Baseball centennial
Scott 855 • 1939

“Base-ball” is mentioned by name, illustrated, and described in a 1744 British book, and a 1791 bylaw in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, prohibited playing it within 80 yards of the newly built town meeting house. However, Abner Doubleday is credited for creating the game in 1839, with the first game taking place in Cooperstown, New York.

Grandma Moses July Fourth
Scott 1370 • 1969

Reproducing the design of a 1951 painting by the then-91-year-old folk artist, this stamp shows an idealized, early version of the July fourth holiday. As its centerpiece, it shows four boys playing baseball on a green field, a detail from the full painting that depicts festive picnicking, fireworks, flag-waving revelers, and a band.

“Take me out to the ball game”
Scott 4341 • 2008

Written by Jack Norworth, “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” celebrated its centennial in 2008. For decades, the song’s catchy chorus has been part of the musical tradition at ballparks around the country, especially during the seventh-inning stretch. The stamp image is adapted from a late 19th-century baseball “trade card.”

Folks Heroes
Mighty Casey
Scott 3083 • 1996

In the poem by Ernest Thayer, “Casey at the Bat: A Ballad of the Republic Sung in the Year 1888,” Mighty Casey is part of a fictional baseball team. The poem was first recorded in 1893. In 1920 the poem was turned into a song and it was adapted into a film in 1927. Since then, there have been animated film, opera, and novel adaptations of this popular poem.
U.S. Baseball

Grandma Moses
Scott 1370 • 1969

Baseball centennial
Scott 855 • 1939

Folks Heroes
Mighty Casey
Scott 3083 • 1996

“Take me out to the ball game”
Scott 4341 • 2008

American Philatelic Society, www.stamps.org
U.S. Baseball

Youth Team Sports
Baseball
Scott 3402 • 2000
Youth baseball is quite popular in the United States, as well as scores of other countries around the world. Informal pick-up games are common in many towns, while team play is organized through Babe Ruth Baseball, Little League, American Legion Youth Baseball, and more.

Professional Baseball Centennial
Scott 1381 • 1969
The Cincinnati Red Stockings, established in 1869, became the first professional baseball team. The first national major league was formed in 1871, but disbanded in 1875. There are two major leagues in existence today — the National League was founded in 1876 and the American League in 1901.

Negro Leagues
Andrew “Rube” Foster (1879–1930)
Scott 4465 • 2010
Scott 4466 • 2010
The Negro Leagues Baseball stamps pay tribute to the all-black professional baseball leagues that operated from 1920 to about 1960. Drawing some of the most remarkable athletes ever to play the sport, the Negro leagues galvanized African-American communities across the country, challenged racist notions of athletic superiority, and ultimately sparked the integration of American sports. In 1920, Andrew “Rube” Foster — who began his baseball career as a pitcher — established the Negro National League, the most successful league of African-American teams. He is considered the “father” of Negro leagues baseball.

Olympic Baseball
Scott 2619 • 1992
Baseball debuted unofficially at the 1904 Summer Games and has been played competitively in 12 Olympiads, with teams from a total of 17 different nations competing. In 1992, the International Olympic Committee finally granted the sport full medal status. The U.S. won the Gold medal at Sydney in 1992, although Cuba has captured the Gold Medal three times to date.
U.S. Baseball

Professional Baseball Centennial
Scott 1381 • 1969

Youth Team Sports
Baseball
Scott 3402 • 2000

Negro Leagues
Andrew "Rube" Foster (1879–1930)
Scott 4465 • 2010 and Scott 4466 • 2010

Olympic Baseball
Scott 2619 • 1992
Jim Thorpe (1888–1953)  
Scott 2089 • 1984
James Frances Thorpe excelled in several sports, including baseball. He began his Major League career with the National League champion New York Giants in 1912. During the winter of 1913–14, Thorpe, along with the Giants and Chicago White Sox, barnstormed across the U.S. and then Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. Jim Thorpe was the real celebrity on this tour.

Babe Ruth (1895–1948)  
Scott 2046 • 1983
George Herman “Babe” Ruth, Jr. began his professional baseball career with the minor league Baltimore Orioles, but was soon moved into the major leagues. He began his career as a pitcher, but was made an outfielder so he could use batting skills in every game. Over his career, Babe Ruth had many record-breaking performances. He earned records for the most years leading a league in home runs (12); the most total bases in a season (457); the highest batting percentage for a season (.847), and the most career home runs (714).

