



Mobile Science Lab ~ Links to Agriculture

Take Me Out to the Ball Game



Baseball and Agriculture

Most likely you have been to a baseball game, rooted for your favorite team and had a snack to eat such as popcorn, soda or a hot dog. Did you ever think how much baseball is related to agriculture? Check out these interesting facts!

Baseball started in ancient times when the Romans played a similar game with balls made from strips of animal hide wrapped around wild grasses formed into a ball shape.

Today, our games are much more sophisticated and official baseballs used in the major leagues have specific content.



The **core** of a baseball is made from cork and rubber from trees.

There are four layers of **yarn** made from wool and cotton – products of agriculture.

The **covering** is often from number one grade cowhide from Midwest Holstein cows. These hides have better grain and are smoother and cleaner.

Baseball bats are another important part of the game. Originally, the bat was a stick and later on it could have been a stick whittled by its owner. Today, bats are often made from **ash trees** that grow in Pennsylvania or New York. Ash is strong, flexible and lightweight. An ash tree grows for 40-45 years before it has the correct trunk diameter to be cut for bats. One tree can yield 60 bats. Regulation bats can be no more than 42 inches long.

Typically, baseball gloves are made of top-quality leather usually from cattle. The glove, padding and rawhide lacings are all made from leather. Agriculture is again a part of baseball.



Show What You Know

For each baseball item listed below, fill in the blanks with the words listed below to show its connection to agriculture and natural resources. One or more words may be used more than once.

Cattle Wool Cotton Rubber tree Ash tree

Baseball _____

Bat _____

Mitt _____



Eat Some Agricultural Products at the Ballgame

Don't forget that many things that are eaten at the ballpark are agricultural products! You have \$10.00 to spend on food. Your task is to purchase as many food items as possible without going over \$10.00. Calculate what you can buy using the menu below. List your choices in the space provided and show your total.

| MENU | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Item | Price |
| Hot dog | \$5.00 |
| Soda | \$3.00 |
| Popcorn | \$4.00 |
| Peanuts | \$3.00 |
| Nachos | \$6.00 |



I am going to purchase the following items:

| Item | Price |
|--------------|--------------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| Total | _____ |

Get to Know **Chris Davis**



Chris “Crush” Davis

Positions played: First base, third base, right field

Born: March 17, 1986

Bats: Left-handed

Throws: Right-handed

Team: Orioles (since 2011)

Career Batting Average: .234

Career Hits: 1,154

Career Home Runs: 295

Career Runs Batted In: 779

1. How old is Chris Davis? _____
2. What is his career batting average? _____
3. What is the name of his team? _____
4. What positions has he played? _____
5. How many home runs has he hit? _____
6. How many years has he been playing with the Orioles? _____
7. If a batting average of .300 is “excellent”, and the highest career batting average **ever** (by player Ty Cobb) is .366, how would you describe Chris Davis’ average?

Baseball Trivia

- In 1876, an umpire was allowed to ask spectators and players whether a catch had been fairly made if he did not see it himself.
- In 1885, the baseball bat was allowed to have one flat side.
- Before 1931, fly balls that bounced over or through the outfield fence were considered home runs.
- The average life span of a major league baseball is 5-7 pitches.
- Cal Ripken Jr., shortstop for the Baltimore Orioles didn't miss a game in 16 years



Joke Time!

Why are spiders good baseball players?



Did You Know...?

- Babe Ruth once devoured a dozen hot dogs and eight bottles of soda between games of a double header?
- Peanuts aren't really nuts at all – they're actually part of the legume family. That means they're more closely related to peas and lentils than cashews and pecans.
- Baseball fans ate more than 18.3 million hot dogs during baseball games in 2019!

Joke Answer:

Because they are good at catching flies.



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