

Babe Ruth Activity Bundle

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Math

Activities

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Name _____

Babe Ruth Baseball Card Math – Calculating Slugging Percentage Use the chart below to answer the questions. These are REAL statistics!



Year	At-bats	Total Bases	Slugging Percentage
1919	432	284	.657
1920	458	388	
1921	540	457	
1922	406	273	
1923	522	399	
1924	529	391	
1925	359	195	

Unlike batting average, slugging percentage measures the quality of hits a batter gets. If a batter hits a lot of doubles, triples, and home runs, he or she will have a high slugging percentage. Slugging percentage is calculated by dividing the total number of at-bats by total bases.

For example, in the year 1919, Babe Ruth had a slugging percentage of .657. I got this by dividing the total bases for 1919 (284) by the at-bats for 1919 (432). The answer I got was 0.65740741. I rounded it to the nearest thousandth to get .657. In general, a slugging percentage that is .500 or more is considered a good slugging percentage.

Fill in the slugging percentage cell for each year. Ask your teacher whether or not you can use a calculator. Make sure you correctly round to the nearest thousandth.

Answers

Year	At-bats	Total Bases	Slugging Percentage
1919	432	284	.657
1920	458	388	.847
1921	540	457	.846
1922	406	273	.672
1923	522	399	.764
1924	529	391	.739
1925	359	195	.543

Monument Park at Yankee Stadium

Name _____

The Legends of Monument Park



3 – Babe Ruth

4 – Lou Gehrig

JOE DI MAGGIO

7 –Mickey Mantle

The New York Yankees are the most storied team in Major League Baseball. As of 2018, the Yankees have participated in 40 World Series and won 27 – by far the most among any team in history. Many of the most famous players in baseball history played for the Yankees, including Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, and Mickey Mantle. Each of these legends is enshrined in the Major League Baseball Hall-of-Fame and at Monument Park in Yankee Stadium.

Babe Ruth is arguably the most famous player in baseball history and was the most famous celebrity of his time. He played for the Boston Red Sox before being sold to the Yankees. Nicknamed “the Sultan of Swat,” and “The Great Bambino,” Ruth hit 714 career home runs and knocked in over 2,200 runs.

Lou Gehrig played first base for the New York Yankees for his entire 16-year career from 1923 to 1939. Nicknamed “the Iron Horse,” Gehrig played in 2,130 consecutive games! Gehrig played for six World Series championship teams and won the Triple Crown in 1934. This means he led the American League in home runs, runs batted in, and batting average.

Joe DiMaggio played his entire 13-year career with the New York Yankees. Nicknamed “Joltin’ Joe” and the “Yankee Clipper,” he is most famous for achieving at least one hit in 56 consecutive games – a record that still stands today. He played for nine World Championship teams and won the American League Most Valuable Player award three times. He was an all-star in all thirteen of his seasons.

Mickey Mantle played his entire 17-year career with the New York Yankees. Nicknamed “the Mick,” Mantle is considered the greatest switch-hitter and center-fielder in baseball history. This means he batted both left-handed and right-handed. Like Lou Gehrig, Mantle won the Triple Crown. He ended his career with 536 home runs and still holds the World Series record for the most home runs, runs batted in, total bases, runs scored, and walks.

1. The New York Yankees... (circle all that are true)

- A. have played in 27 World Series.
- B. have had some of the greatest baseball players in the sport's history.
- C. have Monument Park in Yankee stadium.
- D. have played for forty seasons.

2. Which of the following differentiates Babe Ruth from the other Yankees in the chart?

- A. He won the triple crown more than once
- B. He played on a team other than the Yankees
- C. He is enshrined in both the Major League Baseball Hall-of-Fame and Monument Park
- D. He has multiple nicknames

3. What differentiates Mickey Mantle from the other Yankees in the chart?

- A. His career lasted more than ten years
- B. He played his entire career with the New York Yankees
- C. He was on teams that won multiple World Series
- D. He was a switch hitter

4. Which of the following statistics is a record that still stands today?

- A. The Sultan of Swat's 714 home runs
- B. Joltin' Joe's 56-game consecutive hit streak
- C. The Iron Horse's 2,130-game streak
- D. None of the above

