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# Baseball: Then To WOW!



## Synopsis

Baseball: Then to WOW! shows readers how baseball has evolved from the early days of the 1920s to the game it is today. Using MLB action photographs, illustrations, stories, and trivia, the book is a journey through time both for baseball fans and those new to the game. Kids will learn how basic equipment has changed from fingerless gloves to specially tailored leather-bound mitts and how the evolution of game strategy has transformed the sport, players, and equipment. Players throughout history are stacked up against each other in every position so fans can dream up the perfect fantasy team with Babe Ruth playing alongside Hank Aaron and Reggie Jackson. A fun-filled section of the book explores everything fan culture-from the perfect ballpark frank to the importance of baseball cards and video games in popularizing the sport.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1150 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 80 pages

Publisher: Sports Illustrated (April 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1618931423

ISBN-13: 978-1618931429

Product Dimensions: 11.5 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (30 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #69,589 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #106 in [Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball](#) #1837 in [Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 1 - 9

## Customer Reviews

With the official baseball season starting this week, this offers the perfect opportunity to share some great baseball books perfect for baseball fans of any age. Our family has been rooting for the Chicago Cubs, but love watching all levels of baseball from our own kids playing, our high school team, our local AAA league and to the pros. My husband grew up in Norway, Iowa (think the movie THE FINAL SEASON) and baseball has been part of his life since he can remember. This book covers all aspects of baseball and its evolution from the 1800's to the present. Whether you played baseball in your back yard or on a meticulously cared for diamond, this book is for you. The pages

are full-color and offer awesome statistics and little-known facts about baseball. I loved the evolution of the uniforms, the gloves, and the catcher masks. Did you know the Chicago White Sox experimented with wearing shorts in the 70's? That obviously didn't work out. But the uniform pages are hilarious to look at and see the evolution of style as well as the different hairstyles of the players. Even the umpires of baseball have a section, noting their changes in protection behind the plate to how many were used in a game. These images show examples of the captivating photos on each and every page. My sons would have loved this book when they were younger. They were all about stats and knowing particular statistics of all the top athletes. Even now, they found the milestone section very interesting. This section lists all the players with 300 Wins, 3,000 Strikeouts, 500 Home Runs, and 3,000 Hits. When I set out the books, my oldest son grabbed this one right away and started looking through it.

I wish I was kidding about this one, but I'm not. This book is the perfect gift for happy little Yankees fans. When you open the book, you'll be greeted by some familiar (but hated) pinstripes. I originally dismissed the appearance of the pinstripes as a mere design whim, but I read the book in increasing horror as my team of choice was openly and obviously overlooked, while the boys from the Bronx were given many kudos. I was thrilled to see Fenway Park listed as the oldest continuously used Baseball Park, and appalled to see the New York Dynasty (they call it that, I call it something else) listed as the "winningest" team in baseball. More attention is given to the Yankees than to all other teams combined, and depressingly little is given to the Boys from Beantown. That aside, the book is a great way to begin learning about our national pastime, no matter what your age. If you're from middle school on up, there's a lot to be learned here. It's a place to whet your appetite so you can learn from other, less biased sources. One thing I was surprised about was that there was no mention of the traditional way of keeping score, to introduce a new generation of baseball fans how to read a scorecard (or keep score themselves)! But there is a lot of historical background and the book moves at a lively pace. Would I recommend this as a gift for a young baseball fan? Yes, but with a caveat and a couple of bleacher seats. I have found that children who are old enough to enjoy this book are certainly old enough to watch Ken Burns' amazing video series on Baseball, which is available here on video.

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