



## Baseball - "America's National Pastime"

Baseball has been played in some form since the mid-1800s. Children have been playing this sport anywhere a group of kids can pick up a stick and ball. As the sport grew in popularity, so did the opportunity for kids to play organized ball. Today, millions of kids all over the world play the game of baseball.

Baseball was first played at the school level as early as the 1850s. At first more in boarding schools and then in 1859, Worcester High School in Maine is said to be the

first public school to compete against outside teams. High Schools around the nation began forming baseball teams throughout the 1870s.

The American Legion Baseball (an organization that supports war veterans) branched out to sponsor a youth baseball program in 1925. It is the oldest baseball program for teens in the United States.

In 1939, Little League Baseball was organized to allow boys, not yet old enough to play ball for the American Legion, a chance to learn the game. The first Little League was played on June 6, 1939. It was between Lundy Lumber and Lychoming Dairy. Lundy Lumber won that game 23-8. Little League today is played by boys and girls between 5 and 18 years old. It is the largest organized youth sports program in the world.



Test Your Skill!  
See If You Can Answer  
These Baseball Questions!

1. Who hit a 643 foot home run in Detroit Brigg's Stadium in 1960, for the longest home run ever recorded?
2. This player had the longest career in baseball history which lasted from 1966 to 1993 and carried him through four teams, where he struck out the most batters by sneaking balls past 5714 players.
3. Which players were the first father/son team to play together? They added to their records by hitting home runs "back-to-back" in the same game.
4. This player stuck it out for 2131 consecutive games, breaking Lou Gehrig's record of 2130.
5. This player was the first athlete to compete in the World Series and the Superbowl.
6. Who is known as the "King of Grand Slam Homers", hitting 23 in the span of his career.
7. Who holds the record for most career home runs for an outfielder?

1. Mickey Mantle, 2. Nolan Ryan, 3. Ken Griffy Sr. and Ken Griffy Jr., 4. Cal Ripkin Jr., 5. Deion Sanders, 6. Lou Gehrig, 7. Babe Ruth

