

10 The Baseball Field

Get ready!

① Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 Where does the pitcher throw the ball from?
- 2 Where are runs scored?

Third Inning of the Tigers-Lions Game

It is the bottom of the third inning in an already close game. The Lions are up by one, with the Tigers now at bat. Ted Jones is on the **pitcher's mound** for the Lions. Steve Sharp steps into the **batter's box**, tapping **home plate** with his bat. Jones throws a fastball, Sharp connects but sends the ball flying into the **backstop**. Sharp hits the ball on the next pitch, hitting it to the **outfield**.

Sharp runs the **baseline** to **first base** as the ball is thrown **infield**. He keeps running and makes it safely to **second base**.

Dave Smith steps up to the plate and swings. The ball soars left of the **foul pole**. Smith eventually strikes out. So does Larry Bemis who follows Smith in the batting order.

The top slugger for the Tigers is Josh Hadley, and he's up next. He is an exciting player to watch and everyone in the **dugout** stands up. Even the players in the **bullpen** stop to watch him bat. His first shot is a beauty as it flies past the outfielders. Sharp has plenty of time to round **third base** and makes it home. He's **safe**. We now have a tie game.

Reading

② Read the transcript of a baseball broadcast. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the purpose of the broadcast?
A to describe what happened during an inning
B to explain the features of a baseball field
C to give the batting order for a baseball team
D to recap all the events of a baseball game
- 2 Which of the following events did NOT occur?
A two players struck out
B a batter hit a foul ball
C a pitcher delivered a fastball
D a player hit a home run
- 3 What is the result of Hadley's hit?
A The ball flies left of the foul pole.
B The ball is caught by an outfielder.
C A teammate is able to score a run.
D Hadley is able to make it to third base.

second base
outfield

outfield

pitcher's mound

first base

baseline

third base

home plate

batter's box



Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What is some equipment used when playing baseball?
- 2 What protects a player's head and face?

Reading

2 Read the advertisement. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the main purpose of the passage?
 - A to compare different baseball equipment manufacturers
 - B to list required equipment for members of a team
 - C to explain what equipment is available
 - D to describe improvements in baseball equipment
- 2 Which of the following is NOT protective equipment?

A cup	C batting glove
B catcher's mask	D batting helmet
- 3 What equipment is only needed by catchers?

