

Baseball Classroom Activity

The Classroom Activity introduces students to the context of a performance task, so they are not disadvantaged in demonstrating the skills the task intends to assess. Contextual elements include: an understanding of the setting or situation in which the task is placed, potentially unfamiliar concepts that are associated with the scenario, and key terms or vocabulary students will need to understand in order to meaningfully engage with and complete the performance task. The Classroom Activity is also intended to generate student interest in further exploration of the key idea(s). The Classroom Activity should be easy to implement with clear instructions.

Please read through the entire Classroom Activity before beginning the activity with students to ensure any classroom preparation can be completed in advance.

Resources Needed:

- Pictures of a baseball stadium and field
- A projector or some method of displaying images¹

Resources Provided:

- Resource Documents
 - Figure 1. Picture of a Baseball Field
 - Figure 2. Picture of a Baseball Stadium

Learning Goals:

- The student will understand the context of the key ideas related to the topic:
 - Understanding the basics of baseball
 - Buying tickets for and going to a baseball game
 - Choosing a good baseball player
- The student will understand the following vocabulary:
 - Baseball: a game played on a field by two teams of nine players who try to score runs by hitting a ball and then running to each of four bases
 - Run: when a player advances around first, second, and third base and returns safely to home plate, touching the bases in that order, before three outs are recorded
 - Home Run: a hit that allows the batter to go around all the bases and score a run
 - Error: a mistake made by a player in the field that allows a runner to advance one or more bases
 - Home Game: a game played at a team's home field or stadium
 - Season Ticket: a ticket for a series of events (such as sports contests) that is valid for all days or games in a particular period of time
 - Main Box Section: the seats closest to the main field of play in a baseball stadium
 - Reserve Section: the seats behind the main box seats in a baseball stadium
 - Bleacher Section: the seats behind the outfield in a baseball stadium
 - Fan: an enthusiastic devotee (as of a sport or a performing art), usually as a spectator

Definitions are provided here for the convenience of facilitators. Students are expected to understand these key terms as they arise in the context of the task, not to be able to recite the definitions.

¹ Instead of displaying Figures 1 and 2, pages 5 and 6 of this document can be used as a handout for students.