Lou Gehrig (1903–1941)  
Scott 2417 • 1989
One of Lou Gehrig's most notable accomplishments was playing in 2,130 consecutive games over a 15-season span, from 1925 through 1939. He was selected to each of the first seven All-Star games, and won the American League's Most Valuable Player Award in 1927 and again in 1936. He also led the American League in batting average, runs batted in, and home runs in 1934. Gehrig was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1939.

Jackie Robinson (1919–1972)  
Scott 2016 • 1982
Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson was the first African-American to break the color barrier in professional baseball when he took his position on Ebbets Field in Brooklyn for the Dodgers on April 15, 1947. He was selected as the National League's Most Valuable Player in 1949. Robinson was an exceptional base runner and even stole home 19 times in his career. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.

Roberto Clemente (1934–1972)  
2097 • 1984
Roberto Clemente was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1955. This right fielder had an impressive lifetime batting average of .317. With more than 3,000 base hits over his career, Clemente earned four National League batting championships, was the National League Most Valuable Player in 1966, and the World Series Most Valuable Player in 1971.

Roger Maris (1934–1985)  
Celebrate the Century 1960s  
Scott 3188n • 1999
Roger Eugene Maras (he changed the spelling of his last name) joined the major leagues in 1957. Just a few days after the start of the season, he hit the first home run of his career, a grand slam. In 1960, Maris won the Gold Glove Award (as an outstanding defensive outfielder) and the American League's Most Valuable Player. The following year, he hit a record 61 home runs, won the American League's MVP Award for the second straight year, and was named the top professional athlete of the year.
Jim Thorpe
Scott 2089 • 1984

Babe Ruth
Scott 2046 • 1983
Celebrate the Century 1920s
Scott 3184a • 1998

Lou Gehrig
Scott 2417 • 1989

Jackie Robinson
Scott 2016 • 1982
Celebrate the Century 1940s
Scott 3186c • 1999

Roberto Clemente
2097 • 1984

Roger Maris
Celebrate the Century 1960s
Scott 3188n • 1999
Roy Campanella (1921–1993)  
Scott 4080 • 2006  
One of the greatest catchers in baseball history, Roy Campanella was a standout in Negro League and Mexican League baseball before his debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1948, a year after Jackie Robinson. With 2,423 home runs, he played in every All-Star Game from 1949 to 1956, and received the National League Most Valuable Player Award in 1951, 1953, and 1955.

Hank Greenberg (1911–1986)  
Scott 4081 • 2006  
A premier power hitter of his generation, “Hammerin’ Hank” Greenberg was one of the first outstanding Jewish athletes in American professional sports — a five-time All-Star and two-time American League Most Valuable Player. The Detroit Tiger first baseman had a career batting average of .313, with 331 home runs, and 1,276 runs batted in.

Mel Ott (1909–1958)  
Scott 4082 • 2006  
New York Giant right fielder from 1926 to 1947, Melvin Thomas “Mel” Ott was the first National League player to surpass 500 home runs. A 12-time All-Star, Ott compiled a career batting average of .304, with 511 runs and 2,876 runs batted in. He was so feared by pitchers that he also led the National League in bases on balls (walks) for six seasons.

Mickey Mantle (1931–1995)  
Scott 4083 • 2006  
In 18 seasons, New York Yankee outfielder Mickey Mantle won three American League Most Valuable Player titles, played on 16 All-Star teams, 12 pennant winners, and seven World Championship clubs. A clutch player, Mantle still holds World Series records for most home runs (18), runs batted in (40), walks (43), extra-base hits (26), and total bases (123).
U.S. Baseball

Baseball Sluggers

Roy Campanella
Scott 4080 • 2006

Hank Greenberg
Scott 4081 • 2006

Mel Ott
Scott 4082 • 2006

Mickey Mantle
Scott 4083 • 2006
[From the back of the sheet of stamps]

Jackie Robinson (Jack Roosevelt Robinson: 1919–1972)
Scott 3408a • 2000

“Jackie Robinson broke the Major League Baseball color barrier when he came to the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. Two years later, he hit a league-leading .342, drove in 124 runs, and was voted the Most Valuable Player in the National League.”

