

LEVELED Book • J

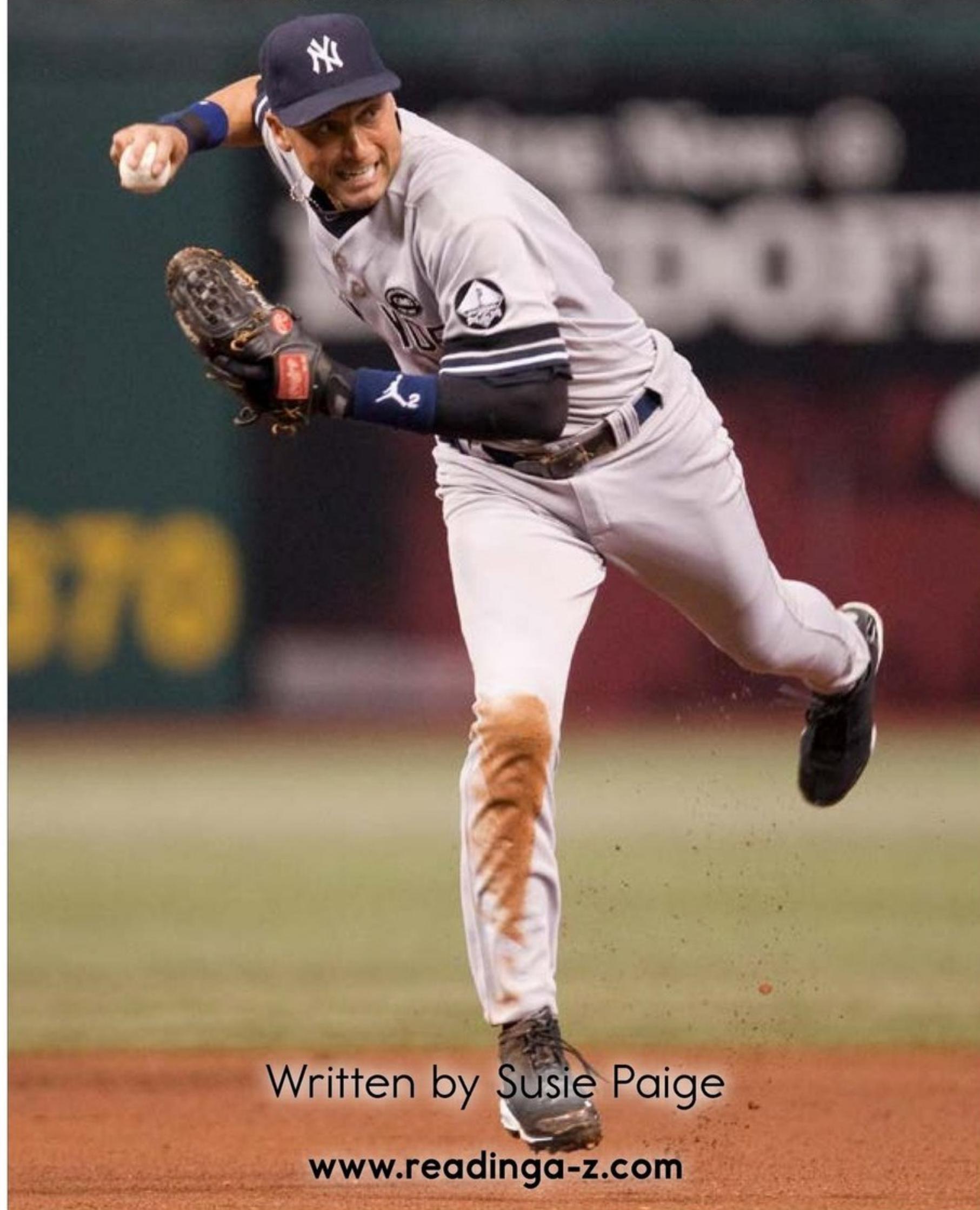
Baseball



Written by Susie Paige

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Focus Question

What is baseball and why is it popular?