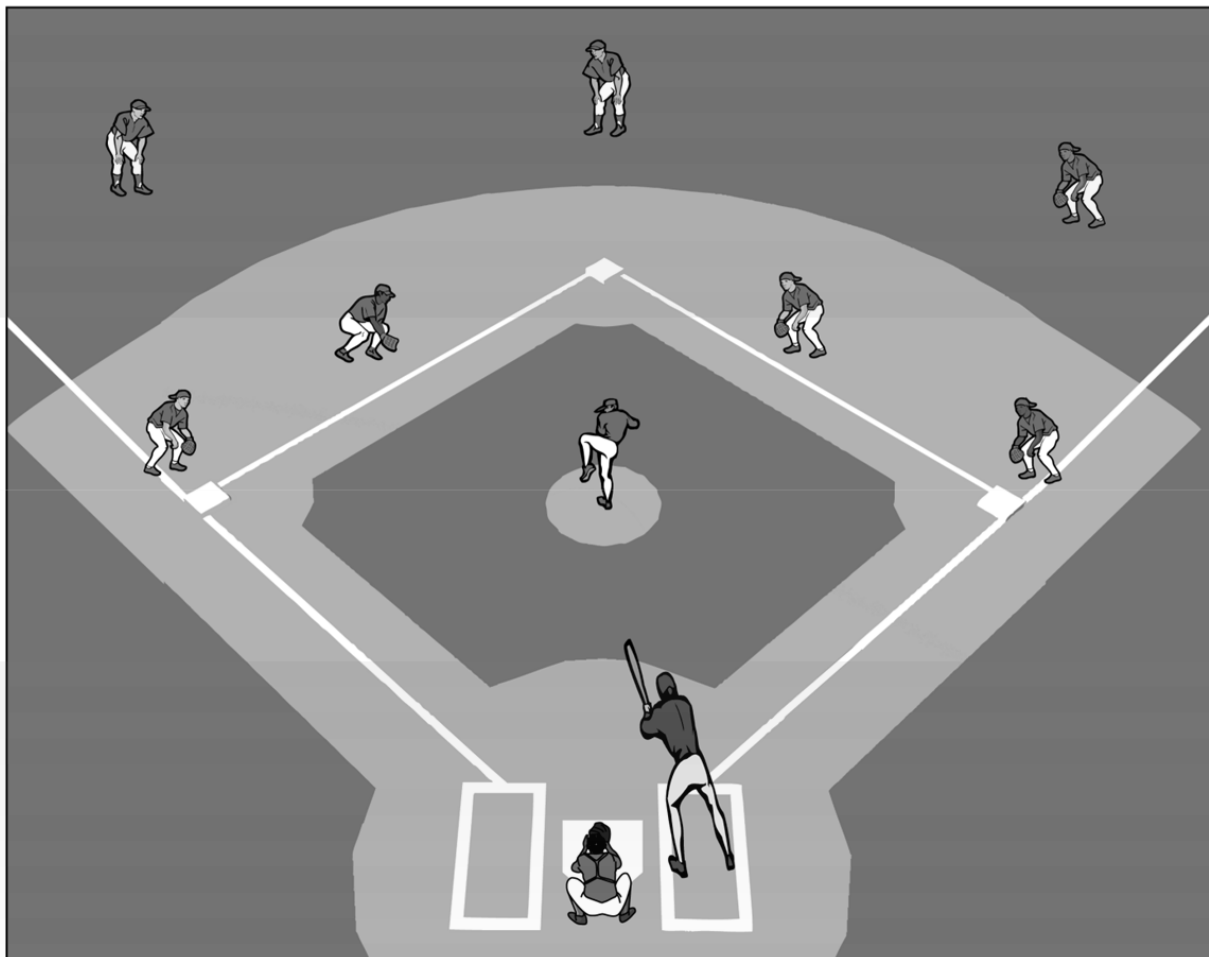
Baseball Classroom Activity

[Purpose: The facilitator’s goal is to introduce students to the sport of baseball in terms of ticket sales and players on a team.]

Facilitator says: “Today we are going to talk about baseball. Who wants to explain what you know about baseball?” [Allow students to describe and discuss their experiences with baseball. If necessary, expand on the topic as follows.]

Facilitator says: “Baseball is a game played on a field by two teams of nine players who try to score runs by hitting a small ball with a bat and then running to each of the four bases.” [If possible, show pictures or videos of baseball being played. If no such pictures or videos are available, facilitator should show or handout Figure 1. Allow students to ask questions.]

Figure 1. Picture of a Baseball Field



[For students who are visually impaired, describe the figure orally using the description given.]

[Picture Description: “The picture shows a baseball field. There is a batter at home plate and nine players in the field. The pitcher is about to throw the ball to the batter.”]

Facilitator says: “What kinds of things do the players do in a baseball game?” [Allow students to explain the types of actions that happen during a baseball game. Make sure that hitting and fielding come up and that all students understand.]

Facilitator says: “What does it mean when a player scores a run in a baseball game?” [Allow students to discuss. Make sure that all students understand that scoring a run means that a player is able to go around the four bases, giving their team a point.]

Facilitator says: “Who can tell me what a home run is?” [Allow students to discuss. Make sure that all students understand that a home run means that the ball is hit in a way that allows the player to get around all of the bases in one play.]

Facilitator says: “Can anyone explain what an error is?” [Allow students to discuss. Make sure that all students understand that an error is a mistake made by a fielder.]

Facilitator says: “Can someone explain how home runs and errors can affect the team scores?” [Allow students to discuss. If needed, expand on the topic as follows.]

Facilitator says: “Depending on how many people are on base, a home run can result in one, two, three, or four runs for a team. Errors can result in runs for the other team, depending on what happens after the error.” [Allow students to ask questions.]

Facilitator says: “What makes a good baseball player?” [Allow students to discuss. Make sure that home runs and good fielding are mentioned.]

