

Are Softball and Baseball the Same?



It might look like baseball, and it might sound like baseball, but softball is not baseball. Just like netball and basketball are different, softball and baseball are different sports. How can that be? After all, the two sports use the same equipment: a bat, a ball, three bases and gloves. However, things are done differently in the two games.

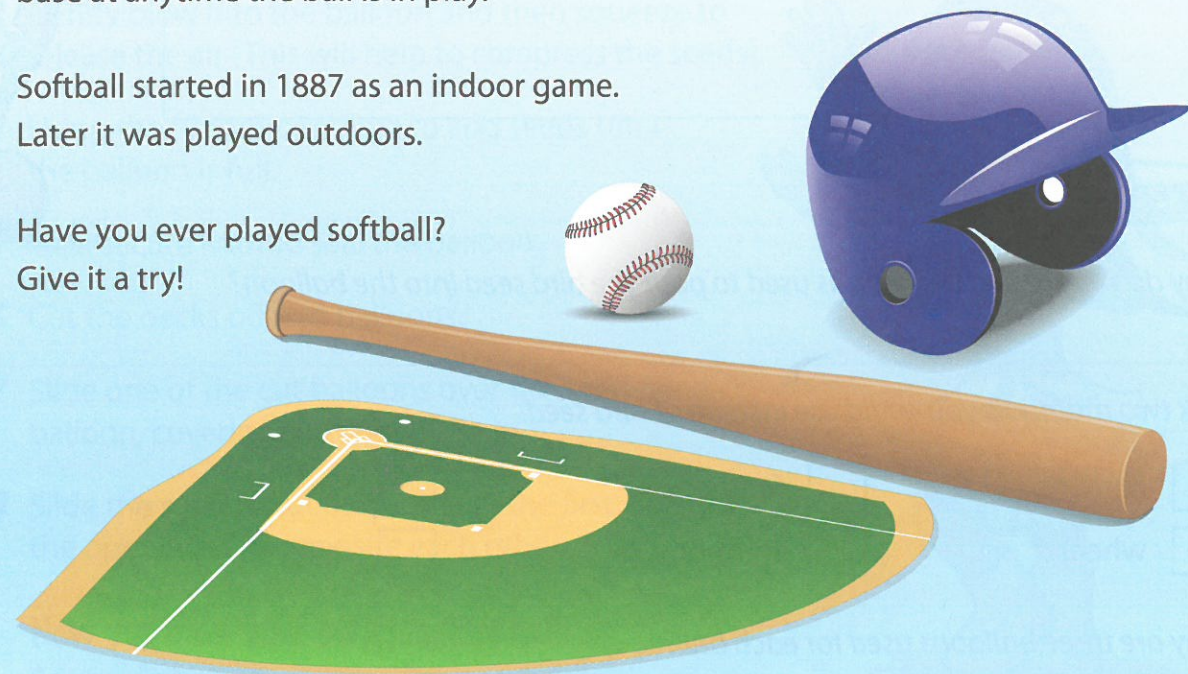
A softball game has seven innings, while a baseball game has nine. The softball field is smaller than a baseball field. A softball is bigger and softer than a baseball. In softball, pitchers throw the ball underarm. In baseball, they throw it overarm. In baseball, pitchers also pitch off a raised area called a mound.

In both sports, players can hit or bunt the ball, and steal bases. The fielding positions are the same too.

In baseball, the bases are further apart than in softball. In softball, you can only steal a base after the ball has left the pitcher's hand. In baseball, you can steal a base at anytime the ball is in play.




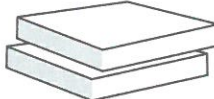

Softball started in 1887 as an indoor game. Later it was played outdoors.

Have you ever played softball?
Give it a try!



Literal Questions

1 Tick the equipment mentioned in the text that both sports use.

a  ball <input type="checkbox"/>	b  bat <input type="checkbox"/>	c  glove <input type="checkbox"/>	d  bases <input type="checkbox"/>	e  hoop <input type="checkbox"/>
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- In softball, do the pitchers throw the ball overarm or underarm? _____
- How many innings does a baseball game have? _____
- Do softballers pitch off a mound? _____
- Which is bigger, a baseball or a softball? _____
- When did softball start? _____
- In which sport are the bases further apart? _____

Focus: Compare and Contrast Patterns

When you compare, you ask how things are the same. When you contrast, you focus on how they are different.

8 Complete the chart to compare and contrast.

	Baseball	Softball
a	uses a smaller, harder ball	
b		seven innings a game
c	uses a bat, a ball, bases and gloves	
d	overarm pitches	
e		has a smaller playing field

Inference Questions

- Which would you rather play, baseball or softball? Explain.

- Is it fair to say that baseball and softball are quite similar? Explain why.

- If you stole a base before the ball left the pitcher's hand in softball, would that be ok? Why?
