

Baseball Project Kit

Congratulations! You're going to a baseball game! Use these project ideas to enrich your educational experience. Read through them before you go to make sure you understand the terms and concepts, and to help you determine if you want to expand upon any of them. **You'll find fun facts and printable worksheets at the end of this packet.**

a- elementary level activity b- middle school level activity c- high school level activity

Language Arts

Learn the rules of baseball and practice your writing!

- a. Draw or write the basic rules of baseball. How do the teams score? How many players are on each team? What are the positions called and what do they do?
- b. Write an outline of what happens during a full inning, top and bottom. Include who is at bat, what happens during their at bat, the outs, and any exciting plays.
- c. Imagine you are a sports announcer and write a short narrative based on one of the plays you saw. Include player stats, and try to use language that you heard the real sports announcer using. Do they speak differently and use different tone inflections? Why?

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawing, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Applied Math

Baseball, like most sports, requires a good working knowledge of math!

- a. Go on a shape hunt! Find all the shapes you can, and create a short report with pictures/drawings of the shapes you found, their use, and importance.
- b. Draw a diagram of the baseball diamond including all bases, plates, and mounds. Look up the standard distances and include those on our diagram.
- c. Calculate how long it takes the ball to reach the batter from the pitcher's mound based on the speed of pitch and distance. How much time does the batter have to swing? Do the start swinging before the ball leaves the pitcher?

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, calculator or smartphone (optional)

Submission: Your calculations, estimations, and conclusions, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Science

Physics is important in baseball too! Explore the science behind playing baseball.

- a. Why do the outfielders have to run around to catch the ball? Why does the ball not always fly in a straight line? Draw or write about your findings.
- b. Pay careful attention to some of the hits. How does the ball's height affect its distance? Does it matter how hard the ball was hit? What are the main characteristics of a hit which determine where the ball will go? Draw or write about your findings.
- c. Do some research on different pitches and why they are different. How do the pitcher's finger placement on the seams affect the way the ball travels through the air? Why? Write a short essay on the physics of pitching.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your drawings, diagrams, maps, or designs, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Social Studies

Baseball has a rich past that has been intertwined with many important events in our country's history. Take time to explore the history a little deeper!

- a. When did baseball start and how? Draw or write about your findings.
- b. Draw a timeline of important baseball events. Include other events in U.S. History on your timeline to see how baseball changed with our society.
- c. Research one event in baseball's history which made national headlines. When did it happen? Why? Who was involved? Why did it make big headlines? Write a short essay about your findings.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawings, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

FUN FACTS

- The New York Yankees have won 26 World Series titles, which is more than any other team.
- Former Yankees right fielder Mickey Mantle holds the record for most career home runs (18) and RBI (40) in World Series history.
- The base most stolen in a baseball game is second base.
- The unofficial anthem of American baseball, “Take Me Out to the Ballgame,” is traditionally sung during the middle of the 7th inning. It was written in 1908 by Jack Norworth and Albert von Tilzer, both of whom had never been to a baseball game.
- The life span of a major league baseball is 5–7 pitches. During a typical game, approximately 70 balls are used.
- Baseball’s L.A. Dodgers, originally founded in Brooklyn, are named after the legendary skill that that local residents showed at “dodging” the city’s trolley streetcar system.
- Baseball gloves have evolved more than any other piece of the sport’s equipment.
- The oldest baseball park still in use is Fenway Park, the home field of the Boston Red Sox, which debuted in 1912.
- The New York Yankees were the first baseball team to wear numbers on their backs, in the 1920s. They initially wore numbers based on the batting order. Babe Ruth always hit third, so he was number 3.
- Visiting teams wear (at least mostly) gray uniforms so fans can easily distinguish between the visiting team and the home team. The tradition dates back to the late 1800s when travelling teams did not have time to launder their uniforms and, consequently, wore gray to hide the dirt.
- Hot dogs are the most popular ballpark food item. Baseball fans ate 21,357,316 hot dogs and 5,508,887 sausages during the 2014 major league season. That is enough hot dogs to stretch from Dodger Stadium in LA to Wrigley Field in Chicago.
- The most valuable baseball card ever is the 1909 Honus Wagner T206 baseball card, worth about \$2.8 million.

