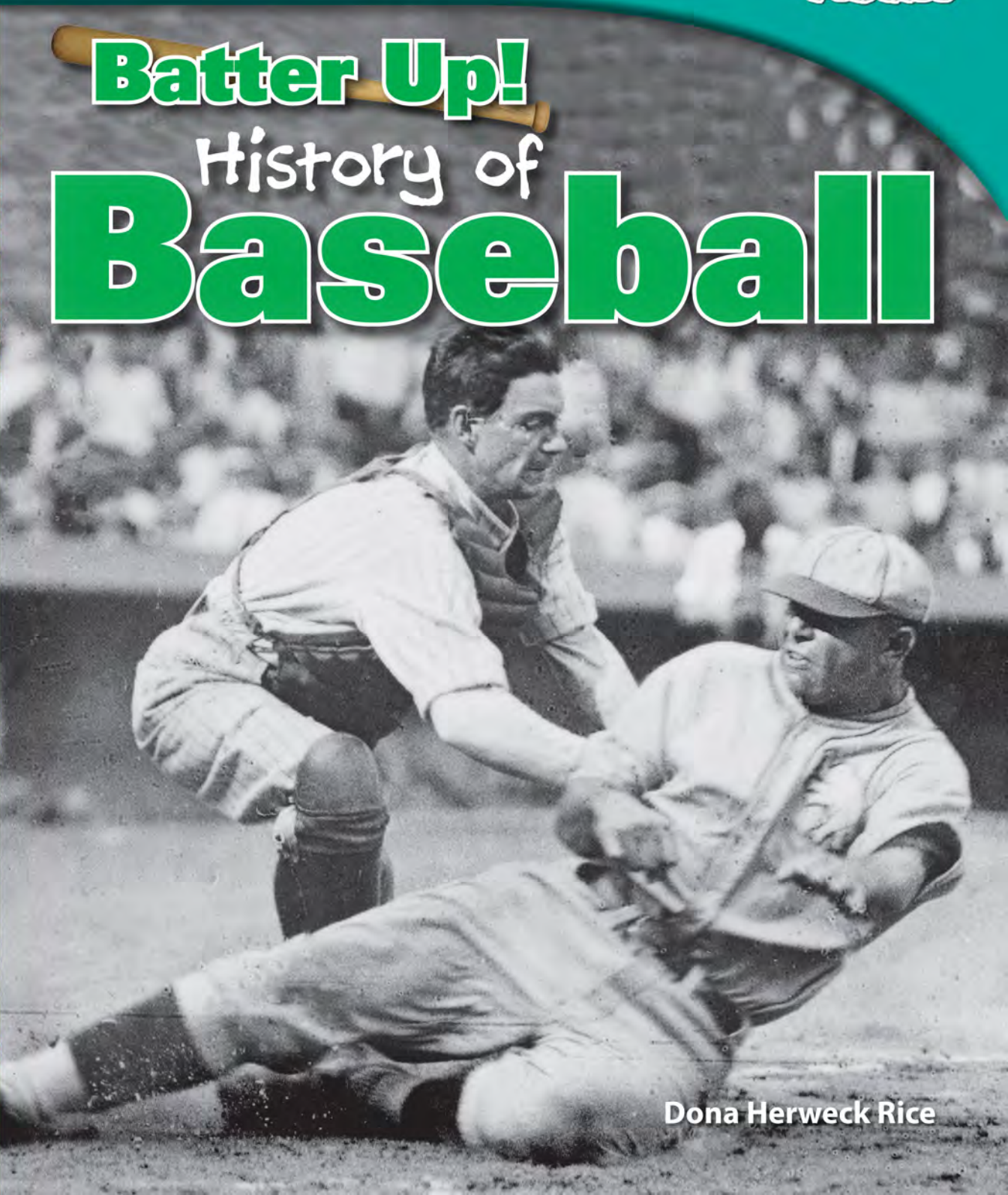
TIME FOR KIDS

Batter Up! History of Baseball



Dona Herweck Rice

Consultant

Timothy Rasinski, Ph.D.
Kent State University

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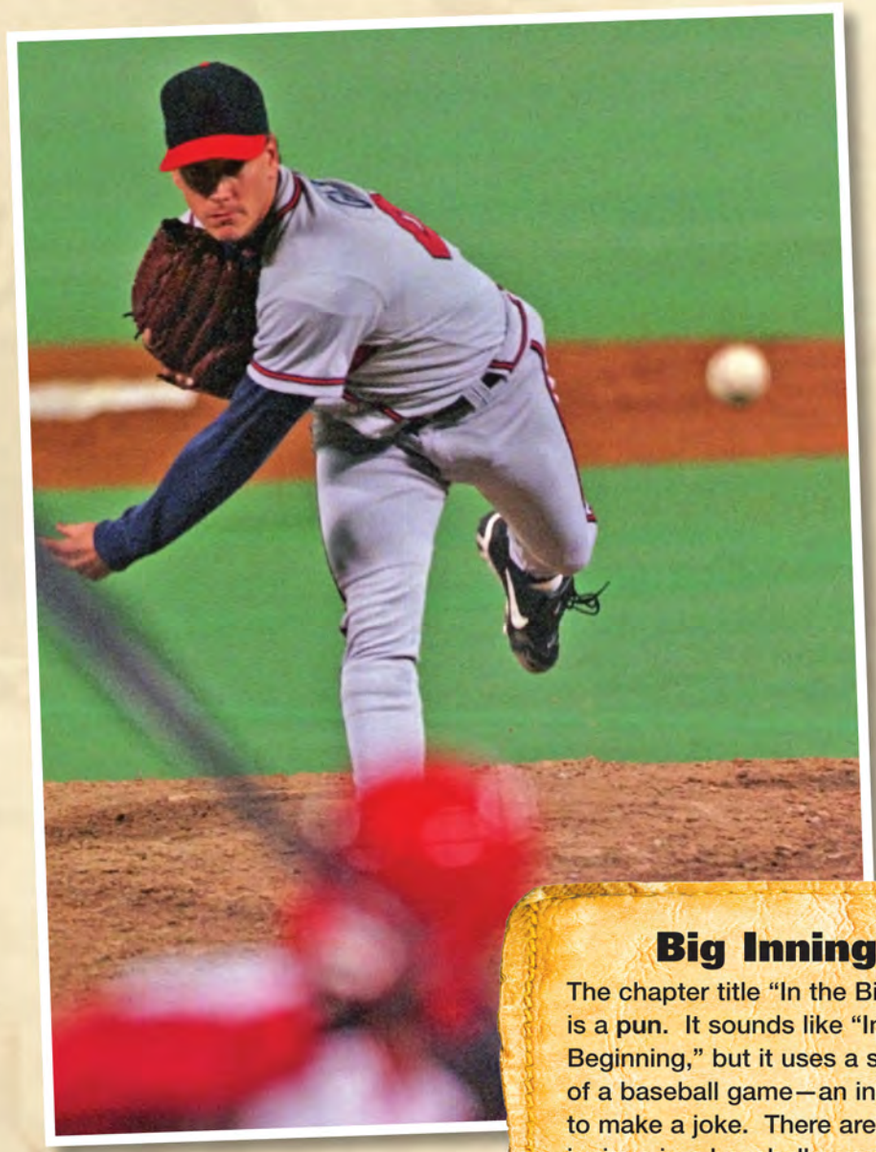
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In the Big Inning

Take a bat, a ball, a mitt, and a warm summer day. Put them all together, and you've got the great game of baseball!



But baseball hasn't always existed. Who invented the game? Who wrote the rules? Who wore the first uniform and glove? Who hit the first home run, and when was the first World Series played? We know the answers to some of these things. Others we don't know, and for some we can only make a guess.





Big Inning?

The chapter title "In the Big Inning" is a **pun**. It sounds like "In the Beginning," but it uses a section of a baseball game—an inning—to make a joke. There are nine innings in a baseball game.

National Pastime

Baseball is called America's *national pastime.* That is because it is one of the most popular sports in the United States, both to play and to watch.