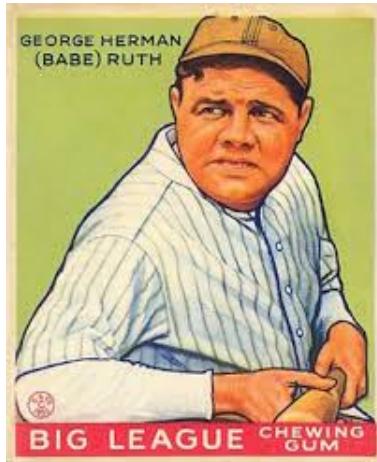
5. What is NOT true about the Triple Crown?

- A. It was achieved by Mickey Mantle
- B. The Triple Crown is won when a player leads his league in home runs, runs batted in, and batting average
- C. It was achieved by Joe DiMaggio
- D. It was achieved by Lou Gehrig

Name _____

Babe Ruth Baseball Card Math – Rounding to the Nearest Thousandth

Use the chart below to answer the questions. These are REAL statistics!



Year	At-bats	Hits	Batting Average?
1919	432	139	
1920	458	158	
1921	540	204	
1922	406	128	
1923	522	205	
1924	529	200	
1925	359	104	

Batting average is calculated by dividing the number of hits by the number of at-bats. It is usually calculated into the thousandths.

For example, in the year 1919, Babe Ruth batted .322. This means he got a hit 32.2 percent of the times he came to bat. I got this answer by dividing 139 by 432. The answer is 0.32175926. Rounded to the nearest thousandth, I get .322. Any batting average at .300 or above is considered excellent. The higher the average, the better the batter is considered.

Fill in the batting average column for each year. Ask your teacher whether or not you can use a calculator. Make sure you correctly round to the nearest thousandth.

Answers

Year	At-bats	Hits	Batting Average?
1919	432	139	.322
1920	458	158	.345
1921	540	204	.378
1922	406	128	.315
1923	522	205	.393
1924	529	200	.378
1925	359	104	.290

ANSWERS

Name	Answers
Babe Ruth Reading Comprehension	A, D, C, B, D, D, B, D, D, B
New York Yankees Legends Reading Comprehension (Advanced)	BC, B, D, B, C
The Curse of the Bambino Reading Comprehension	B, C, C, C, D, A, B
Babe Ruth's Called Shot Reading Comprehension	C, A, C, D, A, C, A

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Fact or Fiction?

Name: _____

Below is a biography on Amelia Earhart. On the following page is a chart with ten statements. Indicate whether each statement is fact or fiction.

Bad Behavior

George Herman "Babe Ruth" was born February 6, 1895, in Baltimore, Maryland. His parents owned a saloon near the current site of Camden Yards in Baltimore. They were of German descent and taught him to speak German fluently. George was actually somewhat of a petty criminal as a young boy. By age seven he was already involved in drinking alcohol and chewing tobacco. Because he was too difficult for his parents to control, George was sent away to a catholic school. It was here, where Brother Matthias taught him baseball. As a teenager, George became the team's catcher and then pitcher.

Unusual Talent

At the age of 19 Jack Dunn, a scout for the Orioles discovered George's baseball talents. He was promptly signed to pitch for the Orioles. After performing well as a pitcher and a batter for the Orioles during spring training, George made the team. Because he was such a young talent, he earned the nickname "Babe". On April 22, 1914, Babe pitched a shutout against the Buffalo Bisons in his Major-League debut. Because the Orioles were in poor financial shape, Jack Dunn was forced to sell off his best players. Babe was sold to the Boston Red Sox in 1914 for an amount between \$20,000 and \$35,000.

Called up to the Majors

After pitching for the Red Sox minor league club in Providence, Rhode Island, Babe was called up to the majors permanently toward the end of the 1914 baseball season. After the season, he married Helen Woodford. In 1915, Babe secured a spot in the Red Sox starting pitching rotation. That year, the Red Sox won the World Series. Babe pitched to a record of 18 wins and 8 losses. He also batted .315 and hit four runs. He pitched even better in 1916, going 23-12 with 9 shutouts. The Red Sox again won the World Series and Babe pitched a shutout in game 2. In 1917, Babe went 24-13, though the Red Sox failed in their bid to win a third consecutive World Series.