Baseball

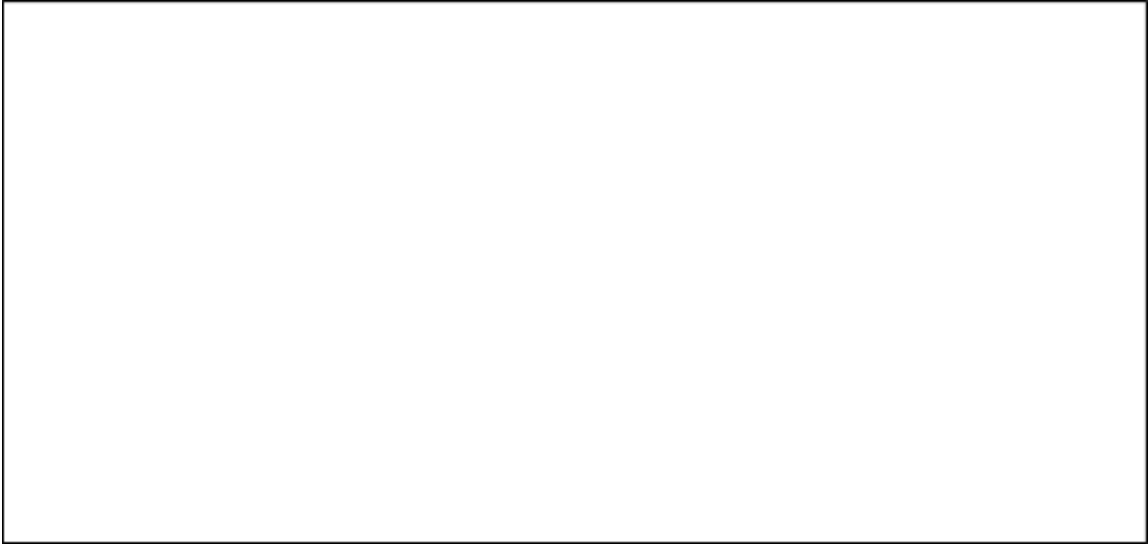
1. Draw a picture of the stadium.



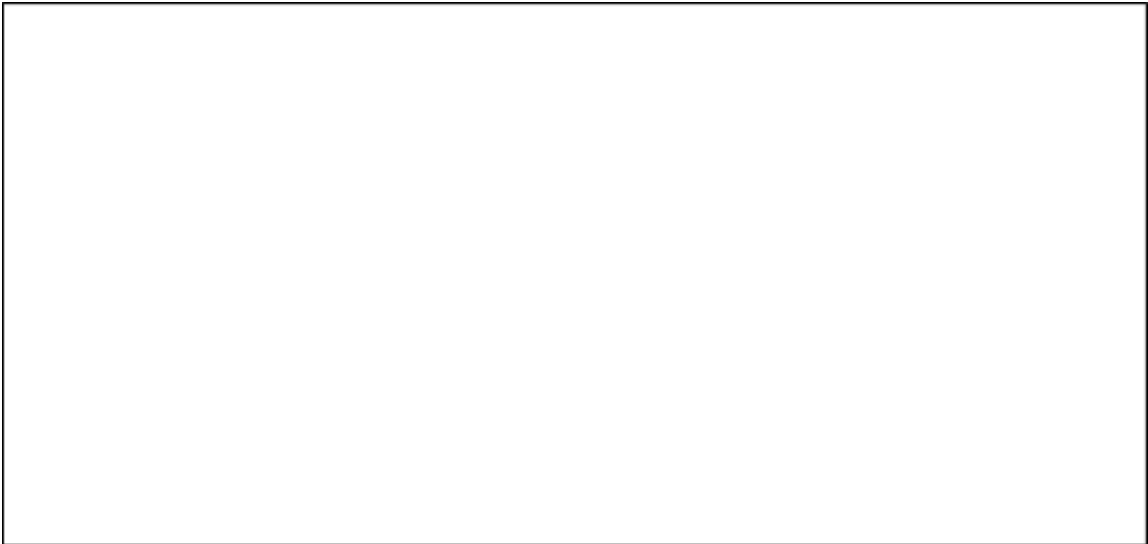
2. Describe your favorite part of the game and why.

3. What is one thing you learned about baseball's rules?

4. Draw or describe one example of stadium engineering you saw.



5. Describe or draw one play that was really exciting.



6. Explain the purpose of gate and seat numbers at the stadium.

BONUS:

Choose one of the players and learn more about his life? Where is he from? How long has he been playing? What position does he play? Can you find out how much money he makes? Does he have a family?

Write all the interesting things you found out.

