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*Baseball (DK Eyewitness Books) [James Buckley Jr.] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. The most trusted nonfiction series on the market, Eyewitness Books provide an in-depth, comprehensive look at their subjects with a unique integration of words and pictures.*

The lifespan of a Major League baseball during a game is about six pitches. Home team personnel supply new balls as needed to the home plate umpire to put into play. Cork and rubber Black rubber Red rubber 4-ply gray wool winding 3-ply white wool winding 4-ply gray wool winding percent cotton finish winding THE BOTTLE BAT Full grain, alum tanned cowhide leather The only player to successfully use this strange form of a bat was Heinie Groh, who played for the Cincinnati Reds from 1890 to 1894. Much sturdier than wood bats, aluminum bats last much longer and are almost impossible to break. During the game, players store several bats in the bat rack in the dugout. A player might have half a dozen bats at the ready, in case one breaks during a game. Before the season, players get large shipments of bats made to their personal specifications; more can be ordered if necessary. Purists bemoan its odd sound, and the effect aluminum has on batters. What would be simple outs with wood are singles with aluminum; what would be fly outs with wood turn into home runs. Still, more players today use aluminum than wood. It fits over the knob but not the barrel. Swinging the bat with this added weight makes swinging the bat without it seem easier and quicker. Baseball Gloves Webbing While many things about baseball have remained nearly the same since the first games were played, one piece of equipment—the baseball glove—has undergone many changes. In fact left-handers, gloves were not even used regularly by players until the late 1800s. Even then, only the catcher wore one, and it was not much more than a leather glove with a bit of padding in the palm. Gloves, or mitts, as they are also called, evolved slowly as more players began using them. The fingers were stitched together. The space between the thumb and forefinger was widened, creating a basket or pocket. The fingers got longer, the better to snare line drives. The leather got looser and more pliable, making the glove more comfortable, and mitts became more specialized for each position. No matter how big or wide or high-tech a baseball glove is, it is only as useful as the hand that is inside it. Early gloves had little webbing. Players young and old use their mitts to field grounders, as this infielder demonstrates. Thumb and virtually no additional webbing. Instead of snagging the ball, reach. Note the differences between the earlier model above left and this one, with the fingers stitched together, between thumb and forefinger. Even so, the fingers were still not much bigger than on the hand. There is one winner for each position in each league three outfielders are chosen in each league. Giants center fielder Willie Mays earned 12 consecutive Gold Gloves, including this one, from 1954 to 1972. Features include extra padding in the pocket, an extra-wide webbing right-handers, and an adjustable strap to insure a tight and comfortable fit. This particular glove is made with two colors of leather. Some choose to use one color, usually brown or black. The large, secure webbing between thumb and forefinger. Padding in the heel and in the fingers helps cushion hard-hit balls. And specially chosen leather left makes each glove a soft and cushiony basket for making great catches. These gloves are longer and thinner than outfield gloves. They are more pointed at the top, the better to scoop low throws out of the dirt or to stretch out for throws that are off-line. Hats and Helmets Crown They are called baseball caps, but golfers wear them on the golf course, race car drivers wear them after races, and football quarterbacks and coaches wear them on the sidelines. And these days, it seems as if everyone in the nonsports world wears them, too. While baseball players wear caps for team identity and to keep the sun out of their eyes, many other sports have adopted the distinctive crown and bill of a baseball cap for use in their own sports. As for baseball helmets, they are a much more recent addition to the game. Today, baseball players at all levels must wear helmets to protect their heads while batting. Although they can be awkward and uncomfortable, they also can be very helpful, especially to inexperienced players looking for confidence at the plate. In addition, this is a great way to sell a great way more souvenir caps, as fans try to keep up with their heroes. These helmets had little padding and afforded little protection. Pro players can wear models with only one ear flap facing the pitcher, while players at other levels wear helmets with two ear flaps. The reason for batting

helmets is simple: Being hit in the head with a pitch can be very dangerous. One enterprising company tried marketing this air-filled rubber bladder as a helmet. Baseball caps are as much about tradition as function. Or in an indoor stadium? Wearing the traditional cap is as much a part of being a ballplayer as swinging a bat. Caps normally are made of six triangular panels held together by steel fabric-covered, galvanized buttons at the top. The team logo is on the front of the cap. Foam padding and a chin strap, sometimes used in youth baseball. The primary changes have come in the height of the crown and the width of the bill. Early caps were worn more snugly while on the top were of the head, bills bit shorter. Brim, usually fabric stitched over heavy cardboard. Baseball uniforms are designed to allow freedom of movement and comfort as the player plays the game. Now, baseball uniforms are made of tight-fitting, stretchy polyester and other synthetic fabrics. Early uniforms were made of heavy wool that got heavier as the game wore on and the player sweated. Then and now, baseball pants are unique in sports. They are supposed to stop just below the knee, as they did until the last decade. Unfortunately, these long pants hide another unique part of the baseball uniform: This home Red Sox jersey belonged to the great Ted Williams. Boston has not changed its basic logo for decades, but other teams have changed their looks and logos several times. Early caps had very low crowns and very short bills. Metal spikes tacked to soles. Note longer sleeves. The thick wool of the uniforms made keeping them clean. High socks, before stirrups difficult, and they were almost permanently stained with grass and dirt. Each March 17, as clubs play exhibition games in Florida and Arizona, several teams celebrate St. Day by donning special green with trimmed shamrock on the sleeve, was worn by Hall of Fame pitcher Tom Seaver when he was with the Cincinnati Reds. For one day each spring, the team becomes the Cincinnati Greens. These uniforms, worn at home by the Bronx Bombers, have barely changed in color and logo from the days of Mickey Mantle and Yogi Berra, but greatly changed in style. Like all baseball uniforms today, they are body-hugging, stretch cotton-poly blends made for comfort, durability, and protection. Teams also have a different uniform for road games, usually in a basic gray and with their city name instead of their team name. As in the old days, a baseball uniform consists of a jersey, pants, hat, and socks. Many players also wear sliding shorts above under their pants. Texas Rangers catcher Ivan Rodriguez ran the bases in the uniform of a Texas Rangers minor league team from the s.

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