

Good Catch!

The Story of the Baseball Glove

If you're a kid who plays catch in the backyard, at the playground, or on a baseball team, you're going to need a baseball glove. Here's the story of the baseball glove.

The Bare History

After the Civil War, baseball started to get popular. Back in those days, baseball players did not wear baseball gloves. They had to catch fly balls and grab line drives with their bare hands. Ouch!

Around 1869, the first baseball gloves were used. By the early 1900s, most players wore baseball gloves. The gloves looked very different than the gloves players wear today.

Making a Baseball Glove

Most baseball gloves are made of leather called cowhide. It is strong and flexible. One cowhide can make three or four baseball gloves. The parts of a baseball glove are sewn together with leather thread called rawhide.

Each glove has space for the thumb and fingers. There is a web made of leather sewn between the thumb and index finger. The web helps to keep the ball in the glove so it doesn't drop out.

Gloves have padding inside each finger hole to keep the fingers comfortable and safe. There is also padding around the palm of the hand.



The padding protects a player's hands from injuries caused by fast pitches or hard hits.

The look and shape of baseball gloves are constantly changing. They come in all sizes, shapes, and colors.

Fits like a Glove

There are several kinds of baseball gloves.

Catchers wear big round gloves with thick padding to protect their hands from lightning fast pitches. The large size and the colored trim of the catcher's glove help the pitcher see his target.

The pitcher wears a glove with a hole for the index finger. Pitchers grip the ball in different ways for different pitches. They use their glove to hide their grip so that batters can't predict the pitch.

Outfielders' gloves have long fingers and a deep pocket, which is the space around the palm. Their gloves give them a better chance to catch fly balls and to scoop up grounders.

Infielders wear smaller gloves so when they stop line drives, they can quickly grab and throw the ball to a teammate to catch the base runner.

Whatever position you play, there is a baseball glove designed to help you stay safe and play your best!