Words to Know

athlete

catcher

bases

home runs

batter

pitcher

Front cover: A little league baseball player hits a ball.

Title page: Derek Jeter from the New York Yankees throws the ball to first base.

Page 3: A little league runner makes it safely to base.

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Spectacular Sports
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Correlation

LEVEL J	
Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18



Table of Contents

Let's Play Ball!	4
What Is Baseball?	5
The Story of Baseball	8
Famous Fields	10
Famous Players	12
Everybody's Sport	15
Glossary	16

Baseball Around the World



Baseball is a major sport in Canada, the United States, Argentina, and Japan.

Let's Play Ball!

Baseball is an exciting game that is played all around the world.

Players hit a ball with a bat.

When you learn the rules, you can play the game.

Many communities have teams for young players who are learning the game.



What Is Baseball?

Baseball is a game with two teams.

A team has nine players.

Baseball teams play in an open field.

Players use a bat, a ball, gloves, and four **bases**.





The batter hits the ball and runs to first base. The other team tries to get the runner out before he or she makes it there.

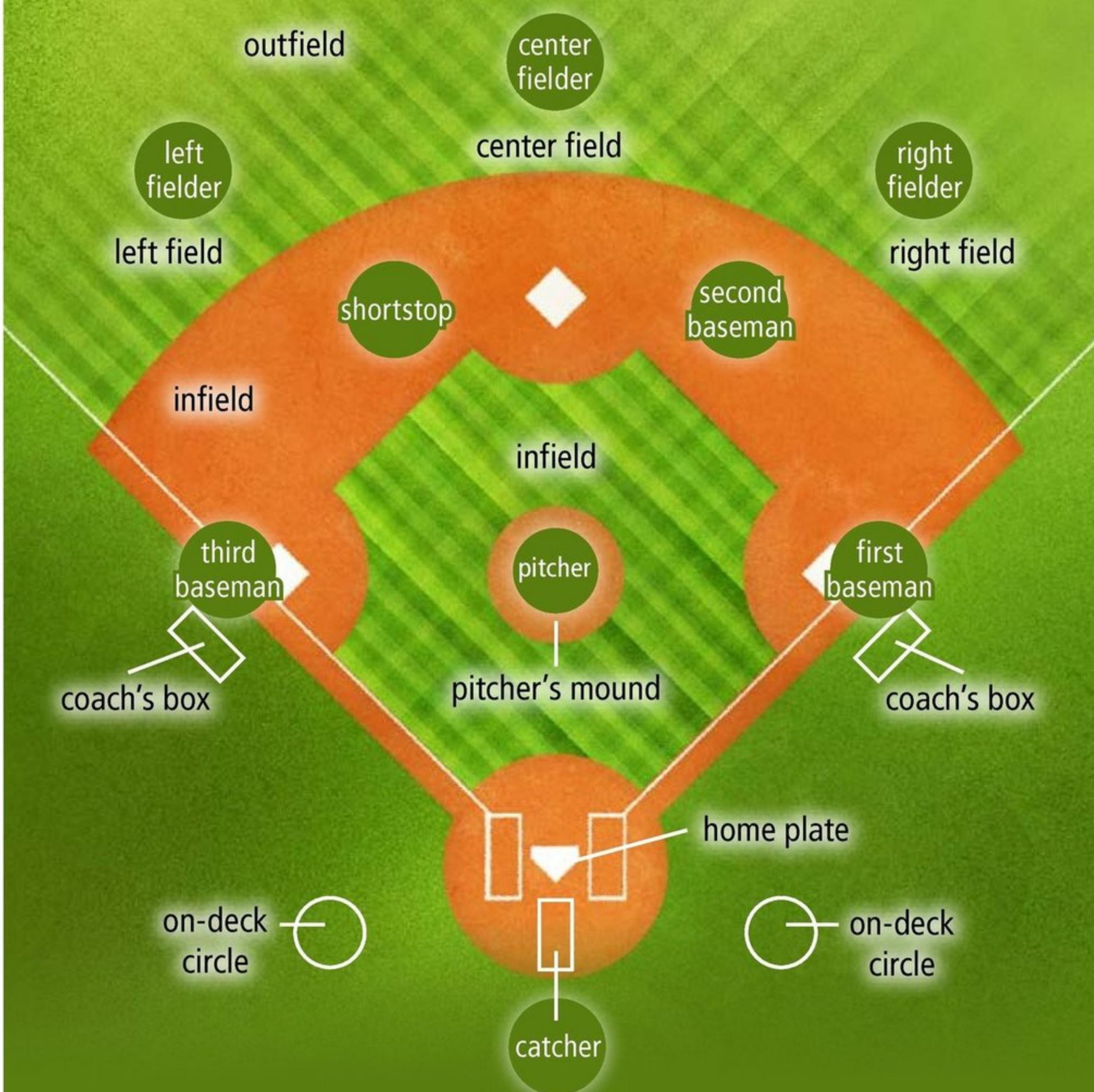
A **pitcher** on one team throws the ball to a **catcher** on the same team.