Sold to the Yankees

In 1917, because of his success at hitting, Babe began playing the outfield more and pitching less. The next year, in 1918, he led the major leagues with 11 home runs. Once again, Babe led the Red Sox to the Word Series title, even though the season was shortened by World War I. In 1919, Ruth set the major league record by hitting 29 home runs in a season. He had become the best player in baseball. Babe became an attraction wherever he went, and large crowds gathered to watch him play. Many believe he was the driving force behind the increased popularity of baseball. Despite his on-the field success, Ruth began to wear out his welcome with the Red Sox. He frequently argued with management and had a reputation for partying late in the night and consuming large amounts of alcohol. His marriage to Helen Woodward also deteriorated. Because he was the biggest star in baseball, he demanded increasing amounts of money from management even though the team was in a terrible financial position. On January 3, 1919, the Boston Red Sox sold Babe Ruth to the New York

Yankees. The sale would become one of the most infamous transactions in sports history. In deed, "The Curse of the Bambino" was born from the sale. The Red Sox would not win another World Series until 2004! After selling Ruth, the Red Sox would not enjoy a winning season for 15 years.

Babe Ruth Becomes the Best Player in Baseball History

Babe Ruth would become the biggest star in sports history as a New York Yankee. In 1920, he had the best season for any player in baseball history. He hit (a then unheard of) 54 home runs and batted .376! Amazingly, only one TEAM hit more home runs than Babe Ruth in 1920. Ruth immediately became a national icon and the pride of New York City. He was not only the most popular athlete in the United States, but the most popular person! In 1921, Babe enjoyed the greatest statistical season in baseball history - still no one has matched it. He hit 59 home runs and batted .378. He also knocked in 177 runs and amassed 857 total bases. His 857 total bases in a season remains a record today. Although he led the Yankees to the World Series, he injured his arm in Game 5, and the Yankees were defeated in seven games. Ruth had a sub par year (for him) in 1922, and again, the Yankees were defeated in the World Series.

Incredible Feats

1923 was the inaugural season for the new Yankee Stadium, which would later be nicknamed "The House that Ruth Built". Babe batted .393 and hit 41 home runs. In 1923, the Yankees won the World Series, and Babe Ruth hit 3 home runs. Ruth would go on to lead the Yankees to World Series titles in 1927, 1928, and 1932. The 1927 Yankees, with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, went 110-44. Many historians say it was the greatest team in baseball history. That year, Ruth hit a record 60 home runs! In the 1928 World Series, Ruth batted .625 and hit three home runs! In 1932, the Yankees beat the Chicago Cubs four games to none. The 1932 series, however, will forever be remembered for one of the most legendary events in sports history. In game 3 of the series at Chicago's Wrigley Field, Babe Ruth allegedly pointed to the center field bleachers as a declaration of where he would hit the next pitch. Amidst the screaming fans, and taunting gestures of the Cubs player, Ruth deposited the pitch in the center field bleachers some 440 feet away. The home run, perhaps the most celebrated in baseball history, became known as Babe Ruth's Called Shot. Today, experts are in disagreement as to whether Ruth actually called his home run, or, was simply pointing at the pitcher. Several grainy videos and pictures exist, but still don't show conclusively what Ruth was pointing to. After this home run, the Citrus Candy Company posted a huge billboard overlooking Wrigley Field advertising their Baby Ruth candy bars. Three years before, in 1929, Babe Ruth married Claire Merritt. He would remain with Merritt, who is credited with helping Babe clean up his personal life, bad habits, and diet, until his death.

The End of an Amazing Career

After the 1932 series, however, Ruth's career began coming to end. The 1934 season was his last as a Yankee. He signed with the Boston Braves in 1935 and played less than half the season. He hit his last home run at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh on May 25, 1935. It was his 714th home run. Today, Babe Ruth is third on baseball's all-time home run list. Ruth's career was perhaps the greatest in baseball history. In 1936, he was one of the first five players inducted into the Baseball Hall-of-Fame. In June of 1948, the Yankees retired his number "3".