Eddie Collins (Edward Trowbridge Collins, Sr.: 1887–1951)
Scott 3408b • 2000

“Eddie ‘Cocky’ Collins played the game of baseball for 25 seasons, a 20th-century record for nonpitchers. His brilliant baserunning and batting helped four teams win World Championships.”

Christy Mathewson (Christopher Mathewson: 1880–1925)
Scott 3408c • 2000

“In 1901, 21-year-old Christy Mathewson won 20 games for the New York Giants. With his 'fadeaway' pitch, he posted three consecutive 30-victory seasons and in the 1905 World Series threw three shutouts in only six days.”

Ty Cobb (Tyrus Raymond Cobb: 1886–1961)
Scott 3408d • 2000

“Known for his aggressive style at the plate and on the base paths, Ty Cobb may have been the greatest all-around player in Major League Baseball. In his 24-year career, 22 with the Detroit Tigers, the ‘Georgia Peach’ won 9 straight American League batting titles.”

George Sisler (George Harold Sisler: 1893–1973)
Scott 3408e • 2000

“The St. Louis Browns’ George Sisler won two batting titles, set the record for hits in a season, and produced a 41-game hitting streak — all while maintaining a reputation as one of the true gentlemen in Major League Baseball.”

Rogers Hornsby (Rogers Hornsby, Sr.: 1896–1963)
Scott 3408f • 2000

“Rogers Hornsby was the most impressive right-handed hitters in the history of the game. He won seven batting championships (six in a row) and managed the 1926 St. Louis Cardinals to their first World Championship.”

Mickey Cochrane (Gordon Stanley Cochrane: 1903–1962)
Scott 3408g • 2000

“Mickey Cochrane sparked the Philadelphia Athletics' championship teams in 1929–1931 with his potent bat, skill behind the plate, and fierce, competitive spirit.”

Babe Ruth (George Herman Ruth, Jr.: 1895–1948)
Scott 3408h • 2000

“Babe Ruth was the most celebrated athlete of his time. Before beginning play with the New York Yankees in 1920, the ‘Sultan of Swat’ was a successful pitcher for the Boston Red Sox. In 1927, he hit a record-setting 60 homers.”

Walter Johnson (Walter Perry Johnson: 1887–1946)
Scott 3408i • 2000

“Walter ‘Big Train’ Johnson used a sweeping sidearm motion to fire fastballs over home plate. In his 21-year career with the Washington Senators, he fanned 3,509 batters, won 417 games, and pitched a record 100 shutouts.”

Roberto Clemente (Roberto Clemente Walker: 1934–1972)
Scott 3408j • 2000

“The first Hispanic elected to the Hall of Fame, Roberto Clemente was admired for his superb hitting, rifle-like arm, and philanthropic spirit. He helped the Pittsburgh Pirates win two World Championships.”

Lefty Grove (Robert Moses Grove: 1900–1975)
Scott 3408k • 2000

“One of the finest left-handed pitchers in the history of Major League Baseball, Lefty Grove went 31–4 for the 1931 Philadelphia Athletics. In the process, he put together a 16-game winning streak.”

Tris Speaker (Tristram E. Speaker: 1888–1958)
Scott 3408l • 2000

“Tris Speaker revolutionized outfield play by positioning himself in shallow center field. As a result, this Cleveland Indian recorded more assists than any other outfielder in the long history of Major League Baseball.”

Cy Young (Denton True Young: 1867–1934)
Scott 3408m • 2000

“Denton True Young, nicknamed Cy (short for ‘Cyclone’), won 511 games in his 22-year Major League Baseball career — almost 100 more than any other pitcher. A durable athlete, Young pitched an astonishing 749 complete games.”

Jimmie Foxx (James Emory Foxx: 1907–1967)
Scott 3408n • 2000

“One of the top Major League Baseball sluggers of all time, Jimmie Foxx hit 30 or more home runs for 12 seasons in a row. Foxx won the Triple Crown for the Philadelphia Athletics in 1933, leading the American League in home runs, batting, and RBIs.”

Pie Traynor (Harold Joseph Traynor: 1898–1972)
Scott 3408o • 2000

“Rated as one of the finest third basemen of all time, the Pittsburgh Pirates’ Pie Traynor had a defensive prowess that often over-shadowed his strong hitting. His nickname reportedly came from a childhood fondness for pastry.”

