

Sports: Baseball

Social Studies

Genre

Almanacs have brief information, facts, and figures about many different subjects.

Text Feature

A **Table** presents a large amount of information, such as names and numbers, in a compact way.

Content Vocabulary

career **accomplishments**
orphanage **disease**


Baseball Greats

by Liz Ray

Babe Ruth

Babe Ruth is one of the most famous baseball players of all time. People called him “The Sultan of Swat” and “The Home Run King” because he hit a record 714 home runs in his **career**. That record has since been broken, but Babe Ruth is still the only baseball player who has hit three home runs in a World Series game twice.

Babe Ruth learned to play baseball in the **orphanage** and reform school where he spent his childhood. He grew up to pitch and play outfield for the Boston Red Sox, and was an outfielder for the New York Yankees. Ruth was one of the first five players elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.



Babe Ruth watches the ball fly after a big swing.

Facts and Statistics

Full Name: **George Herman Ruth, Jr.**

Born:	February 5, 1895, in Baltimore, Maryland			
Died:	August 16, 1948, in New York, New York			
Teams:	Baltimore Orioles 1913	Boston Red Sox 1914–1919	New York Yankees 1920–1934	Boston Braves 1935
Batted and Threw:	Left			
Games Played:	2,503			
Runs Scored:	2,174			
Runs Batted In:	2,213			
Home Runs:	714			
Batting Average:	0.342			



Elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936

The Top 10 Home Run Hitters



Reading a Table

Almanacs often have tables as well as charts, lists of facts, and other information.

Name	Home Runs	Rank
Hank Aaron	755	1
Babe Ruth	714	2
Barry Bonds	703	3
Willie Mays	660	4
Frank Robinson	586	5
Mark McGwire	583	6
Sammy Sosa	574	7
Harmon Killebrew	573	8
Reggie Jackson	563	9
Mike Schmidt	548	10

Current through 2004 season

Sports: Baseball

Lou Gehrig

Lou Gehrig's batting **accomplishments** earned him a place in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Fans loved him because he was so dedicated.

Lou Gehrig played first base for the New York Yankees from 1923 until 1939. Gehrig set a record by playing in 2,130 straight games, even when he was sick or hurt. His record wasn't broken until 1995. He also set records for the number of runs batted in and grand slam home runs.

When Gehrig quit baseball because of a rare **disease**, thousands of fans came to honor him. He thanked them, saying he was "the luckiest man on the face of the earth."



Facts and Statistics

Full Name: Henry Louis Gehrig

Born: June 19, 1903, in New York, New York

Died: June 2, 1941, in Riverdale, New York

Team: New York Yankees, 1923–1939

Batted and Threw: Left

Games Played: 2,164

Runs Scored: 1,888

Runs Batted In: 1,995

Batting Average: 0.340

Elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1939



Connect and Compare



1. Look at the table of Top 10 Home Run Hitters from the almanac. Which baseball player hit more home runs than Babe Ruth? How many home runs did he hit? **Reading a Table**
2. What are some words you would use to describe Lou Gehrig? Explain your answer. **Evaluate**
3. How was Jackie Mitchell from *Mighty Jackie* like Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig? How was she different from them?
Reading/Writing Across Texts



Social Studies Activity

Research another baseball player. Write a short paragraph about his or her life, and create a list or table of facts and statistics.



Find more baseball facts at www.macmillanmh.com



Writer's Craft

A Good Topic

To choose a **good topic**, first think about what interests you. Then narrow the focus so you can cover the topic completely.



I narrowed my topic to persuade my friend to come with me to baseball camp.

I gave good reasons to support my topic.

Write a Persuasive Letter

by David P.

701 S. Washington Street
Beeville, TX 78102
May 28, 2008

Dear Jorge,

I really hope you will come to baseball camp. It's going to be at Wilson Field in June. Professional ballplayers will teach us how to play every position, and we can improve our batting averages. You can work on pitching. So let's go! Call me!!!

Your pal,
David



Your Turn

Write a letter to convince a friend or family member to do something. Narrow the focus of your topic. Be sure to include good reasons. Use the Writer's Checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Did I narrow the focus of my **topic**? Did I present good reasons?
- Organization:** Did I save my strongest reason for last?
- Voice:** Does it sound as if I really care?
- Word Choice:** Did I use strong words that will help convince my reader to do something?
- Sentence Fluency:** Did my writing sound smooth when I read it out loud?
- Conventions:** Did I capitalize proper nouns? Did I check my spelling?