Death

Unfortunately, his reckless lifestyle caught up with him quickly after this retirement. On August 16, 1948, Babe Ruth died of throat cancer. He was only 53. Nearly 10,000 people attended his funeral and tens of thousands more lined up along the streets of New York to pay their respects. Babe Ruth remains an icon today and one of the most recognizable sports personalities in history. His birthplace in Baltimore has been converted into the Babe Ruth Museum.

	FACT	FICTION
Babe Ruth was originally a pitcher.		
Babe's first Major League team was the New York Yankees.		
Babe Ruth hit 54 home runs in 1920.		
Yankee Stadium was opened in 1921.		
In 1921, Babe Ruth had what most believe was the greatest statistical year in baseball history.		
In 1922, the Yankees were defeated in the World Series.		
In 1927, Babe Ruth's Yankees won 110 games.		
In 1927, Babe Ruth hit 60 home runs!		
Babe Ruth wore uniform number "4".		
Babe Ruth only played for the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees.		
Babe Ruth died at age 53.		

Answers:

	FACT	FICTION
Babe Ruth was originally a pitcher.	X	
Babe's first Major League team was the New York Yankees.		X
Babe Ruth hit 54 home runs in 1920.	X	
Yankee Stadium was opened in 1921.		X
In 1921, Babe Ruth had what most believe was the greatest statistical year in baseball history.	X	
In 1922, the Yankees were defeated in the World Series.	X	
In 1927, Babe Ruth's Yankees won 110 games.	X	
In 1927, Babe Ruth hit 60 home runs!	X	
Babe Ruth wore uniform number "4".		X
Babe Ruth only played for the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees.		X
Babe Ruth died at age 53.	X	

Curse of the Bambino Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Baseball is a Superstitious Game

Baseball is famous for its superstitions and superstitious players. Some players name their bats for good luck, others follow strict rituals when they're hitting, still others refuse to shave or change their socks when they're doing well. Perhaps the most celebrated superstition in baseball history is the infamous "Curse of the Bambino" which supposedly plagued the Boston Red Sox following their sale of the legendary slugger Babe Ruth, who was nicknamed "the Bambino."

The Sale of Babe Ruth

Babe Ruth was originally a pitcher on the Boston Red Sox. With Ruth on the team, the Red Sox had enjoyed great success, winning five of the first fifteen World Series titles. In 1920, Red Sox owner Harry Frazee sold Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees, supposedly, at least in part, to finance the production of a Broadway play. Following the sale of Ruth, the fortunes of the two teams involved in the sale indeed changed drastically. Ruth would be considered one of the greatest baseball players of all time and would become one of the biggest celebrities on the planet. The Yankees would go on to play in 39 World Series, winning 26 of them. During the same time, the Red Sox played in only four World Series and lost all of them.

The Fall of the Red Sox

Over the years, bad luck seemed to plague the Red Sox. For example, in 1986, the Red Sox were one out away from winning the World Series against the New York Mets, when a simple ground ball inexplicably rolled through the legs of Red Sox first baseman Bill Buckner, which allowed the Mets to rally and win the game. The Mets would win Game 7 and thus the World Series. By this time, many Red Sox fans believed they were cursed and the term "Curse of the Bambino" was popularized in books and in the media. Entire generations of Red Sox fans lived their lives without experiencing the joy of their team winning a World Series. Yankees fans would taunt Red Sox fans by wearing shirt emblazoned with "1918" - the last year in which the Red Sox won a World Series.

The Shocking End of the Curse

Even curses don't last forever. Finally, in 2004, the Red Sox defeated the New York Yankees in the American League Championship Series and then the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series. In the series, the Cardinals built a three games to zero lead. The Red Sox became the first team in baseball history to win a World Series after losing the first three games. Coincidentally, Cardinals batter Edgar Renteria made the last out for the Cardinals. He wore uniform number "3," the same number as Babe Ruth.

- 1. Which of the following best describes the Red Sox before the team sold Babe Ruth?**
 - A. An average team
 - B. A very successful team
 - C. A very unsuccessful team
 - D. A team that was successful; but that had never won a World Series

- 2. What does the author mean by the quote below?**

“Following the sale of Ruth, the fortunes of the two teams involved in the sale indeed changed drastically.”

