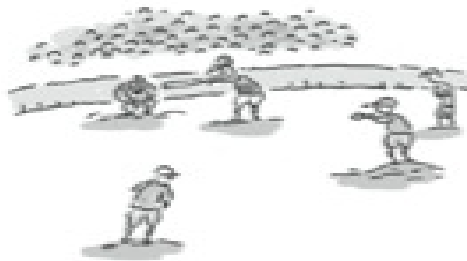


Name _____

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?