



Babe Ruth
By C4A Academy

BABE RUTH, born George Herman Ruth Jr., was a LEGENDARY (renowned or celebrated) American baseball player. Babe Ruth was born on February 6, 1895, in Baltimore, Maryland. He grew up in a poor family and had a rough childhood. His father worked as a SALOONKEEPER and was unable to provide a stable home for his family. Ruth was the first of eight children born to his parents, and his mother struggled to care for the family. As a child, Ruth was known for his MISCHIEVOUS behavior and was often in trouble.

SPELL: STABLE FAMILY BEHAVIOR
What was Babe Ruth's full name? GEORGE HERMAN RUTH JR
During which month was Ruth's birthday? FEBRUARY
Where was Babe Ruth born (city and state)? BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
Ruth's father worked as a _____. SALOONKEEPER
As a child, Ruth was known for his _____ behavior. MISCHIEVOUS
From the lesson, how is the word Legendary defined? RENOWNED, CELEBRATED

At the age of seven, Ruth was sent to St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys, a REFORMATORY (an institution for youthful offenders which is an alternative to prison) and ORPHANAGE (residential institution for parentless children). It was at St. Mary's that Ruth first began playing baseball. He showed a natural talent for the sport and was soon scouted by the BALTIMORE ORIOLES. Ruth played for St. Mary's until he was 19 years old, and it was during this time that he developed his skills as a pitcher and hitter.

SPELL: YOUTHFUL ORPHANAGE SCOUTED

Ruth was sent to St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys, an institution called a _____. REFORMATORY

How old was Ruth when he was sent to St. Mary's? 7

The word meaning an institution for youthful offenders is a what?

An orphanage is described as a ____ for parentless children.

RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTION

Ruth started playing ____ at St. Mary's. BASEBALL

Ruth played for St. Mary's until he was how old? 19

Ruth was scouted by what team? BALTIMORE, ORIOLES

While at St. Mary's Ruth developed his skills as what? PITCHER, HITTER

Name another major league baseball team.

VAKT: Cut out the black rectangle below, which contains the original Baltimore Orioles bird logo. A copy is at the end of the lesson.



Image from <https://www.camdenchat.com/2014/3/3/5465100/orioles-logo-uniform-history>

Ruth began his PROFESSIONAL career with the Baltimore Orioles in 1914. He quickly became known for his powerful hitting and was traded to the BOSTON RED SOX that same year. Ruth played for the Red Sox for five seasons. Babe Ruth quickly established himself as one of the best players in the league. He had a successful TENURE (meaning time employed) with the Red Sox and helped the team win three World Series championships in 1915, 1916, and 1918. In 1920, the Red Sox made the CONTROVERSIAL decision to sell Babe Ruth to the NEW YORK YANKEES.

SPELL: EMPLOYED LEAGUE QUICKLY
Ruth began his _____ career with the Orioles. PROFESSIONAL

In what year did Ruth play for the Baltimore Orioles? 1914

How long did Ruth play for the Red Sox? 5 SEASONS

The word from the lesson meaning "time employed" is? TENURE

Ruth helped the Red Sox win three _____ championships.

WORLD SERIES

What was the first year Ruth helped the Sox win the World Series? 1915

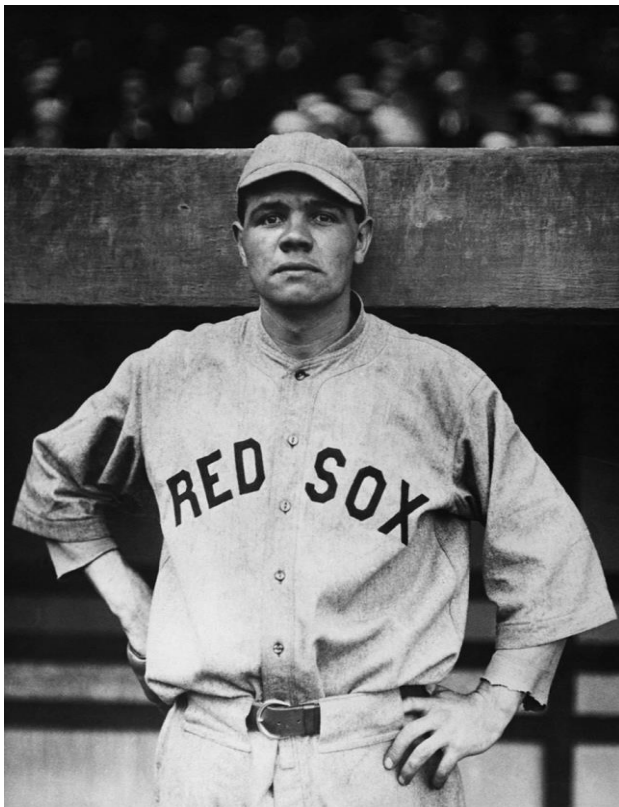
What year was Ruth sold to the New York Yankees? 1920

The decision to sell Ruth the Yankees was a _____ one.

