

# Schoolyard games/ Base Ball

## Base Ball Vocabulary:

Aces: Runs

Ballist: Base Ball Player

Behind: Catcher

Dead: Out

Dew Drop: Foul Ball

Dish: Home Plate

Hands: Players

Hot Corner: Third Base

Hurler: A Pitcher

Kranks: Baseball Fan

Kranklet: Female Baseball Fan

Scout: Outfielder

Side Out: Three Outs

Striker: Batter

Striker to the Line: Batter Up

Willow: The Bat

## Graces

- o Originally played by young ladies learning the art of being graceful, this game went through a transition, to become a very popular sport in the late Victorian Era.
- o Players hold a grace stick in each hand. One player very gracefully tosses the ring towards the second player. This player attempts to catch the ring on one or both grace sticks.
- o As this game is competitive, points are affixed to catching the ring on the left hand, the right, or both.

Make Your Own Graces:  
2 Wooden Embroidery Hoops  
Ribbons  
2 Drumsticks

## Fox and Geese

- o One player is chosen to be the fox and another to be the gander. The remaining players all stand in single file behind the gander with hands on the shoulders of the one in front.
- o The gander tries to protect the flock of geese from being caught by the fox. To do this he spreads out his arms and dodges around in any way to avoid the fox.
- o The geese may all cooperate with the gander by doubling and redoubling their line to prevent the fox from tagging the last goose.
- o If the line is really long, he may tag any of the last five geese. When the last goose is tagged, that goose becomes the fox, and the fox becomes the gander.

## Writing Topic:

What are the differences between games today and in the past?

## Specific Standards:

- 19.C.2a Identify and apply rules and safety procedures in physical activities.
- 19.C.2b Identify offensive, defensive, and cooperative strategies in selected activities and games.
- 21.B.2a Work cooperatively with a partner or small group to reach a shared goal during physical activity.
- SS.H.1.3: Create and use a chronological sequence of events
- SS.H.2.3: Describe how significant people, events, and developments have shaped their own community and region
- SS.H.3.3: Identify artifacts and documents as either primary or secondary sources of historical data from which historical accounts are constructed.

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## Overview of Vintage Base Ball Rules

**Rules:** The rules for 1858 Base Ball resemble the modern game, with the following exceptions.

**Pitching:** The ball must pass below the pitcher's waist.

**Hitting:** The striker may call for a high ball (shoulders to waist), a low ball (waist to knees) or a fair ball (shoulders to waist).

**Fair or Foul:** A ball is considered fair or foul depending on where it first lands. It does not have to pass first or third base. Fouls are not considered strikes.

**Strikes and Balls:** A strike is called only if the batter or striker swings at the ball and misses. A batter may wait for his pitch. If however, he abuses this privilege, the umpire may begin to call strikes. Likewise, the umpire will not call balls on a pitcher unless he continually throws bad pitches and abuses his time on the mound.

**Outs:** A ball is considered out if the player strikes out, if the ball is caught in midair or if the ball is caught on the first bounce in fair or foul territory. If the batter connects with any part of the ball and the catcher manages to catch it on the bound, even behind home plate, the batter is considered out. If a ball is caught in mid-air, only the striker is out and runners are given a free walk back to base. If the ball is caught on the first bound, the striker is out, but runners may advance.

**Other:** On a dropped third strike, the striker may attempt to run to first base so long as it is unoccupied. A run scored on the third out may stand so long as the striker is not put out and the run is made before the third out. Runners may not over-run first base.

**Customs:** In the interest of capturing the true flavor of the game, the Marauders observe the following customs of the age. While not hard and fast rules, this is how the game was played.

**Fielding:** Left, right and center should play straight back in the center of their position until the ball is struck, at which point they may move. The shortstop can play on either side of the pitcher. First, second and third should play one step off base until the ball is struck.

**Stealing Bases, Sliding and Leading Off:** Did not occur.

**Runs:** After each run, players ring a bell placed behind the dugout to announce their run or "ace." Players also politely ask the scorekeeper and to "please tally my ace."

**Gentlemanly Conduct:** Base ball was considered a gentleman's game, and players were expected to act courteously, refrain from foul language, observe the highest standards of sportsmanship and even assist the umpire by calling themselves out!