



# The Game of Baseball

## Part 1

**Teacher Reads** Baseball is often referred to as America's National Pastime, because many people enjoy playing the sport and watching baseball games. We are going to learn more about baseball.

The sport of baseball is played at many levels. Children  
10 start off playing Tee-ball to learn how to play the game.  
22 There are baseball teams for children and beyond. And then  
32 there are teams for **pro** players. Pro players are the most  
43 skilled players of all. They get paid to play baseball. They  
54 play for teams like the Cubs, the Mets, and the Dodgers.  
65 People pay to **watch** pro teams play at a ballpark. Or they  
77 watch the games on TV or online.

## Part 2

**Teacher Reads** There are many players on a baseball team. Let's learn about two of the players: the pitcher and the catcher.

84 In a baseball game, there are two teams, each having nine  
95 players. One of the most important players on each team is  
106 the pitcher. The pitcher must throw the ball over home plate  
117 and try to get out a batter, a player on the other team. Some  
131 pitchers can throw a ball over one hundred miles per hour.  
142 The batter must judge when to try to hit the pitched ball. If  
155 the batter takes three swings at the ball and has three misses,  
167 the batter strikes "out." A batter can also strike out if three  
179 pitches are strikes and the batter does not swing at them.  
190 The catcher crouches down in back of home plate.  
199 The catcher has to catch each pitch the batter does not hit.  
211 Pitches come in at fast speeds. To be safe, the catcher needs a  
224 thick chest pad, a helmet, and a mask for protection.



### Part 3

**Teacher Reads** We have learned about the pitcher and the catcher. Now let's see how the game of baseball is played.

234 Two teams compete against each other in a baseball  
243 game. Each team wants to score more runs, more points,  
253 than the other team to win. To score a run, the runner must  
266 step on each of the three bases in order—first base, second  
278 base, third base—and then step on home plate.

287 When a batter hits the ball, the players on the other  
298 team try to catch the ball. If the batter hits the ball out of  
312 the ballpark, it is called a *home run*. If a ball hits the ground  
326 before a player can catch it, the batter runs to first base.

338 Baseball is fun to watch and fun to play. There are also  
350 other ways to enjoy baseball, as you will see. [Learn More](#)  
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