosses the far goal line. A Narwhals defender would reach it first.



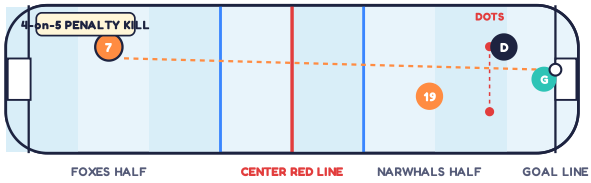
Circle: ICING / NO ICING **Why?** _____

2 **Diagram 2.** Foxes #7 carries the puck until it touches the center red line, then shoots it down the ice.



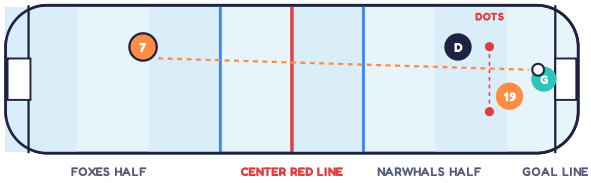
Circle: ICING / NO ICING **Why?** _____

3 **Diagram 3.** The Foxes are shorthanded (killing a penalty). #7 clears the puck the length of the ice.



Circle: ICING / NO ICING **Why?** _____

4 **Diagram 4.** The puck will cross the goal line, but Foxes #19 would touch it first at the end-zone faceoff dots.



Circle: ICING / NO ICING **Why?** _____

B Context Clue Words

Write the word or phrase from the bank that matches each meaning. Use clues in the article. One is not used.

Word bank: gain the line · shorthanded · crease · hybrid icing · faceoff

1 to have the puck touch the center red line while it is on a player's stick

Word _____

2 playing with fewer skaters because of a penalty

Word _____

3 the painted area directly in front of the goal

Word _____

4 a version of icing in which the official judges who would touch the puck first, no later than the end-zone faceoff dots

Word _____

C Timeline & Evidence

Put the events in order, then back up the author's claim with a detail from the text.

1 **Write the letters from earliest to latest.**

A 2013–14: The NHL begins using hybrid icing.

B 1937–38: The NHL introduces rules governing icing the puck.

C 2019–20: The team that did not ice the puck chooses the end-zone faceoff spot.

D 2014: The IIHF switches to hybrid icing.

E 2005–06: A team that ices the puck may not substitute players before the next faceoff.

FIRST	2ND	3RD	4TH	LAST

Use each letter once.

2 Paragraph 4 says the NHL "closed that loophole" in 2005–06. Give **one detail** from paragraph 4 that shows what changed.

_____

_____

BONUS · YOUR TURN

Pick one rule from any sport you would change. Finish this cause-and-effect sentence: **If we changed ____, then ____, because ____.**

1 _____

2 _____

Answer Key (for teachers & parents)

Answers for **Icing Close Reading**, with sample wording where answers may vary. Print pages 1 and 2 for students, and keep this page for checking. For evidence questions, accept a quote or a close paraphrase from the named paragraph. Article facts come from NHL Rule 81, NHL Records (historical rule changes), the NHLPA hybrid-icing announcement (Sept 30, 2013), the IIHF's 2014 rule update and the NHL's 2019–20 rule-change announcement.

Page 1 Problems

1. Answer: **The center red line**
   Paragraph 1: "The center red line divides the ice into halves."
2. Answer: **In the defensive zone of the team that iced the puck**
   Paragraph 1, last sentence.
3. Answer: **B (playing with fewer skaters because of a penalty)**
   The phrase right after the dash defines the word.
4. Answer: **1937–38**
   Paragraph 3: "for the 1937–38 season."
5. Answer: **76 years**
   2013 – 1937 = 76.
6. Answer: **B**
   A is not the main idea. C is false (hybrid icing began in 2013–14). D is false after 2005–06. B covers the whole article.
7. Answer: **Teams could ice the puck to change tired players**
   Evidence: after 2005–06 the icing team "is not permitted to substitute any players before the next faceoff."
8. Answer: **No**
   "a team that is shorthanded … may shoot the puck the length of the ice with no whistle."

A · Make the Call

1. Answer: **Icing**
   #7 shoots from the Foxes' own half. The puck crosses the far goal line and does not go in. A defender would reach it first, so hybrid icing is called.
2. Answer: **No icing**
   #7 gained the line: the puck touched the center red line on her stick, so the shot was not from her own half.
3. Answer: **No icing**
   A shorthanded team may ice the puck in the NHL. Paragraph 2: they "may shoot the puck the length of the ice with no whistle."
4. Answer: **No icing**
   Under hybrid icing, if the attacker would touch the puck first at the end-zone dots, play continues.

Quick score

Page 1 problems	_____ / 8
A · Make the Call	_____ / 4
B · Context Clue Words	_____ / 4
C · Timeline & Evidence	_____ / 2
Total	_____ **/ 18**

Skills practiced

Informational text · Context clues · Central idea · Text evidence · Cause & effect · Sequencing · Applying a rule

Teaching tip: Before Section A, have students underline the two tests in paragraph 1: the shot must come from the shooter's own half (unless the team gained the line) and the puck must cross the far goal line without going in. Diagram 2 catches students who only look at how far the puck travels. **Bonus:** check for a clear cause, effect and reason.

B · Context Clue Words

1. Answer: **gain the line**
2. Answer: **shorthanded**
3. Answer: **crease**
4. Answer: **hybrid icing**

Not used: faceoff

C · Timeline & Evidence

1. Answer: **B, E, A, D, C**
   1937–38 introduction, 2005–06 no-change rule, 2013–14 NHL hybrid, 2014 IIHF hybrid, 2019–20 faceoff-spot choice.
2. Answer: **Answers vary**
   Accept: the icing team may not substitute players, or the tired line has to stay out and defend the faceoff.

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