CONTROVERSIAL

Which team did Ruth play for after the Orioles? BOSTON, RED SOX

What's a synonym for controversial? CONTENTIOUS, DISPUTED, etc.



(Source: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS)

The trade of Ruth was a shock to many fans and was seen as a BETRAYAL by the team. The Red Sox struggled to fill the VOID left by

Babe Ruth's departure and the Yankees began to PROSPER (succeed materially). Red Sox fans began to believe that Babe Ruth had cast a curse on their team. They believed that the curse was the reason why the Red Sox did not win a WORLD SERIES for 86 years, from 1918 to 2004. On October 27, 2004, the "CURSE OF THE BAMBINO" finally came to an end when the Red Sox won the World Series against the ST. LOUIS CARDINALS.

SPELL: SUCCEED BELIEVE VOID

The word in the text that means to succeed materially is? PROSPER
Ruth's sale to the Yankees was seen by many fans as a ___ by the team.
BETRAYAL

Red Sox fans began to believe that Babe Ruth had cast what on their team? A CURSE, CURSE OF THE BAMBINO

For how many years did the curse supposedly cause the Red Sox to not win a World Series? 86 YEARS

The curse finally ended when the Red Sox won the World Series against whom? THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Name another pro sport championship. SUPER BOWL, MASTERS, STANLEY CUP, etc.

Ruth played for the New York Yankees for the next 15 seasons. He ESTABLISHED himself as one of the greatest hitters in baseball history and helped the Yankees win seven AMERICAN LEAGUE PENNANTS and four World Series Championships. Ruth's time with the Yankees was CHARACTERIZED by his INCREDIBLE power hitting. He set several records and led the league in home runs for several seasons. In 1927, Ruth set one of his most famous records when he hit 60 home runs in a single season. This record stood for 34 years and cemented Ruth's LEGACY (long-lasting impact) as a legendary power hitter.

SPELL: ESTABLISHED INCREDIBLE CHARACTERIZED

Ruth played for the New York Yankees for how many seasons? 15

The text says that Babe Ruth established himself as one of the greatest ___ in baseball history. HITTERS

The word from the lesson meaning long-lasting impact is? LEGACY

In 1927 did Ruth set one of his most famous records when he did what?

HIT 60 HOME RUNS IN ONE SEASON, 60 HOME RUNS

Ruth helped the Yankees win four World Series Championships and seven what? AMERICAN LEAGUE PENNANTS, PENNANTS

Ruth's record stood for how many years? 34

What's one thing you'd like to leave as a legacy of your life?

Ruth, who was nicknamed THE HOME RUN KING and THE SULTAN OF SWAT, REVOLUTIONIZED (transformed) baseball with his powerful hitting and introduced a new style of play that focused on power rather than contact. Ruth's home runs brought EXCITEMENT to the game and helped to make baseball more popular. His records and accomplishments, as well as his impact on the sport, have made him one of the greatest sports HEROES in American history.

SPELL: IMPACT STYLE NICKNAMED

The word from the text meaning transformed is? REVOLUTIONIZED

Ruth's style of play focused on ___ rather than contact. POWER

Ruth's home runs brought ___ to the game, and made baseball more popular. EXCITEMENT

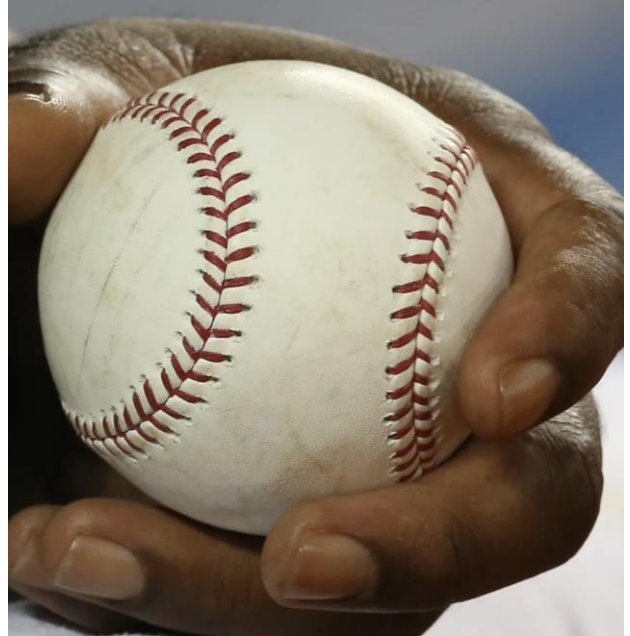
Ruth's records, accomplishments, and impact on baseball have made him one of the greatest sports _____ in American history? HEROES

What was one of Ruth's nicknames? THE HOME RUN KING, THE SULTAN OF SWAT

Name another well-known sports figure.

