

Some Things You Really Must Know

★ **Good Thing Yale Won!**

It is said that softball was invented in 1887 inside a Chicago, Illinois boat club. It was a cold, winter day and a bunch of Harvard and Yale graduates were chilling inside waiting to hear the score of the Harvard-Yale football game. When it was announced that Yale beat Harvard, a Yale fan was so happy he threw an old boxing glove at his Harvard friend, who quickly tried to hit it back with a stick. This gave George Hancock, a newspaper reporter, an idea. He suggested they play indoor baseball. He made a ball by tying the boxing glove together with the laces and marked off a field inside the boat club with chalk. The final score of the game was 41-40, but more significant is that he invented a game that is played by more than 40 million people in the United States today.

★ **Softballs aren't Soft and Kittens Don't Fly!**

File that under, "DUH-We Knew That Already!" But did you know that, besides playing a game with an old boxing glove, softball has been called Mush Ball and Kitten Ball? No, they did not pitch kittens! Hancock's game grew so fast that fireman in Minneapolis played a version to help them stay in shape. They

made a small field next to the firehouse and played with a small-sized medicine ball and a bat two inches in diameter. It was common among fire departments to give their firehouse a mascot. Lewis Rober, the lieutenant, called the game Kitten Ball, in honor of the firehouse's new kittens that had just been born.

★ **Jackie Robinson and Moses Fleetwood Walker**

Robinson becoming the first modern day African American to play in the Major Leagues in 1947 ranks as one of our country's most significant historical events. Robinson is one of Time Magazine's 100 American Heroes and Major League Baseball retired his number 42 (this means that no player in Major League Baseball will ever wear number 42 again). But did you know that Jackie wasn't the first African American to play in the major leagues? That distinction goes to Moses Fleetwood Walker on May 1, 1884 when Walker caught for the Toledo Blue Stockings against the Louisville Eclipse. Toledo had just joined the American Association, and, although the team was dropped from the league the next year, Walker played in 42 games that season.

CAUGHT LOOKING!

Q – Why does it take so long to run from 2nd base to 3rd base?

A – Because you have to go through a "shortstop"!

Q – Why do some softballs stink?

A – Because they are "foul"!

Q – Where do softball players wash their socks?

A – In the "bleachers"!

Q – Why did the baker go to the baseball field?

A – Because he heard it had a good "batter"!

GRADES 3-6
IN THE DUGOUT

Here are some interesting websites to check out when you need a break. Remember, this is something to do between innings. Don't sit too long in the dugout. We need you at the home plate of life being active and taking your swings. Go get 'em, Slugger!

Softball Website
http://www.softball.org/hall_of_fame/index.asp

The Amateur Softball Association, Softball Hall of Fame located in Oklahoma City, OK

Baseball Websites
<http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/baseball>

This site is the online companion to the Ken Burns created an 18-hour PBS series on the history of baseball.

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/baseball>

























See how a curveball curves, learn the sweet spots on a bat, check your reaction time to a fastball and read an intriguing piece on the history of women's baseball called, "The Girls of Summer."

The outlook wasn't brilliant for the SPARKville team that day.....

The art of scoring baseball was first pioneered by a newspaper reporter named Henry Chadwick around 1874. Chadwick wrote articles for the *New York Times* about baseball games played in New York City. In order to remember what happened, he devised a system for writing down the play for each batter. He'd later use these notes to reconstruct the games for his news story. Next time you go to a softball or baseball game, look for someone who is keeping score.

Below is a batting line-up and scorecard using famous players from baseball history. You are in the line-up playing centerfield! Write your name as batter #8. To play the rest of the game, you will recreate the batter's plays either **Shadow-Ball** style (without equipment), or **Instant Replay** style (round up a friend or two, grab a ball, a bat, gloves and bases (if you got 'em) and head to the park). Each batter's result is written in **bold** and what you do is written in *italics*. Fill in the small diamond to the right of each activity you do.

We pick up the game in the bottom of the 7th inning. Our team is behind 10-2. We need 8 runs to tie and 9 runs to win. It's not looking good, but with you in the line-up, we still have a chance. The first batter is Lou Gehrig. Read the **bold** result for the batter first, then Shadow Ball or Instant Replay the task in *italics*. Good luck, Slugger. We will be in the stands singing, "Take Me Out To The Ball Game," eating peanuts and cheering like crazy!

Batter #	HOME TEAM Batting Line-up	Field Position	7th inning score: THEM - 10 runs. US - 2 runs.		8th inning score: THEM - 10 runs. US - 6 runs.		9th-inning score: THEM -10 runs. US - 7 runs.	
			Bold letters = What the batter did. <i>Italics = What you do!</i>	7th inning	Bold letters = What the batter did. <i>Italics = What you do!</i>	8th inning	Bold letters = What the batter did. <i>Italics = What you do!</i>	9th inning
START 7th INNING HERE →								
1	Lou Gehrig	1B	Flies to center field - 1 out. <i>Chase and catch a high fly ball.</i>	 ○	Doubles off the wall and score from 2nd. <i>Lead off 2nd, run from 2nd to home. Slide home, tag not in time..... SAFE!</i>	 ○		 ○
2	Jackie Robinson	2B	Doubles to left field. <i>Swing and hit a double to left field. Run to 2nd base.</i>	 ○	Error on the shortstop. Gehrig to 3rd. <i>Knock a grounder to short and hustle to 1st.</i>	 ○		 ○
3	Cal Ripken	SS	Grounds to 2nd - 2 outs. Robinson moves to 3rd. <i>Field a grounder and throw to 1st.</i>	 ○	Hits into double play. Inning over! <i>Field a grounder at 3rd, throw around the horn to 2nd then 1st.</i>	 ○		 ○
4	Josh Gibson	C	Triple! Robinson scores on the hit. <i>Swing, hit one down the right-field line, and run like crazy to 3rd base.</i>	 ○	START 9TH INNING HERE →		Singles up the middle. <i>Swing and knock one over the pitcher's mound. Run to 1st.</i>	 ○
5	Roberto Clemente	RF	Squeeze bunt! Gibson scores. <i>Bunt the ball and beat the throw to 1st base.</i>	 ○		 ○	Bloop single to right field. Gibson to 3rd. <i>Swing and hit to right field. Run to 1st. Now steal 2nd base!</i>	 ○
6	Hank Aaron	LF	Home Run! Clemente and Aaron score. <i>Hit one out of the park. Trot around the bases. Tip your cap to the fans as you touch home.</i>	 ○		 ○	Walks to first on a full count (3 balls and 2 strikes). <i>Swing at 2 pitches, look at 3, trot to 1st.</i>	 ○
7	Brooks Robinson	3B	Line drive to shortstop. 3rd out, inning over. <i>Jump as high as you can and snag the ball.</i>	 ○		 ○	High pop foul to 3rd base - 1 out. <i>Run to 3rd base line and make a sensational catch!</i>	 ○
8	your name below	CF	START 8TH INNING HERE →		Line drive double - NICE! <i>Swing and hit it into the gap. Run to 2nd.</i>	 ○	Bases loaded. 1 out. Down by 4 runs. Full count. Here's the pitch...IT'S HIT TO DEEP CENTER...It's going, going, going, GONE. A GRAND SLAM! <i>Jog the bases with hands up in the air!</i>	 ○
9	Cy Young	P		 ○	Strikes out swinging - 1 out. <i>Throw 3 pitches. (Go to the top of the line-up same inning)</i>	 ○		