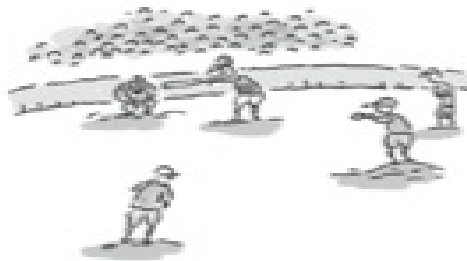


Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Passage 24



## Baseball Is a Hit in Japan

How is baseball in Japan like baseball in the United States? Fill in the blanks in this article to find out.

The October air is crisp and cool. Leaves are on the ground. Inside the ballpark, fans are packed into the stands, watching a baseball game. Sounds like the World Series is under way, right?

Wrong! This game is being played in Japan as part of the Japan Series. That's the Japanese \_\_\_\_\_ of the World Series.

The Japanese have been playing baseball ever since Americans taught them the game in the 1870s. They have had \_\_\_\_\_ baseball leagues since 1935. Millions of Japanese \_\_\_\_\_ ball games every year. When they aren't watching baseball, many fans play the game. Among kids, baseball is Japan's most \_\_\_\_\_ sport.

Baseball is played by the same basic rules as in the United States. It's a little different, though. In Japan, games can end in a tie, unlike in the United States. And in Japan, fans must return foul balls. Like American fans, however, they get to keep balls hit in homeruns. And in both the U.S. and Japan, most fans \_\_\_\_\_ their home team.

### Word List

attend  
prevalent  
professional  
support  
version

### Think About It!

What are some of the differences between Japanese and American baseball?