

The Field of Dreams

Figure 1 shows a baseball field, which is known as "The Diamond" because of its shape, and is sometimes referred to as a "Field of Dreams." The field in Figure 1 has all of the positions in the game of baseball marked on it.



MLB stars hail from countries around the world



Figure 1

235 MLB players competed in the inaugural World Baseball Classic.

Baseball Worksheet 1

The passage below describes the set up of a Major League Baseball game between the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox. This passage has a number of blank spaces, which need to be filled in to make the sentences complete. All of the words that belong in the blank spaces are listed below to the right of the page. Figure 1 will help you to work out which words belong in which blank spaces. GOOD LUCK!!!

HI! WELCOME TO THIS AFTERNOON'S GAME.

Today the New York _____ are playing the _____ Red Sox. Right now, the Red Sox are batting and the Yankees are fielding. OK, let's see which players are on the field.

The _____ is David Ortiz, who stands in the batter's box near home plate. Behind him squats Jorge Posada; he is the _____. The pitcher, CC Sabathia, stands on the _____ mound, where he throws the ball to the batter.

Along with home plate, the other bases include _____ base, second base and third _____. Each base has a fielder playing nearby: Mark Teixeira, the first baseman, plays first base; Robinson Cano, the second _____, plays second base; and Alex Rodriguez, the _____ baseman, plays third base. Derek Jeter, the _____, is positioned between second base and third base. These four fielders are called the _____.

The three remaining fielders are known as _____, because they guard the outfield. Brett Gardner, the _____ fielder, stands deep behind third base, Curtis Granderson, the _____ fielder stands deep behind second base, and Nick Swisher the _____ fielder stands deep behind first base.

The fence at the edge of the outfield is known as the _____ fence. This separates the field and the players from the spectators. If a batter hits the ball over this wall, it is a _____ !!!

Enjoy the game!!!

- outfield
- infielders
- baseman
- catcher
- Boston
- third
- pitcher's
- left
- right
- outfielders
- base
- batter
- Yankees
- shortstop
- first
- home run
- center



Figure 2

PITCHER VS. BATTER: Read the following paragraphs about the duel between the pitcher and the batter, and answer the questions that follow.

Pitching

The pitcher’s job is to “pitch” (throw) the ball to the batter and get it in the strike zone. The strike zone is an imaginary rectangle as wide as home plate and stretching from the batter’s knees to the middle of his chest (see Figure 2). Each time the pitcher throws the ball through the strike zone without the batter hitting it, it is called a strike. It is also a strike if the batter swings at the ball and misses it, even if it is not in the strike zone. After three strikes the batter is out!

If a pitcher throws the ball outside of the strike zone and the batter does not swing, the pitch is called a “ball.” If a pitcher throws four “balls” to a batter it is known as a “walk,” because the batter can walk to first base, and becomes a baserunner.

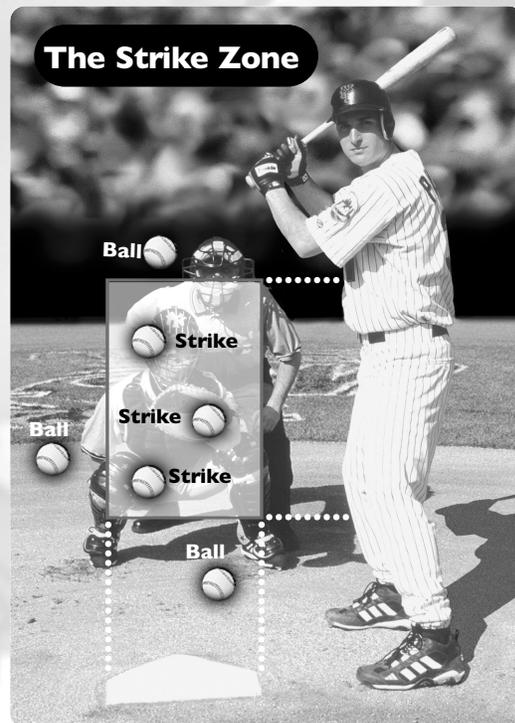
The pitcher pitches to the same batter until the batter, strikes out, walks or hits a “fair ball.”

Batting

If the batter hits the ball forward, between the foul lines, it is called a “fair ball” and the batter must run to first base. If the batter hits the ball outside the foul lines, off the field of play, it is called a “foul ball” and counts as a strike. A “fly ball” is a ball that a batter hits into the air. A “ground ball” is a ball that is hit along the ground.

Home Run

One baseball term that most are familiar with is “home run.” A home run comes when the batter hits the ball so hard and far that it clears the outfield fence. When this happens, all baserunners, including the batter who hit the home run, automatically reach home plate and each score a run.



Questions

Answers
CIRCLE ANSWER

- 1 Which of these words is closest to what ‘pitch’ means? (a) field (b) throw (c) catch (d) try A B C D
- 2 The ‘strike zone’, which the batter tries to protect, stretches from the batter’s head to his toes. True or False? TRUE / FALSE
- 3 Which of these is a ‘strike’? (a) a pitch that a batter hits really well (b) a pitch that hits the batter on the body (c) a pitch in the strike zone which the batter doesn’t hit A B C
- 4 Which of these is a ‘ball’? (a) a pitch that the pitcher throws outside the strike zone (b) a pitch hit for a home run (c) a pitch that a batter hits outside the foul lines A B C
- 5 A batter can walk to first base after how many ‘balls’? (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4 A B C D
- 6 Which of these is closest to the meaning of a ‘foul ball’? (a) a ball that lands in a pile of garbage (b) a ball that is hit outside the foul lines (c) a ball that is made of chicken feathers A B C
- 7 A ‘ground ball’ is a ball that the batter hits along the ground. What’s the name of the ball that is hit in the air?
- 8 If there is a runner on first base and another on third base, and the batter hits a home run, how many runners reach home plate?