**Baseball**

**History of baseball**

No one is exactly sure how baseball began, but it seems to have its roots in the English game called "rounders" or "four-old-cat." This game was published in a children's magazine with the title "Base-ball" in 1760 and shows players standing at bases; one holding a ball. Rounders had many of the same features as baseball has today. The one major difference was that in rounders the fielder put the batter out by hitting him with the ball.

Baseball became an organized sport in the 1840s and 1850s. People even played it during the Civil War. In this print you can see Union soldiers playing a baseball game in a Confederate prisoner-of-war camp in North Carolina.

Many early baseball teams were formed in New York City and Brooklyn. By 1860, baseball had replaced the British game of cricket as America's most popular game. At this time, baseball was an amateur sport, which meant that players were not paid to play.

The first all-professional baseball team was the Cincinnati Red Stockings. It was considered a bold move to decide to openly pay players to play baseball, and it can be credited to Club President Aaron B. Champion, who came up with the idea. In 1869, the Reds' player-manager Harry Wright, known as the "Father of Professional Baseball," and his team toured the country and won 60 games without a single loss. Although the National Association didn't want to support the professional baseball movement, they were overruled. Major League baseball in America had begun.

**The field**

In the next slides im going to explain you basic rules of baseball but before that i must show you the baseball field because then It will be easier for you to understand the rules.

The game of baseball is played on a baseball field. Another name for the baseball field is the "diamond" because of the shape of the infield.

*The Infield*

The infield is the area from the grass line in to home plate. It includes all the bases and is where most of the action in the game of baseball takes place.

*Bases*

The bases are perhaps the most important part of the baseball field. There are four bases: home plate, first base, second base, and third base. The bases form a diamond or square starting with home plate. While standing at home plate and looking at the picture, first base is 90 degrees to the right and 90 feet away. Third base is to the left and second base is between first and third. All the bases are 90 feet apart for Major League baseball. For little league baseball they are 60 feet apart.

*Pitcher's Mound*

In the middle of the infield diamond is the pitcher's mound. This is a raised area of dirt with a pitcher's rubber or plate in the middle. Pitchers must keep their foot on the rubber when throwing a pitch. The pitcher's rubber is 60'6" from home plate in the majors and is 46 feet from home plate in little league.

*Fair and Foul*

The first base and third base lines extend from home plate all the way to the outfield fence. These lines determine if a hit is fair or foul. The area between (and including) the foul lines is fair territory, while anything outside them is foul.

*Batter's Box*

The batter's box is an rectangle on each side of the plate. Batter's must be in the batter's box when they hit the ball. If you want to leave the batter's box, you must call time out and get permission from the umpire or you may be called out. If you step on the line or out of the box when you hit the ball, you will be called out. The batter's box is 4 feet wide by 6 feet long in the Major Leagues. It is generally 3 feet wide by 6 feet long in little league and some youth leagues may not have the lines drawn out.

*Catcher's Box*

The catcher must be in the catcher's box during a pitch. It is a balk if the catcher leaves the box before the pitcher releases the pitch.

*Outfield*

Between the grass line and the home run fence is the outfield. This is a large area covered by three players. The distance to the home run fence, or outfield wall, is not set by the rules and varies from ballpark to ballpark. In major leagues the fence is generally around 350 to 400 feet from home plate. In little league, it is usually around 200 feet from home plate.

**Player positions**

There are nine fielding positions in baseball. Each position conventionally has an associated number, for use in scorekeeping by the official scorer:

1 (pitcher) The pitcher is the most important person in the game and will have the most impact on whether a team wins or loses. The pitcher, along with the catcher, is involved in every play. To be a good pitcher you need to have a strong arm and be able to throw the ball accurately. If you can't throw strikes, you will have a tough time pitching, 2 (catcher), The main job of the catcher is to catch pitches and to help call the game. The catcher is one of the most important players on defense as they are involved in every play. 3 (first baseman), 4 (second baseman), 5 (third baseman), 6 (shortstop), 7 (left fielder) 8 (center fielder), and 9 (right fielder). Collectively, these positions are usually grouped into three groups: the outfield (left field, center field, and right field), the infield (first base, second base, third base, and shortstop), and the battery (pitcher and catcher). Traditionally, players within each group will often be more able to exchange positions easily (that is, a second baseman can usually play shortstop well, and a center fielder can also be expected to play right field); however, the pitcher and catcher are highly specialized positions and rarely will players at other positions play there.