A **batter** on the other team hits the ball with the bat.

The batter runs to first base, second base, and third base.

The runner scores one point if he or she reaches the fourth base—home plate.

Baseball's Playing Field



- Each team has nine players.
- The infield has four bases that form a diamond.
- Outfielders play the right, center, and left fields.
- Outfielders must be fast runners to catch balls.

The Story of Baseball

People have played baseball for hundreds of years.

Long ago, people from England brought ball games to America.



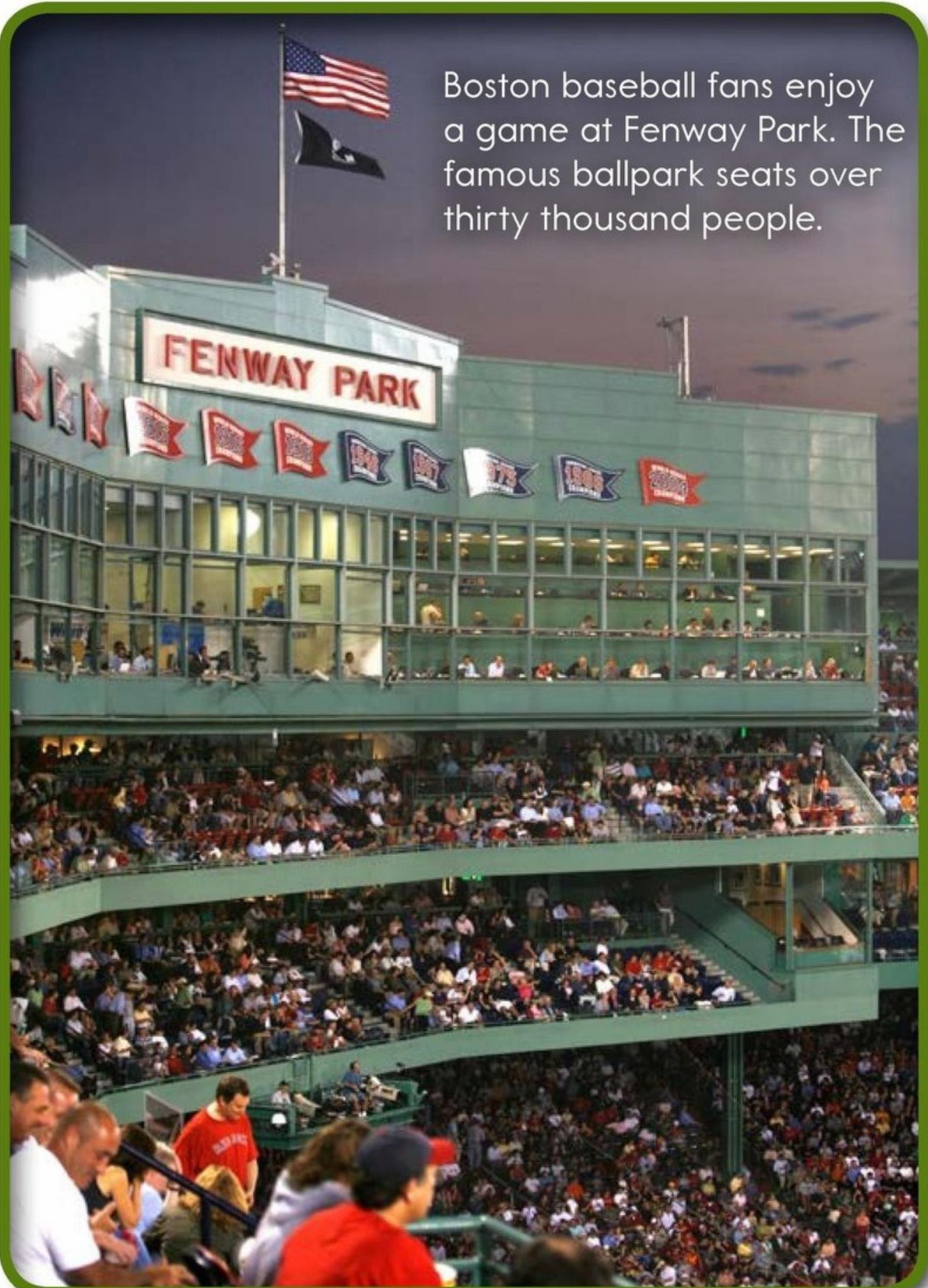
The Boston Beaneaters played in Boston over 150 years ago.