What do you think of when you hear the word "baseball"?

VAKT: Trace the seams of the baseball with your finger or a pencil.



Babe Ruth was a larger-than-life figure both on and off the field. He was married twice and had several children, and his personal life was often the subject of much media ATTENTION. Ruth married his first wife, HELEN WOODFORD, in 1914. The couple had one daughter, JULIA, but their marriage was PLAGUED by a variety of personal issues. Their marriage ended in 1929, and Ruth married his second wife, CLAIRE HODGSON, that same year. The couple remained married until Ruth's death in 1948.

SPELL: MARRIED COUPLE MEDIA
Babe Ruth was a ____ ____ ____ figure on and off the field. LARGER THAN LIFE

What is the name of one of Babe Ruth's wives? HELEN WOODFORD, CLAIRE HODGSON

Ruth and Helen had a ____ named Julia. DAUGHTER

Ruth married his second wife in what year? 1929

In your own words, what does it mean to be larger than life?

Babe Ruth was known for his love of food and drink. He was famous for his VORACIOUS (insatiable, compulsive) appetite for both food and alcohol, and for his love of GAMBLING. He was a frequent gambler and was often seen playing cards and betting on sports. Despite his VICES (wrongdoings), he was known for his impressive physical condition. Ruth remained an incredibly talented ATHLETE and continued to set records and break barriers throughout his career.

SPELL: IMPRESSIVE FAMOUS BETTING

He was famous for his insatiable _____. APPETITE

The word from the text meaning insatiable or compulsive is? VORACIOUS

In addition to eating and drinking, Ruth had a love of _____. GAMBLING

What word in the text means wrongdoings? VICES

From the text, Ruth remained an incredibly talented _____ throughout his career. ATHLETE

Ruth had a voracious appetite for what two things? FOOD, ALCOHOL

One way that Ruth gambled was? PLAYING CARDS; BETTING ON SPORTS

Besides overeating, overdrinking, and gambling, what is another vice a person might have? SMOKING, STEALING, SHOPPING

Babe Ruth was beloved by the American public. He was CHARISMATIC, friendly, and known for his CHARITABLE work. He was involved in several PHILANTHROPIC organizations and was a champion for children's causes. After 22 seasons, Ruth retired from baseball in 1935. But even in retirement, Ruth continued to impact baseball and American culture. He made several films, toured with baseball teams, and his popularity remained high. Ruth was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936, its INAUGURAL (first) year, and was named the greatest baseball player of all time by The Sporting News in 1969.

SPELL: CHARITABLE CAREER CHAMPION

Ruth was beloved because he was _____, friendly, and known for his charitable work. CHARISMATIC

What year did Ruth retire from baseball? 1935

Ruth was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in its _____ year. INAUGURAL

In 1969, he was named the greatest baseball player of all time by The _____ . SPORTING NEWS

Ruth's charitable work included involvement in what (name one of the two things mentioned in the text)? PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATIONS; CHILDREN'S CAUSES

Name another news publication. NEWSWEEK, USA TODAY, etc.

What's an antonym for beloved? HATED, DISPISED, DISLIKED, etc.

VAKT: Watch this three-minute compilation of some of Babe Ruth's baseball moments. <https://youtu.be/7WfVREOHak>

Ruth was diagnosed with cancer in 1946 and passed away on August 16, 1948, at the age of 53. Despite his relatively short life, Babe Ruth's impact on baseball and American culture has been long-lasting and SIGNIFICANT. He is widely considered one of the greatest players of all time. Ruth's skills and CHARISMA helped to popularize baseball and make it America's national PASTIME. Babe Ruth remains a cultural icon whose legacy continues to inspire future generations of players and fans.

SPELL: ICON NATIONAL CHARISMA
Babe Ruth's impact on baseball and American culture has been long-lasting and _____. SIGNIFICANT
Ruth helped to popularize baseball and make it America's national _____.
PASTIME
Babe Ruth's legacy continues to inspire future _____ of players and fans.
GENERATIONS

How old was Babe Ruth at the time of his death? 53 YEARS OLD

Creative writing:

What is a pastime you enjoy, or one you think you would enjoy?

How do you think people would view Babe Ruth today? Would he be as popular? As controversial? Would you consider a sports hero a role model? Why or why not? Who is a role model in your life?

VAKT: Cut out the black rectangle below, which contains the original Baltimore Orioles bird logo.

This lesson was adapted from text generated by ChatGPT.

Additional resources:

<https://sabr.org/journal/article/babe-ruths-half-season-with-the-baltimore-orioles-in-1914/>

<https://youtu.be/7WfVREOHaAk>

<https://www.camdenchat.com/2014/3/3/5465100/orioles-logo-uniform-history>