A a cup	C a batting helmet
B a mitt	D a chest protector

Sam's Sporting Goods

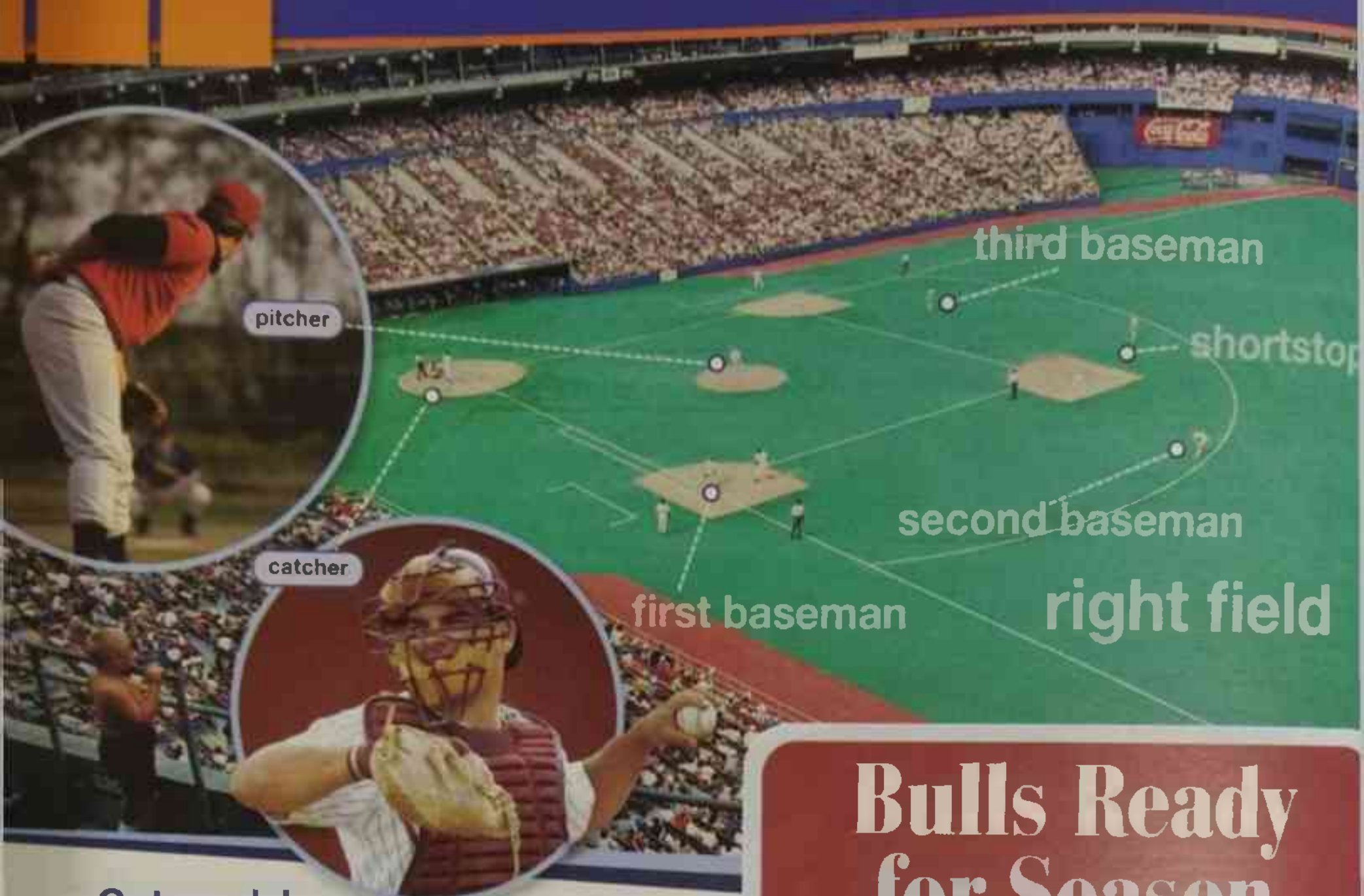
Spring is in the air, and everyone is ready for baseball! In celebration of the baseball season, we are having a store-wide sale. Come in to Sam's Sporting Goods today for the best selection of baseball equipment.

Basic equipment is now 20% off. We have the most popular wood and aluminum bats to choose from. Top brand gloves (mitts) are ready to be broken in. Baseballs are available for tee-ball games as well as professional leagues. We also have a large selection of baseball caps from your favorite teams.

Protective equipment is now priced at 25% off regular price. You'll need batting helmets for every at bat. Catchers need chest protectors and catcher's masks. And no player should go without a cup.

To round out our sale, we've marked everything else 10% off. Come browse the many items we have available. Need a better grip on the bat? Grab some batting gloves and pine tar. Help your pitchers practice with a new rubber. We have many other items in store. Stop in today before you strike out on the awesome deals!

12 Baseball: Players



Get ready!

- 1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What is one outfield position on a baseball field?
- 2 Which player wears the most protective gear?

Reading

- 2 Read the announcement. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the main purpose of the announcement?
A to review the team's season
B to explain the responsibility of each position
C to list the starting lineup for the new season
D to review how players played in a recent game
- 2 Which of the following positions is NOT filled by a returning player?
A catcher C closer
B third base D first base
- 3 Which position is part of the starting infield?
A DH C center field
B reliever D shortstop

Bulls Ready for Season

Starters Announced for Opening Day

With spring training behind us, the team looks forward to the season opener. New players fought hard for the starting positions. But your favorite veterans will return for the next season, too.

Just like last year, the **pitcher** for the first game is Curt Olson, with veteran Blake Hamm at **catcher**. The **reliever** and **closer** positions are filled with new members. John Harper, the long **reliever**, transferred from the Brockton Strikers. James Henson, the new **closer**, comes from New Milton. Last year, he finished with an amazing 2.40 **ERA**.

Covering the infield are the starters from last season. Josh Rodriguez is **first baseman** and Byron Smith is **second baseman**. Rounding off the infield positions are Steven Peters, who is **third baseman**, and Alex Brown at **shortstop**.

In the outfield is Brent Meyers at **right field** and Tim Lucas at **center field**. Newly acquired from the Lions is Lu Tang at **left field**.