The Boston Red Sox played the Washington Senators in 1925.

The games were like baseball
in many ways.

Over time, people made new
rules and the games became
one game—baseball.



Boston baseball fans enjoy a game at Fenway Park. The famous ballpark seats over thirty thousand people.

Famous Fields

Baseball fans love the fields where their teams play.

In Boston, the team plays at Fenway Park.

It is the oldest ballpark in America.

Wrigley Field is an old ballpark
in Chicago.

Teams played there over
one hundred years ago.

They still play there today.

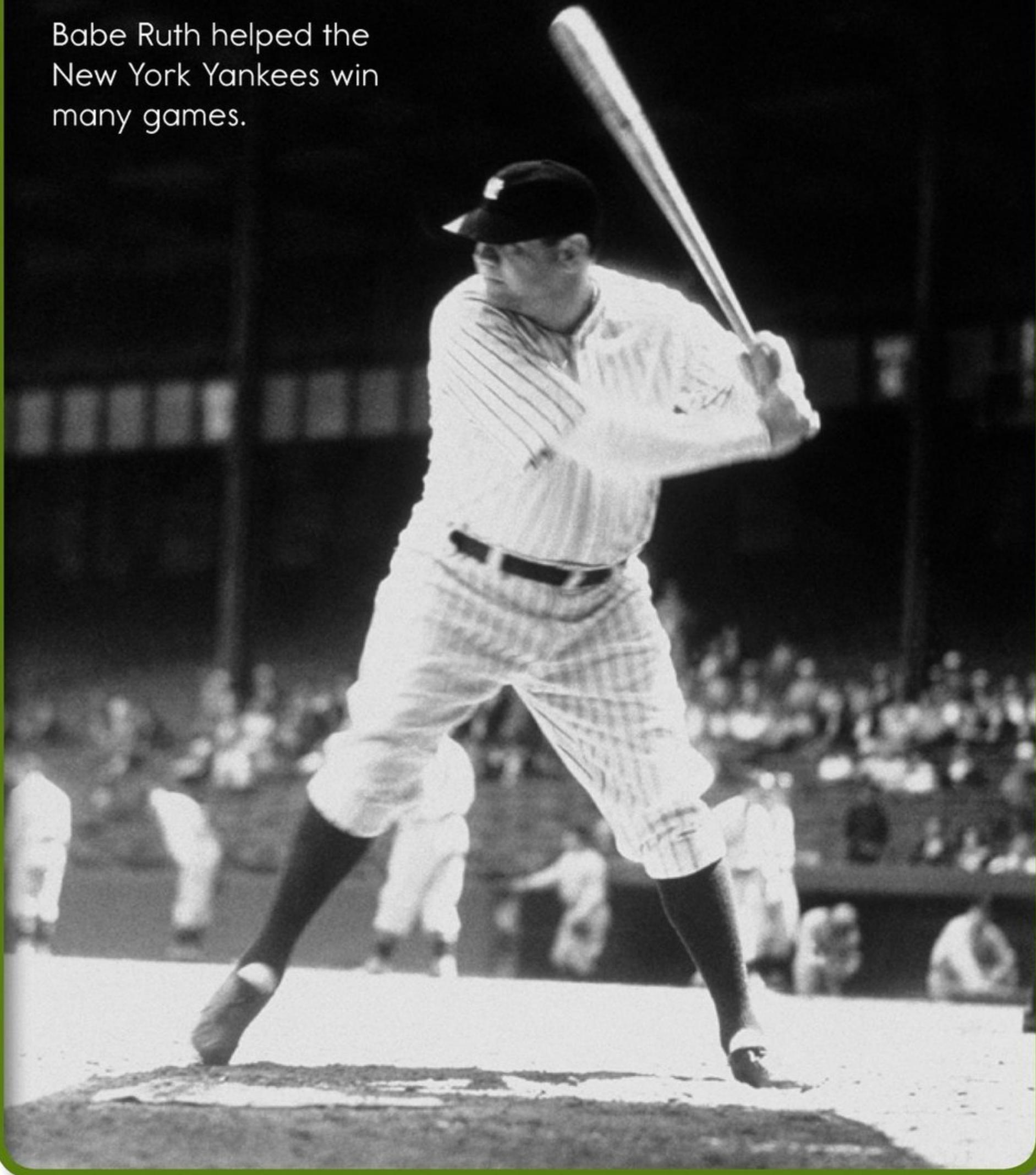


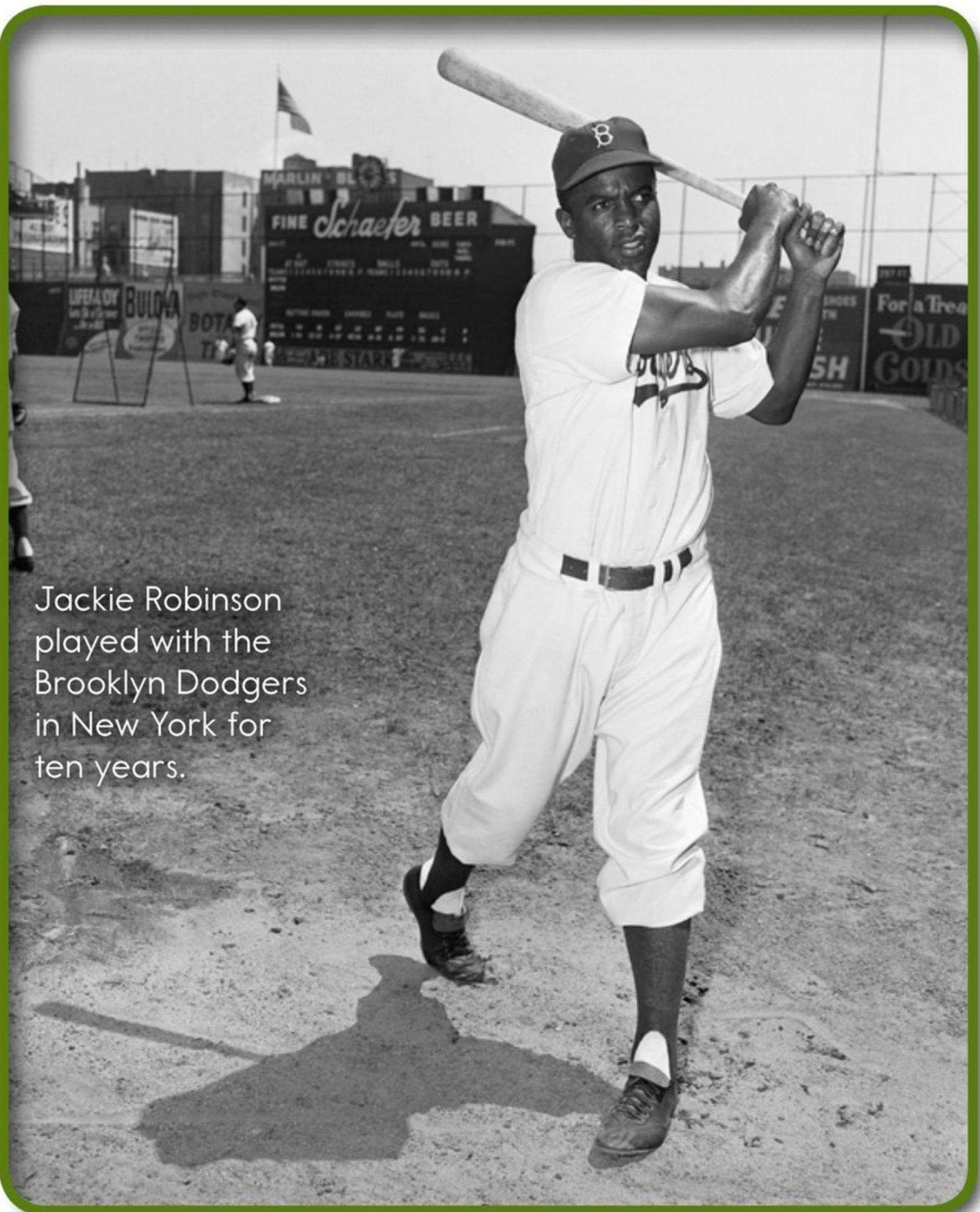
Over forty thousand fans can fit in Wrigley Field.
The field is home to the Chicago Cubs.

Famous Players

Many people think Babe Ruth was the best baseball player ever. He hit 659 **home runs** with one team. He played for twenty-one years.

Babe Ruth helped the New York Yankees win many games.





Jackie Robinson