**Basic rules of baseball**

Baseball is played with 2 teams of 40 players, with 9 players taking to the field at any one time. The object of the game is for your team to score more runs than the opposing team. To score a run, a player must hot the ball between the foul lines and across three bases and back home. A hit outside these lines is classed as a 'foul ball' and the batter is not allowed to run. The essence of the game is between the pitcher of one team against the batter of the other team. As mentioned before, the batters job is to hit the ball between the foul lines but the pitchers job is to get the batter out by throwing into the strikezone. This is an imaginary box thatť's the width of home plate and roughly between the batters armpits and knees. If the pitcher throws the ball through this area and the batter miss the ball or doesnt do anything it's a strike. If the batter swings and misses any ball even if the thrown bal lis outside of the strike zone it's also a strike. If the batter hits the ball outside the foul lines it can be a 1st or 2nd Strike only. And obviously, three strikes means you're out! A pitch outside this area is called a 'ball'. Four balls against a batter and he gets to walk to first base. That sounds simple enough, but there are 3 other ways for a team to get you out. Firstly, if the batter hits the ball along the ground the opposing team can throw the ball to the base he is running to. If the ball beats the batter to the base - he is out. A batter can be tagged out whilst running between the bases. If he hits the ball and the ball is caught in the air by the opposing team he's also out. Once three outs have been made, their half of the inning is over and the other team gets to bat. Once both teams have batted this is known as an inning, the game is played over 9 innings. There are no ties in baseball, so if the score is tied after 9 innings, extra innings will be played to determine the winner. That's basically it but there's a few other rules you'll need to understand or going to a game.

For example: Home Run — If a batter hits the ball out of the park between the foul lines, the batter (and anyone standing on the bases) get to walk freely around the bases and back to home. All runs score.

Stealing bases — To help move the batters along the bases some players will try and make a run for the next base. This is a risky gamble, as the opposing team will be prepared for this and will try and get you out. If the batter is caught out, he is 'caught stealing'. If a catcher misses or drops the ball, the batter can try and steal first base.

Tagging up — If the ball is caught in the air: any players standing on the bases must start from that base before running for the next one.

Ground rule double — If in the rare instance a ball is hit onto the ground and leaves the ballpark, the batter automatically walks to 2nd base.

Double play — This is where the ball is hit in play and the defending team gets two outs usually by way of throwing to one base, and then another.

**Equipment**

*Base. ball*

The ball used in baseball is between 9 and 9.25 inches in circumference. It weighs between 5 and 5.25 ounces. The ball is made with a cork center which is then wrapped tightly with thread and covered with leather.

*Base. Bat*

A baseball bat can be made from wood or metal. Only wooden bats are allowed in professional games, such as Major League Baseball games. A bat can be no more than 106.7cm (42in) long, and the barrel, or thick part, must be perfectly round. The most popular type of wooden bat is the Louisville Slugger which is made of ash trees.

*Glove*

The baseball glove is designed to help catch the ball and protect your hand. You wear the glove on the opposite of your throwing hand. So if you throw with your right hand, you wear your glove on your left hand. Gloves are made of leather and have webbing between the thumb and forefinger. This webbing is where the ball is caught most of the time.

*Helmets*

Batters wear a plastic helmet. It is an important piece of equipment, as players can be seriously injured by baseballs pitched (thrown) at high speeds.

**Major league baseball**

Major League Baseball is the top level of professional baseball in the United States and Canada. Baseball and the MLB has been one of the major sports and forms of entertainment for many years in the United States. This is why its also called America's "National Pastime".

The Major League baseball season is the longest of the major American sports at 162 games. The season starts in April and ends in early October. Eight teams, four from each league, get into the playoffs. The first match-ups are best of five games, meaning the first team with 3 wins moves on. The next match-ups are best of seven games as well as the final championship between the winners of the two the leagues, the World Series.

At one point, balls that went through the outfield fence or bounced over it were called home runs. Today a ball that bounces over is called a ground rule double or two bases. Nolan Ryan holds the record for the most strike outs. Cal Ripken Jr. is called the Iron Man because he played 2,632 consecutive games. Official MLB baseballs have 108 stitches each. They are stitched by hand. The longest baseball game in history lasted eight hours and 6 minutes. It went for 25 innings! The average baseball in an MLB game is used on 6 pitches.

**Mlb teams**

There are 30 MLB teams. They are divided up evenly between the American League and National League. The American League has 15 teams and the National League has 15 teams. Each of the leagues is divided into three divisions called the East, the Central, and the West.

Baseball is primarily an American sport. Major league baseball or MLB is a competition among top teams from America and Canada. It is hugely popular there and is called as America's favourite game. Major League Baseball ranks first among domestic professional sports leagues in the world by total attendance (69,625,244).

Outside America it is also played in countries like

Canada

Mexico

In the carribian countries like Puerto rico, Cuba and Dominican republic is baseball the most popular sport

Nicaragua

Panama

Venezuela

Apart from that it is hugely popular and played in Asian countries mainly Japan and South Korea and Taiwan and Phillipines.

But you can find baseball fans all over the world including in Europe and Australia

**Famous players**

**Babe Ruth was ranked as the best baseball player of all time**

**Jackie Robinson was the first afro american player to ever play the major legue baseball**

**Joe di Magio**

**Mike Trout current best player in the game ranked by mlb**