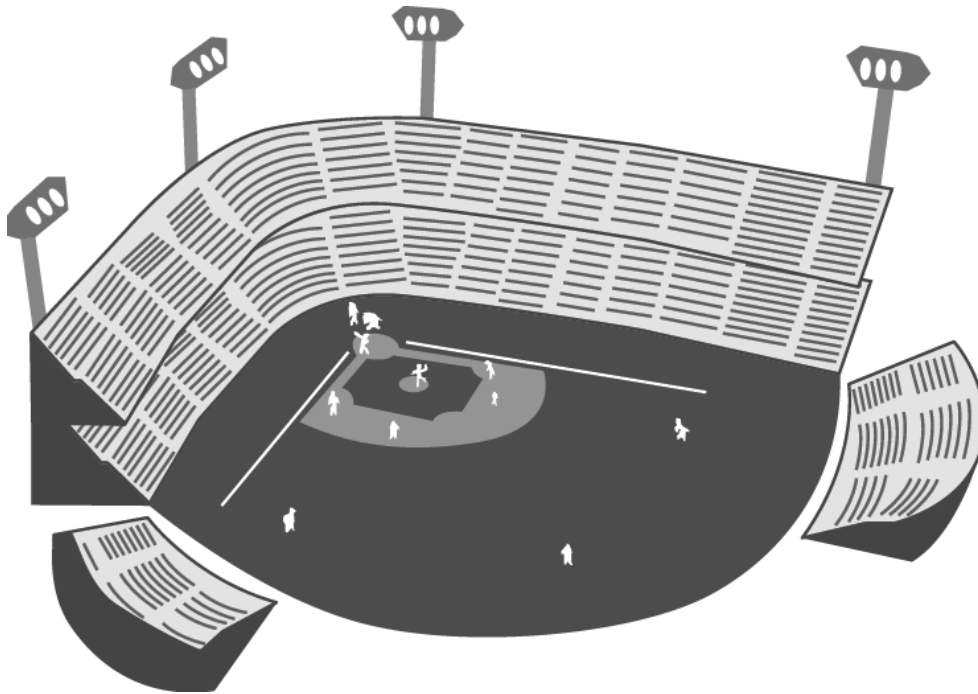
Facilitator says: “No matter where a baseball game is being played, there are usually people who also watch the games and do not play. Does anyone know what it means to be a fan of something?” [Allow students to discuss. If needed, expand on the definition of “fan” as follows.]

Facilitator says: “If you are fan of a sports team, you really enjoy watching the team play and cheering for the team to win.” [Allow students to ask questions.]

Facilitator says: “Professional baseball is played in a stadium where fans come to watch the game. Can anyone describe what a baseball stadium looks like? What kind of seats does it have?” [Allow students to describe a baseball stadium. If needed, expand on the topic as follows.]

Facilitator says: “The bleachers are the seats behind the outfield. The box seats are the seats closest to the main field of play, and reserve seats are behind the box seats. Tickets at a professional baseball game might have different prices based on the location of the seat.” [Facilitator should show or handout Figure 2 and use it to indicate where the seats are located. Check that all students understand.]

Figure 2. Picture of a Baseball Stadium



[For students who are visually impaired, describe the figure orally using the description given.]

[Picture Description: “The picture shows a stadium with many people in it. They are sitting in seats behind the players and beyond the outfield. In the middle of the stadium is a field with people playing baseball.”]

Facilitator says: “How can you buy tickets to a baseball game?” [Allow students to respond. Make sure that the idea of buying “season tickets” and “single-game” tickets is mentioned and allow students to ask questions.]

Facilitator says: “Can anyone explain to the class what season tickets are?” [Allow students to give their definitions of what season tickets are. If needed, clarify the topic as follows.]

Facilitator says: “Buying a season ticket means you buy one ticket that allows you to go to every home game of a team.” [Check for student understanding.]

Facilitator says: “Today, we completed an activity involving playing and watching a baseball game. These ideas may help you when you complete your performance task.”

