



# Baseball Cards

## Part 1

**Teacher Reads** People collect all kinds of things—stamps, coins, comic books. Sports fans collect things, too. Baseball cards are one category of sports collectibles.

Many people think of baseball as a game to **watch** or to  
12 play. But for lots of people, baseball is a job. While some  
24 people play baseball as a job, others sell things to fans related  
36 to baseball. Fans are often **collectors**. They will pay a lot for  
48 baseball bats, caps, and mitts. Fans will also pay for shirts  
59 and pants with a team's name or a player's name. A baseball  
71 with the autograph of a well-known player can be sold for a  
84 lot to a baseball collector. Baseball programs with autographs  
93 also sell well.

## Part 2

**Teacher Reads** You'll be amazed at what people might pay for a baseball card, which is just a small piece of cardboard. Find out how valuable baseball cards can be.

96 Collecting baseball cards is a project linked to the sport.  
106 It might seem that baseball-card collecting is a thing of the  
118 past. But baseball cards still sell. Some people think it's a  
129 good plan to pay for and keep baseball cards. Old baseball  
140 cards that are hard to find can get the seller a lot of **money**.  
154 In fact, an old baseball card could sell for \$3,000,000  
164 or more.



## Part 2 continued

166 There is just one problem—the card must be in perfect  
177 shape, or like new. A scratch, a bent edge, a slight ridge, or  
190 a printing blotch or smudge is bad. A card like that will sell  
203 for less than a card in perfect shape. Collectors take time to  
215 check and judge the shape old cards are in. They can also  
227 send their cards to a baseball card expert called a grader.  
238 The grader judges the cards on a scale of one to ten, with ten  
252 being the highest and best score.

## Part 3

**Teacher Reads** Collecting baseball cards used to mean gathering up actual cardboard cards. Many people still collect baseball cards that way, but now there is another option.

258 There is a lot of information about a player or a team on  
271 a baseball card. The card shows a player and which team he  
283 plays on. It also tells which position he plays on the team,  
295 how well he bats, pitches, or catches, and any other teams he  
307 might have played for. Some cards have players' autographs.  
316 Each card has a number because it is part of a full set of  
330 baseball cards.

332 Now some baseball cards are being sold online in an  
342 electronic format. With an app, collectors can get and trade  
352 baseball cards. Fans can keep their whole card collection  
361 right on their phones. [Learn More](#)

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