Scott 3408p • 2000

“A legend after two decades in the Negro Leagues, pitcher Satchel Paige signed with the Cleveland Indians in 1948. At age 42, this ‘veteran-rookie’ helped his team win the American League pennant.”

Honus Wagner (Johannes Peter Wagner: 1874–1955)
Scott 3408q • 2000

“The Pittsburgh Pirates’ star shortstop, Honus Wagner also was a league-leading batter and base stealer. The ‘Flying Dutchman’ enjoyed 15 consecutive .300 seasons, 8 as the National League batting champ.”

Josh Gibson (Joshua Gibson: 1911–1947)
Scott 3408r • 2000

“Among the biggest draws in the Negro Leagues, popular Josh Gibson is generally considered one of the most prodigious power hitters in the history of professional baseball.”

Dizzy Dean (Jay Hanna Dean: 1910–1974)
Scott 3408s • 2000

“Dizzy Dean, fastball-throwing member of the St. Louis Cardinals’ ‘Gas House Gang,’ was a legend in his own time, once holding the modern single-game record of 17 strikeouts. In 1934 he and brother Paul led the Cardinals to the World Championship.”

Lou Gehrig (Henry Louis Gehrig: 1903–1941)
Scott 3408t • 2000

“First baseman for the New York Yankees, Lou Gehrig played in 2,130 consecutive games. In 1934 the ‘Iron Horse’ led the American League in batting average (.363), home runs (49), and RBIs (165).”
U.S. Baseball

Classic Collections:
Legends of Baseball
Scott 3408a–3408t • 2000

American Philatelic Society, www.stamps.org
Baseball’s Legendary Playing Fields

[From the back of the sheet of stamps]

**Ebbets Field, Brooklyn, New York**  
Scott 3510 • 2001

“Home to the game's most colorful fans, this Brooklyn park had quirks galore, including an angled right field wall and a sign that when hit won the batter a new suit. The Major League Baseball TV debut occurred at Ebbets Field in 1939.”

**Forbes Field, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**  
Scott 3515 • 2001

“With expansive foul territory and deep outfield dimensions, this park was a pitcher's friend. Ironically, in the 61 years that the Pittsburgh Pirates called Forbes Field home, no one ever pitched a no-hitter there.”

**Tiger Stadium, Detroit, Michigan**  
Scott 3511 • 2001

“Opened in 1912 as Navin Field, Tiger Stadium was home to the Detroit Tigers for 88 seasons. It put fans very close to the field and featured a right field upper deck that jutted out ten feet farther than the lower deck.”

**Fenway Park, Boston, Massachusetts**  
Scott 3516 • 2001

“Boston's intimate Fenway Park has the Green Monster, a 37-foot-high left field wall. Red Sox fielders who mastered its unpredictable caroms became legends. The home run that ended game six of the 1975 World Series made history there.”

**Crosley Field, Cincinnati, Ohio**  
Scott 3512 • 2001

“Major League Baseball night games debuted at this Cincinnati park in 1935, with FDR switching on the lights from the White House. One of the game's smallest, most intimate stadiums, players had to run uphill to the outfield fence.”

**Comiskey Park, Chicago, Illinois**  
Scott 3517 • 2001

“A symmetrical park that favored pitchers over hitters, this South Side Chicago landmark featured graceful arched windows. In 1933 it hosted the first All-Star Game. A fan of gimmicks, the owner installed the first exploding scoreboard in 1960.”

**Yankee Stadium, New York City, New York**  
Scott 3513 • 2001

“Yankee Stadium has hosted more World Series games than any other ballpark. Deep to the power alleys but short down the line, beyond its left-center field fence lie monuments and plaques honoring Yankee greats.”

**Shibe Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**  
Scott 3518 • 2001

“The first major League Baseball concrete-and-steel stadium, Philadelphia's Shibe Park featured a 34-foot-high right field wall, as well as a façade with stately columns and a French Renaissance cupola.”

**Polo Grounds, New York City, New York**  
Scott 3514 • 2001

“This storied ballpark — onetime home to the Giants, the Yankees, and, briefly, the Mets — was site of the entire 1921 and 1922 World Series. The horseshoe-shaped field hosted one of the most famous home runs: the 1951 'Shot Heard Round the World.”