- A. He meant that both the Red Sox and Yankees would struggle in years to come**
- B. He meant that the Red Sox would come upon great success and the Yankees would struggle for many years**
- C. He meant that the Yankees would enjoy great success and the Red Sox would struggle in years to come**
- D. He meant that the Red Sox would eventually become a superstitious team**

- 3. Which of the following best serves as evidence that since the purchase of Babe Ruth, the New York Yankees benefitted greatly?**
 - A. New York Yankees fans would taunt Boston Red Sox fans with shirts labeled “1918”
 - B. Babe Ruth was a pitcher for the Boston Red Sox
 - C. The New York Yankees won 26 World Series
 - D. The Boston Red Sox failed to win a World Series from 1918-2004
- 4. Which of the following is TRUE about the Boston Red Sox?**
 - A. The team won 15 World Series before it sold Babe Ruth
 - B. The team won its first World Series in 1920
 - C. The team won a World Series in 2004
 - D. The team won 26 World Series after it sold Babe Ruth
- 5. If an answer to a question is “the Red Sox defeat in the 1986 World Series,” what might the question be?**
 - A. Why did New York Yankees fans taunt Boston Red Sox fans?
 - B. When did the “Curse of the Bambino” end?
 - C. Who won the 1986 World Series?
 - D. What might be used as evidence that the Boston Red Sox was a cursed team?
- 6. The 2004 Red Sox became the first team to...**
 - A. win a World Series after losing the first three games.
 - B. to defeat the New York Yankees in a World Series.
 - C. lose a World Series after winning the first three games.
 - D. to win an American League Championship and a World Series.

7. Which of the following is NOT a superstition?

- A. Refusing to walk under a ladder because you are sure it will result in you having bad luck for several years
- B. Making sure your black cat stays indoors during Halloween because you are concerned for its safety
- C. Tapping home plate three times to make sure you have a successful at-bat
- D. Making sure you don't step on a sidewalk crack so that no one in your family will break any bones

BABE RUTH Reading Comprehension

George Herman, "Babe Ruth", was born February 6, 1895, in Baltimore, Maryland. His parents owned a saloon near the current site of Camden Yards in Baltimore. They were of German descent and taught him to speak German fluently. George was actually somewhat of a petty criminal as a young boy. By age seven he was already involved in drinking alcohol and chewing tobacco. Because he was too difficult for his parents to control, George was sent away to a Catholic school. It was here where Brother Matthias taught him baseball.

As a teenager, George became the team's catcher and then pitcher. At the age of 19, Jack Dunn, a scout for the Orioles, discovered George's baseball talents and promptly signed him to a contract. After performing well as a pitcher and a batter for the Orioles during spring training, George made the team. Because he was such a young talent, he earned the nickname "Babe."

On April 22, 1914, Babe pitched a shutout against the Buffalo Bisons in his Major League debut. Because the Orioles were in poor financial shape, Jack Dunn was forced to sell off his best players. Babe was sold to the Boston Red Sox in 1914 for an amount between \$20,000 and \$35,000.

After pitching for the Red Sox minor league club in Providence, Rhode Island, Babe was called up to the Majors permanently toward the end of the 1914 baseball season. After the season, he married Helen Woodford. In 1915, Babe secured a spot in the Red Sox starting pitching rotation. That year, the Red Sox won the World Series. Babe pitched to a record of 18 wins and 8 losses. He also batted .315 and hit four home runs. He pitched even better in 1916, going 23–12 with nine shutouts. The Red Sox again won the World Series and Babe pitched a shutout in Game Two. In 1917, Babe went 24–13, though the Red Sox failed in their bid to win a third consecutive World Series.

In 1917, because of his success at the plate, Babe began playing the outfield more and pitching less. In 1918, he led the Major Leagues with 11 home runs. Once again, Babe led the Red Sox to the World Series title, even though the season was shortened by World War I. In 1919, Ruth set the Major League record by hitting 29 home runs in a season. He had become the best player in baseball. Babe became an attraction wherever he went, and large crowds gathered to watch him play. Many believe he was the driving force behind the increased popularity of baseball. Despite his on-the-field success, Ruth began to wear out his welcome with the Red Sox. He frequently argued with management and had a reputation for partying late in the night and consuming large amounts of alcohol. His marriage to Helen Woodward also deteriorated. Because he was the biggest star in baseball, he demanded higher salaries from management even though the team was in a terrible financial position. On January 3, 1919, the Boston Red Sox sold Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees. The sale would become one of the most infamous transactions in sports history and became forever known as "The Curse of the

Bambino." After selling Babe Ruth, the Red Sox would endure 15 consecutive losing seasons and would not win another World Series until 2004.