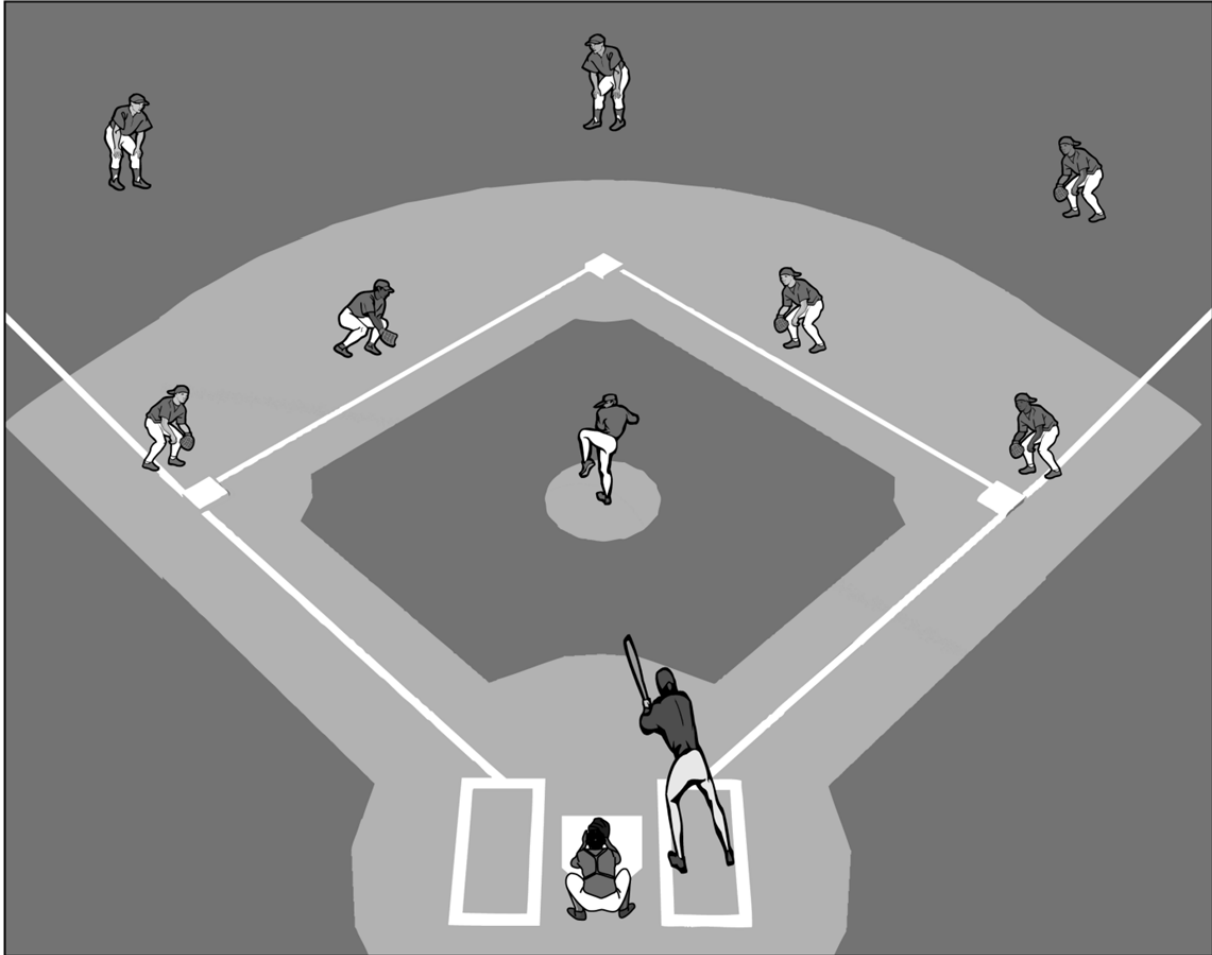
Facilitator says: “Are there any questions?” [Allow for student questions.]

Facilitator says: “You are now ready to complete the Baseball Performance Task.”

Resource Documents

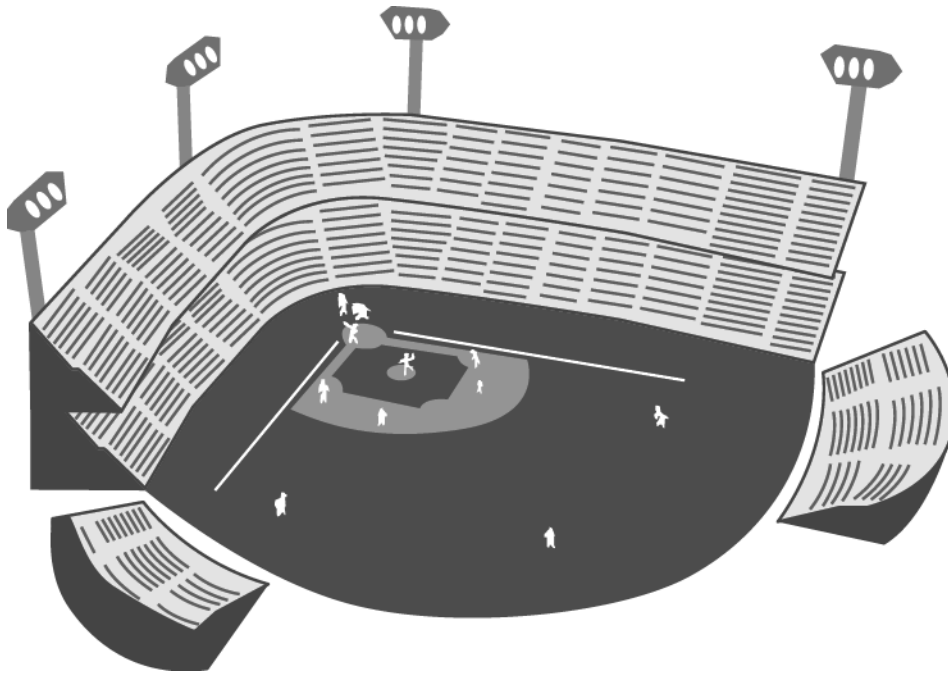
[For students who are visually impaired, describe the figures orally using the descriptions given.]

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