Dan Heffer will be **DH** after posting a **batting average** of .330 last year. He will occupy the fourth spot in the **batting order**.

We hope to see you all on opening day!

The Daily Gazette



grand slam

Last night's game between the Tigers and Sluggers had a slow start, but an exciting finish. Both starting pitchers had over ten **strike outs**. A few **pitches** allowed **hits** for **singles**. Yet no runs were scored until the ninth inning.

There was some excitement at the bottom of the sixth, when the Tigers hit a **triple**. Two **outs** had already been recorded and the next batter was given a **walk**. But the next batter went **out** with three **strikes**, preventing a score.

In the top of the ninth, the game changed. Slugger's first baseman Joe Mays got to first after a fielding **error**. Then Mark Hanson hit a

double. The next batter, Mike Smith, hit a **home run**, bringing the score to 3-0. Following that, Rick Steele was called out **sliding** into second. The inning ended when Green and Ince went out on a **double play**.

In the bottom of the ninth, the first three Tiger's players hit singles, including Silva with a dramatic dive to first base that was called **safe**. Howard Vickers then hit a powerful drive to the outfield. It was almost a **foul ball**, but stayed in. It reached the stands for a **grand slam**, giving the Tigers the win.



safe



hit



slide



out

Get ready!

① Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What two calls does an umpire make regarding a player?
- 2 What do batters try to do?

Reading

② Read the article. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 ___ Both teams scored in the first inning.
- 2 ___ A player hit a home run in the top of the ninth.
- 3 ___ The Sluggers won the game.