played with the
Brooklyn Dodgers
in New York for
ten years.

Jackie Robinson is a hero.
He was the first black baseball
player to play on teams with
white players.
People look up to him for being
a great **athlete**.



Roberto Clemente played for the Pittsburgh Pirates for eighteen years.

Roberto Clemente played baseball with his team for eighteen years.

He was really good at hitting the baseball.

He scored 240 home runs for his team.

Derek Jeter played baseball for twenty years. He scored 260 home runs for his team. People will always remember him as a great player.



Derek Jeter played for the New York Yankees.



Playing on a baseball team
teaches players how to
work together.
It's also fun!

Everybody's Sport

Baseball time begins in the spring

and goes until fall.

Boys, girls, and grown-ups like

to play and watch baseball.

Many people think it is the best
game in the world.

Glossary

athlete (n.)	a person trained in sports, games, or other activities that require strength, speed, and skill (p. 13)
bases (n.)	four places on a baseball diamond that a runner must reach to score a run (p. 5)
batter (n.)	the baseball player whose turn it is to hit the ball (p. 6)
catcher (n.)	the baseball player who catches balls that the batter does not hit (p. 6)
home runs (n.)	baseball hits that allow batters to run and touch all four bases and score a run in one turn (p. 12)
pitcher (n.)	the baseball player who throws the ball that the batter tries to hit (p. 6)

Baseball

A Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Book

Word Count: 329

Connections

Writing

Would you like to play baseball?

Write about your answer, using details from the book to support your answer.

Social Studies

Make a model or diagram of a baseball field. Label the different parts of the field and summarize the rules of the game with a partner.

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