Babe Ruth would become the biggest star in sports history as a New York Yankee. In 1920, he had the best season in baseball history. He hit (a then unheard of) 54 home runs and batted .376! Amazingly, only one TEAM hit more home runs than Babe Ruth in 1920. Ruth immediately became a national icon and the pride of New York City. He was not only the most popular athlete in the United States, but the most popular person! In 1921, Babe enjoyed the greatest statistical season in baseball history—still no one has matched it. He hit 59 home runs and batted .378. He also knocked in 177 runs and amassed 857 total bases. His 857 total bases in a season remains a record today. Although he led the Yankees to the World Series, he injured his arm in Game Five, and the Yankees were defeated in seven games. Ruth had a subpar year (for him) in 1922, and again, the Yankees were defeated in the World Series.

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After the 1932 series, however, Ruth's career began coming to end. The 1934 season was his last as a Yankee. He signed with the Boston Braves in 1935 and played less than half the season. He hit his last home run at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh on May 25, 1935. It was his 714th home run. Today, Babe Ruth is third on baseball's all-time home run list. Ruth's career was perhaps the greatest in baseball history. In 1936, he was one of the first five players inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. In June of 1948, the Yankees retired his number "3." Unfortunately, his reckless lifestyle caught up with him quickly after this retirement. On August 16, 1948, Babe Ruth died of throat cancer. He was only 53. Nearly 10,000 people attended his funeral, and tens of thousands more lined up along the streets of New York to pay their respects. Babe Ruth remains an icon today and one of the most recognizable sports personalities in history. His birthplace in Baltimore has been converted into the Babe Ruth Museum.

1.) Where was Babe Ruth born?

- a.) Baltimore
- b.) Boston
- c.) New York
- d.) Pittsburgh

2.) Which of the following is NOT true about Babe's childhood?

- a.) Babe drank alcohol.
- b.) Babe was difficult to control.
- c.) He could speak German.
- d.) He was homeschooled.

3.) What was Babe's record as a pitcher in 1916?

- a.) 18 wins, 8 losses
- b.) 23 wins, 8 losses
- c.) 23 wins, 12 losses
- d.) 12 wins, 8 losses

4.) What happened second?

- a.) Babe pitched a shutout against the Buffalo Bisons.
- b.) Babe was sold to the Boston Red Sox.
- c.) Babe was sold to the New York Yankees.
- d.) Babe pitched a shutout in Game 2 of the 1916 World Series.

5.) Which of the following describes "The Curse of the Bambino"?

- a.) The Curse of the Bambino refers to the Orioles after they sold Babe Ruth to the Red Sox.
- b.) The Curse of the Bambino refers to the Yankees after they bought him from the Red Sox.
- c.) The Curse of the Bambino refers to his reckless behavior, which included drinking alcohol and chewing tobacco.
- d.) The Curse of the Bambino refers to the Red Sox after they sold him to the Yankees.

6.) Which of the following is a record (stated in the passage) that still stands today?

- a.) Babe Ruth's 714 home runs
- b.) Babe Ruth's 60 home runs in a season
- c.) Babe Ruth's three World Series championships with the New York Yankees
- d.) Babe Ruth's 857 total bases in one season

7.) What was "The House that Ruth Built"?

- a.) Fenway Park
- b.) Yankee Stadium
- c.) Forbes Field
- d.) New York City

8.) Which of the following occurred last in Babe Ruth's baseball career?

- a.) The 1928 World Series Championship with the Yankees
- b.) 60 home runs in a season
- c.) The 1927 season in which the Yankees went 110–44
- d.) Babe's "Called Shot"

9.) Which of the following happened before 1930?

- a.) Babe Ruth hit his last home run at Forbes Field.
- b.) Babe Ruth turned 53.
- c.) His last season with the New York Yankees
- d.) His marriage to Claire Merritt

10.) What is an "icon" as used in this passage?