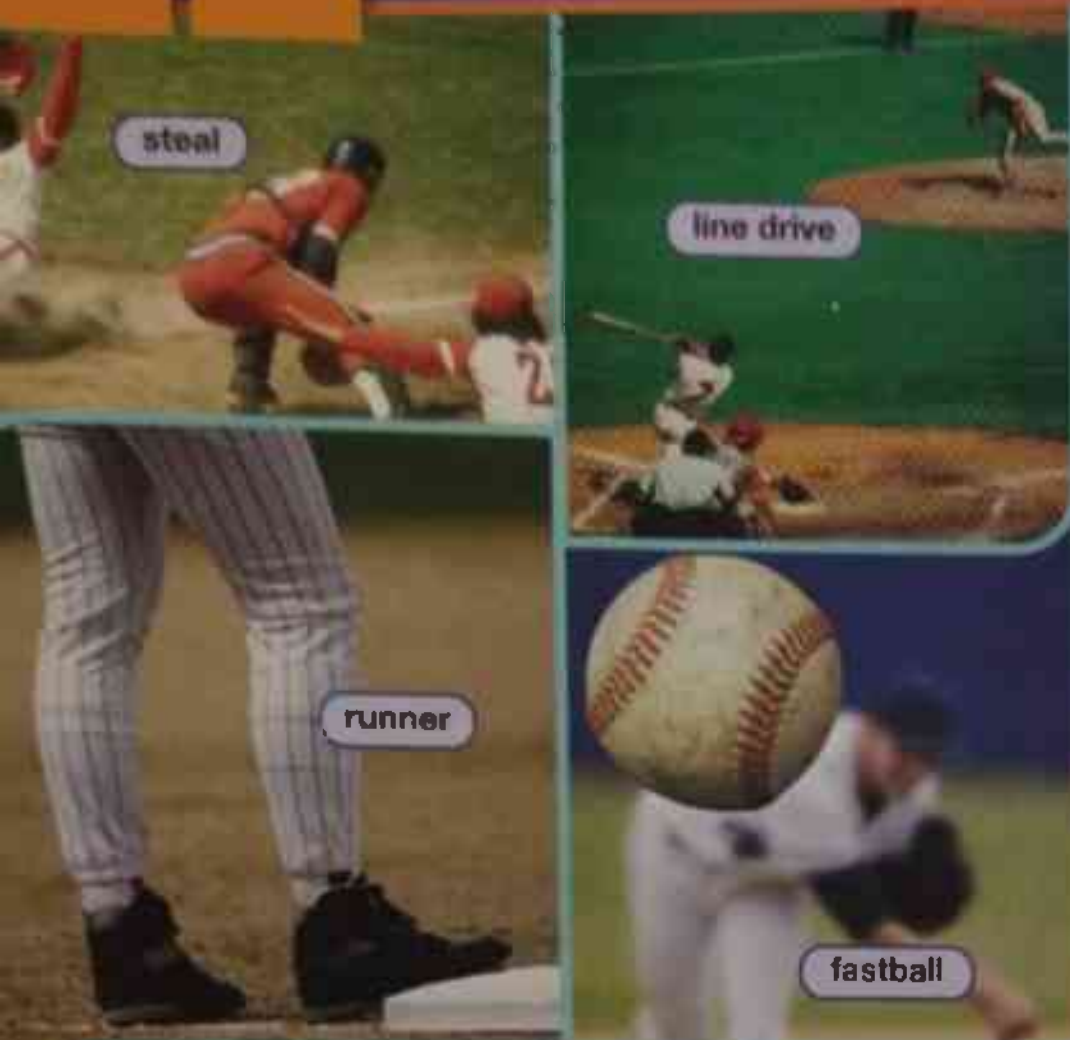
Vocabulary

③ Match the words or phrases (1-10) with the definitions (A-J).

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 ___ walk | 6 ___ home run |
| 2 ___ double | 7 ___ slide |
| 3 ___ grand slam | 8 ___ strike out |
| 4 ___ pitch | 9 ___ foul |
| 5 ___ out | 10 ___ triple |

- A a hit earning a score
- B the delivery of the ball from the pitcher
- C a move in which a player slips along the ground to reach a base
- D an event in which a player reaches base after receiving four balls
- E to be out of play
- F an event in which a player is removed from play
- G an event in which a player allows three strikes to pass
- H a two-base hit
- I a three-base hit
- J a hit earning four runs

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Tough Game for Tigers

The **top** of the first **inning** saw the Bulldogs out in front with a four nothing lead. The next five innings were scoreless.

The **bottom** of the seventh inning brought renewed life to the Tigers. Rogers started with a **bunt** and took first safely with Goodwin **on deck**. A **balk** by the Bulldogs' pitcher moved Rogers to second. Goodwin then pounded the ball with a **line drive** off a **fastball**. With Goodwin at first and Rogers at third, a **fly ball** by Tang drove Rogers in to score. The inning ended with two more scores driven in by Jones, after Hays was given an **intentional walk**.

The Bulldogs added three more runs in the eighth. With the score still seven to three in favor of the Bulldogs, the Tigers went to work. With **runners** at first and second, Smith swung and missed for strike three on a **curveball**. But Davis was able to **steal** third. Rogers was **hit by a pitch** and took first. Manager Tom Jenkins replaced him with a **pinch runner**. With the bases loaded, the Tigers were hoping for a **walk off run**. But Griggs hit into a double play, ending the game and leading to a Tigers' loss.

Get ready!

- ① Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What is one kind of hit in baseball?
- 2 What is one kind of pitch in baseball?

Reading

- ② Read the game report. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the main idea of the article?
 - A the best moments from a team's season
 - B the major events of a single game
 - C a review of errors committed by a team
 - D a comparison of how a team played in two games
- 2 Which of the following did NOT occur?
 - A a bunt by Rogers
 - B Goodwin hitting a fly ball
 - C Davis stealing third
 - D Smith missing a curveball
- 3 According to the recap, in what innings did the Bulldogs score?
 - A the top of the first and top of the eighth
 - B the bottom of the seventh and bottom of the eighth
 - C the bottom of the seventh and bottom of the ninth
 - D the top of the eighth and top of the ninth

Vocabulary

- ③ Match the words or phrases (1-10) with the definitions (A-J).

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 ___ pinch runner | 6 ___ bunt |
| 2 ___ balk | 7 ___ steal |
| 3 ___ hit by pitch | 8 ___ on deck |
| 4 ___ runner | 9 ___ inning |
| 5 ___ fastball | 10 ___ fly ball |

- A to advance a base during a pitch
- B an event in which the batter is struck by the ball
- C being next up in the batting order
- D a player who has hit the ball or is on base
- E a slight tap on the ball
- F a section of a baseball game
- G a pitch with a high rate of speed
- H a player that replaces a base runner
- I a ball hit high in the air
- J the act of starting and then stopping a pitching motion