

Math

Genre

Nonfiction Articles present facts and information about different subjects.

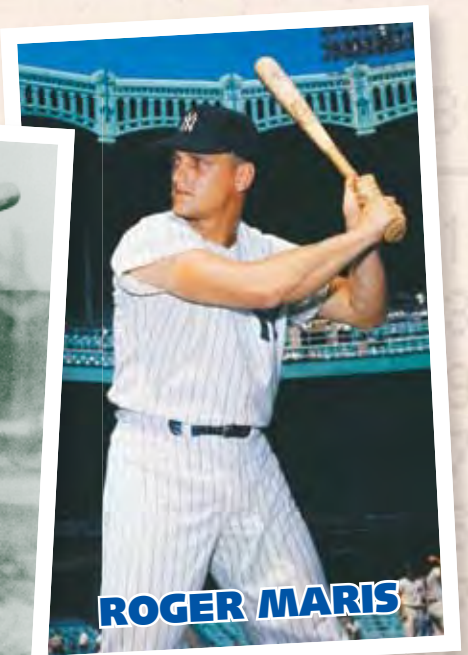
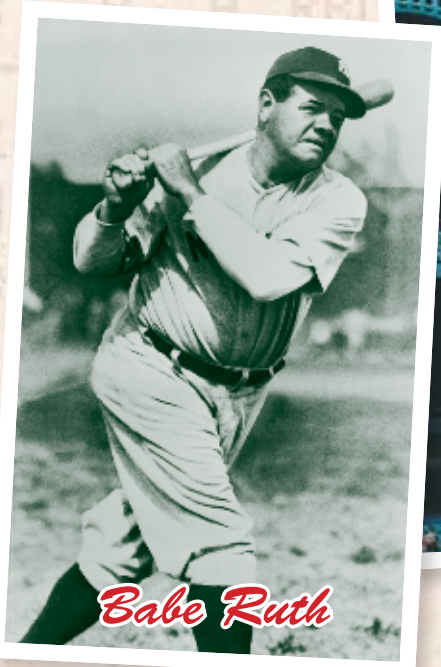
Text Feature

Almanacs are reference books compiled annually.

Charts in almanacs present information, such as statistics, in a clear manner.

Content Vocabulary

statistics **triples**
data



Baseball

By the Numbers

Baseball fans love to read and discuss **statistics**. Statistics are individual facts, or **data**, expressed as numbers. You can compare these numbers to find out all kinds of interesting information: who had the most hits in a particular world series or who pitched the most strikeouts in a lifetime career.

The most hits by a player in a single season was 262 by Ichiro Suzuki of the Seattle Mariners in 2004. He broke a record of 257 set by George Sisler way back in 1920.

Who hit the most **triples** in one season? A Pittsburgh Pirate named Owen Wilson set that record in 1912. In 1927 Babe Ruth earned the one-season home run crown by hitting 60. That record lasted until the end of the 1961 season, when Roger Maris rounded the bases after hitting his sixty-first homer. Maris's record has been broken a number of times since then, but that is the nature of records; they are challenges to be broken. Who will be the next to challenge the home run record?

Pos.	GP	St	AB	Run	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SF	SAC
30	25	25	82	21	32	5	1	8	11	2	0

Fact Finding

Reading an Almanac



Look at this segment of an almanac entry to discover who won the National League's Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award from the years 1997-2000. When did Sammy Sosa win? On what team did he play that year? In the year that Chipper Jones won MVP, how many home runs did he hit?

National League's Most Valuable Player Award Winners					
Year	Name	Team	Home Runs	RBIs	Avg.
1997	Larry Walker	Colorado Rockies	49	130	.366
1998	Sammy Sosa	Chicago Cubs	66	158	.308
1999	Chipper Jones	Atlanta Braves	45	110	.319
2000	Jeff Kent	San Francisco Giants	33	125	.334

Almanacs provide statistics on many different subjects.

Connect and Compare



1. Look at the chart in the almanac entry. Find the player who hit the fewest home runs during the year he was awarded the National League's Most Valuable Player Award. **Reading a Chart**
2. What are some ways that you like to present information? Why are charts a useful way to present information? **Evaluate**
3. If Miguel in *How Tía Lola Came to Visit Stay* gave Colonel Charlebois a baseball almanac, how do you think the Colonel would respond? **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Math Activity

Research a major league baseball pitcher. Make a baseball card that includes statistics showing wins versus losses over his career.



Find out more about baseball at www.macmillanmh.com



Writer's Craft

Denotation and Connotation

A word's **denotation** is its meaning. A word's **connotation** is the feeling attached to the word. The words *smile* and *smirk* have similar definitions, but *smirk* implies a negative connotation.

WRITE A BUSINESS LETTER

526 Sunbury Street
Columbus, OH 43201
April 27, 2008

Mr. Stephen Merton
Merton's Dry Cleaning
1132 Canfield Avenue
Columbus, OH 43201

Dear Mr. Merton:

I am the captain of my sixth-grade baseball team, and I am writing to ask for your support. For \$500, you can sponsor our team. This money will pay for our uniforms, equipment, and a banner to hang at the league's field. The banner and all our uniforms will say Merton's Dry Cleaning. This is a great opportunity to advertise your business and help out the community.

My team chose Merton's Dry Cleaning because we would like to be called the Merton White Sox. Then, everyone who sees us play will think of clean socks!

My teammates and I want to show off the name and photos of a local business at all of our games. We hope that name will be Merton's Dry Cleaning.

Yours truly,
Amar Nandra

I stated exactly why I am writing to Mr. Merton.

I used words with good connotations like "show off" to persuade Mr. Merton.



Your Turn

Imagine that you are on an athletic team and your team needs money for uniforms and equipment. Write a business letter to persuade a local business to help support your team. As you choose persuasive words for your letter, remember to keep in mind the connotations of the words. Also remember to capitalize proper nouns. Use the Writer's Checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Did I clearly explain my reason for writing the letter?
- Organization:** Did I organize my writing in a logical way?
- Voice:** Does my letter show that a real person wrote it? Have I included words and phrases that reveal my personality?
- Word Choice:** Did I use persuasive words effectively? Do the persuasive words carry the proper **connotations**?
- Sentence Fluency:** Do my sentences blend together in a way that makes my letter pleasant to read?
- Conventions:** Did I capitalize all proper nouns? Did I include all of the important parts of a business letter? Did I check my spelling?