- a.) A symbol on a computer
- b.) A person who is very famous and recognizable
- c.) A person who doesn't want attention
- d.) A person who has a troubled life

Babe Ruth's Called Shot Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Game Three of the 1932 World Series

The setting was Chicago's Wrigley Field on October 1, 1932. It was the third game of the World Series between Ruth's Yankees and the Chicago Cubs. It was the fifth inning and the score was tied 4-4. Babe Ruth came to bat. He was being heckled by the Cubs players and fans and was jabbering back and forth with them. After the first strike, Ruth made some sort of pointing gesture. After the second strike, he made a similar pointing gesture to what seemed to be center field. On the next pitch, he blasted a majestic home run over the center field fence that landed at least 440 feet from home plate. The Yankees would go on to win the World Series, but the story of Game three would live on.

The Called Shot?

Ruth's home run may have simply died in the footnotes of baseball history had it not been for a headline in the New York World-Telegram that read "RUTH CALLS SHOT AS HE PUTS HOME RUN NO. 2 IN SIDE POCKET." It was written by sports journalist Joe Williams. Williams' description of the event was the first that referred to this "called shot." Soon, other stories appeared that referenced the "called shot" and thus a legend was born. While Ruth initially discounted the pointing gesture, as time went on, he became adamant that his pointing gesture was indeed intended to communicate where he was going to hit the ball. According to Ruth himself:

"While he was making up his mind to pitch to me I stepped back again and pointed my finger at those bleachers, which only caused the mob to howl that much more at me. Root threw me a fast ball. If I had let it go, it would have been called a strike. But this was it. I swung from the ground with everything I had and as I hit the ball every muscle in my system, every sense I had, told me that I had never hit a better one, that as long as I lived nothing would ever feel as good as this. I didn't have to look. But I did. That ball just went on and on and on and hit far up in the center-field bleachers in exactly the spot I had pointed to. To me, it was the funniest, proudest moment I had ever had in baseball. I jogged down toward first base, rounded it, looked back at the Cub bench and suddenly got convulsed with laughter."

A Mystery in Baseball History

Today, experts are in disagreement as to whether Ruth actually called his home run, or, was simply pointing at the pitcher. Several grainy videos and pictures exist, but still don't show conclusively what Ruth was pointing to. After this home run, the Citrus Candy Company posted a huge billboard overlooking Wrigley Field advertising their Baby Ruth candy bars.

1. At the time Ruth hit his “called shot” ...

- A. it was obvious the Yankees would win the game.
- B. it looked like the Cubs would win the game.
- C. the outcome of the game was uncertain.
- D. the Yankees had a big lead.

2. Which is NOT true?

- A. Ruth’s “called shot” occurred in the Game Four of the World Series
- B. Ruth’s “called shot” occurred in Chicago
- C. Ruth’s “called shot” sailed over the center field fence
- D. Ruth’s “called shot” traveled longer than most home runs

3. What is implied in the following sentence:

The Yankees would go on to win the World Series, but the story of Game three would live on.

- A. The Yankees won the World Series
- B. Babe Ruth would become a legend
- C. Babe Ruth’s “Called Shot” would be discussed for a long time
- D. Game 3 of the World Series was the most important game

4. At first...

- A. Babe Ruth acknowledged that he called his shot.
- B. Babe Ruth wanted people to think that he had called his shot.
- C. Babe Ruth didn’t know he had hit such an important home run.
- D. Babe Ruth didn’t seem to think it was important whether or not he called his shot.

5. Babe Ruth considered his called shot _____.

- A. funny
- B. important
- C. serious
- D. historic

6. Which word could replace “conclusively” in the following sentence?

Several grainy videos and pictures exist, but still don't show conclusively what Ruth was pointing to.

- A. ordinarily
- B. interestingly
- C. definitively
- D. sparingly

7. Why is Joe Williams important in the legend of Babe Ruth's Called Shot?

- A. He was the first journalist to claim that Ruth called his shot
- B. He was the first person to question whether or not Ruth actually called his shot
- C. He was the first person to see Babe Ruth point to center field
- D. He was the first person to provide evidence that Babe Ruth called his shot