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children playing Little League baseball



As far as we know, games with sticks, balls, and bases have been played for centuries. Baseball seems to have grown naturally from these games. It wasn't invented by just one person. Many people think that it came from the British games **rounders** and **cricket**. As early as the 1700s, people were playing some form of these games.

adults playing professional cricket



Before Baseball

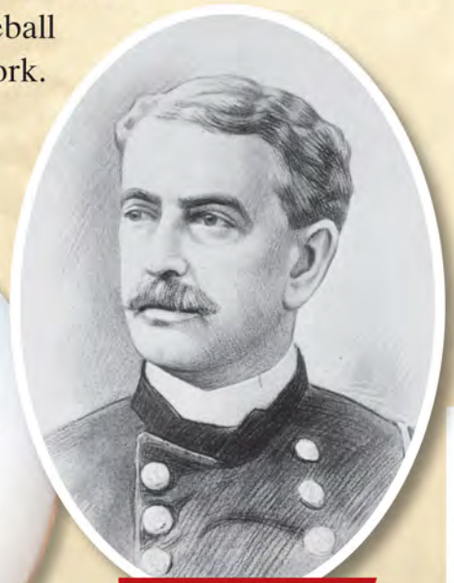
Cricket is a game with many similarities to baseball. Cricket is played outside with 11 players on each team. They use bats, a ball, and wickets, which are stick-like targets.

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People today usually think that Abner Doubleday invented baseball. It's no wonder. After Doubleday died, a man named Abner Graves claimed he saw Doubleday invent the game in 1839. He said that Doubleday made the first baseball diamond in a field in Cooperstown, New York.

Abner Doubleday

Doubleday may not have invented baseball, but he was a great man nonetheless. After graduating from West Point in 1842, he immediately began a distinguished military career. Eventually, he became an honored major general.



Abner Doubleday (1819–1893)



Even though Abner Doubleday didn't invent baseball there, Cooperstown is still considered to be baseball's hometown.

Today's baseball diamond and playing positions follow plans made almost 170 years ago.

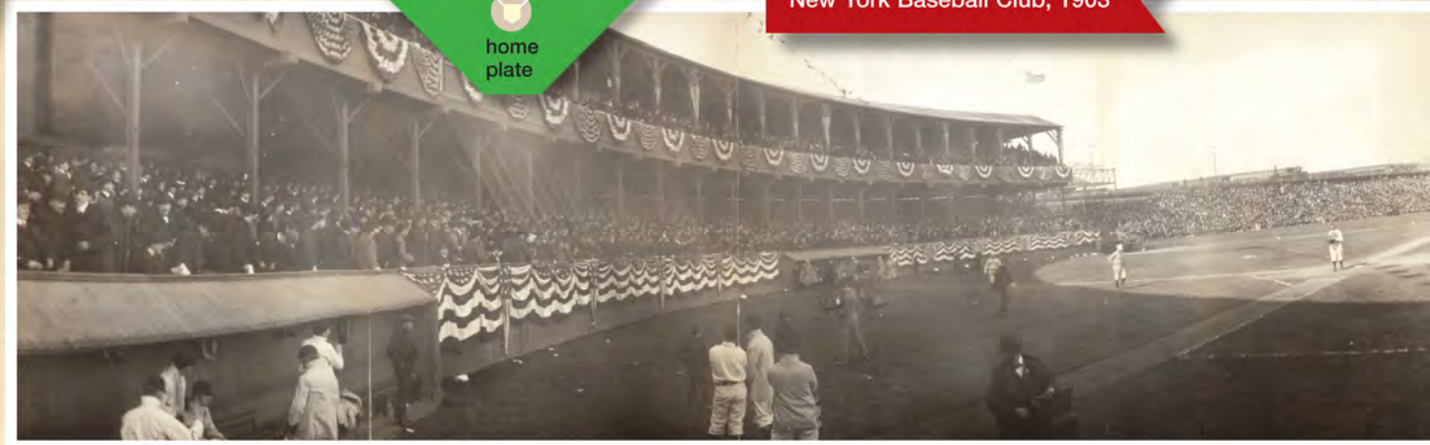


Whom Do You Believe?

One of the main reasons people believed Graves's story was that a very old, rotting baseball was found among Abner's belongings when he died. The ball became known as the "Doubleday Baseball." You can still see it on display in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.



New York Baseball Club, 1903



The trouble is, Doubleday was a **cadet** at West Point military academy in 1839. He was not in Cooperstown, and he didn't have time for baseball. Also, Doubleday left many journals when he died. He doesn't mention baseball in any of them. A 1911 encyclopedia article about Doubleday doesn't mention baseball either.