**Wrigley Park, Chicago, Illinois**  
Scott 3519 • 2001

“Ivy-covered outfield walls, a hand-operated scoreboard, and more day than night games are just a few of the reasons fans everywhere love Chicago's Wrigley Field. When the wind blows out, scores can enter double digits; when it blows in, Wrigley is a pitcher's delight.”
U.S. Baseball

Baseball’s Legendary Playing Fields

Ebbets Field
Brooklyn, New York
Scott 3510 • 2001

Crosley Field
Cincinnati, Ohio
Scott 3512 • 2001

Polo Grounds
New York City, New York
Scott 3514 • 2001

Fenway Park
Boston, Massachusetts
Scott 3516 • 2001

Shibe Park
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Scott 3518 • 2001

Tiger Stadium
Detroit, Michigan
Scott 3511 • 2001

Yankee Stadium
New York City, New York
Scott 3513 • 2001

Forbes Field
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Scott 3515 • 2001

Comiskey Park
Chicago, Illinois
Scott 3517 • 2001

Wrigley Field
Chicago, Illinois
Scott 3519 • 2001
The National League of Professional Baseball Clubs (the National League) was founded in 1876. Twenty-five years later, the American League was formed. The First World Series, which pitted the winner of each division, was held in 1903. That year, the Pittsburgh Pirates represented the National League as they won their third straight pennant. The Boston Americans, representing the American League, won the Series five games to three.


The 1951 National League pennant race was decided in the best-of-three games playoff. The New York Giants beat the Brooklyn Dodgers when, in the ninth inning of the third game, Bobby Thomson hit a three-run homer.

Three long-standing baseball records were broken in the 1990’s. In 1995, Cal Ripken or the Baltimore Orioles showed up to work for a record 2,131 days in a row. In his 5th career start, in 1998 Kerry Wood registered one-hit, no walks, and a record 20 strikeouts. Later the same year, Mark McGwire broke a 37-year record by hitting 70 home runs in a single season.
U.S. Baseball

1st World Series
Celebrate the Century 1900s
Scott 3182n • 1998

World Series Rivals
Celebrate the Century 1950s
Scott 3187j • 1999

The “Shot Heard ’Round the World.”
Celebrate the Century 1950s
Scott 3197c • 1999

New Baseball Records
Celebrate the Century 1990s
Scott 3191a • 2000
Ted Williams (1918–2002)
Theodore Samuel Williams
Scott 4694 • 2012
Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox was the last Major League player to bat over .400 for a single season (in 1941). He won six American League batting titles and four home run titles and hit .344 over 19 years, including 521 home runs. Today, Williams is regarded as one of the all-time greatest hitters in Major League Baseball history.

Willie Stargell (1940–2001)
Wilver Dornell Stargell
Scott 4696 • 2012
Willie Stargell powered the 1979 Pittsburgh Pirates, a multicultural team known as “The Family,” to a World Series title. Hitting 475 home runs during his career, the seven-time National League All-Star is famous for smashing baseballs out of stadiums. Nicknamed “Pops,” Stargell is also remembered for promoting harmony between players from different backgrounds.

Larry Doby (1923–2003)
Lawrence Eugene Doby
Scott 4695 • 2012
Larry Doby was the first African-American to play in the American League, joining the Cleveland Indians in 1947 shortly after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in the National League. The seven-time All-Star excelled as a hitter and center fielder and set an American League outfielder record for 164 consecutive errorless games.

Joe DiMaggio (1914–1999)
Giuseppe Paulo DiMaggio
Scott 4697 • 2012
The son of an Italian fisherman, Joe DiMaggio led the New York Yankees to ten pennants and nine World Series titles. Admired for his skill and grace as a fielder and base runner, the “Yankee Clipper” is best known for his incredible 56-game hitting streak in 1941. Many consider him the greatest all-around player of his time.
U.S. Baseball

Major League Baseball All-Stars

Ted Williams
Scott 4694 • 2012

Larry Doby
Scott 4695 • 2012

Willie Stargell
Scott 4696 • 2012

Joe DiMaggio
Scott 4697 • 2012
A special thank you to Norman Houser and Tina Scharf for their assistance in identifying the stamps related to the U.S. Baseball stamps.

This album does not include every issue related to the topic.
Use the blank pages at the end of this album to add stamps related to Baseball.

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