

Out of Bounds: A Cross-Curricular Baseball Unit



Back Story

Integrating GIS into core content is easy if you take advantage of preexisting content. This unit was born out of a baseball theme in English Language Arts (ELA) class. As the four core teachers talked about what we were doing in ELA class, they wanted to get on board. Over time, we incorporated all four classes at the same time to create a powerful experience for our middle school students. This is an outline of what each class did as their part of the baseball unit. The GIS activities were incorporated in ELA, Science and Social Studies classes. Perhaps you can play out of bounds and integrate!

English Language Arts / Reading

- “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” song by Jack Norworth
- “Strong Men Weep” short story by Benedict Cosgrove
- Excerpts from *Wait Till Next Year* a novel by Doris Kerns Goodwin
- “Who’s on First?” play by Abbott and Costello (videos available at YouTube)
- “Casey at the Bat” poem by Ernest Thayer (videos available at YouTube)
- “Baseball in April” short story by Gary Soto
- *Shakespeare Bats Cleanup* by Ron Koertge

Science

- Ball analysis (measurement, physics, experiment procedures)

Math

- Baseball statistics and spreadsheet formulas

Social Studies

- Games and sports in cultures around the world

Projects

- Build a baseball Museum
- Research baseball topics

GIS

- Play Ball! Spatial Analysis of Baseball (<http://edcommunity.esri.com/arclessons/lesson.cfm?id=334>)
- Baseball Radio Station Analysis (<http://edcommunity.esri.com/arclessons/lesson.cfm?id=390>)

Out of Bounds: A Cross-Curricular Baseball Unit

- Where should you put the next MLB team?
- Demographic patterns related to baseball

Resources

- Matt Davis' Blog Article: <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/world-series-classroom-activities-matthew-davis>
 - Negro Baseball League Museum Lessons: <http://www.coe.ksu.edu/nlbemuseum/resource/lessonplans.html>
 - Baseball Hall of Fame Lessons: <http://baseballhall.org/education/school-programs/curriculum>
 - Baseball Stats: <http://www.baseball-almanac.com/bstatmen.shtml>
 - Baseball and Music: <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/interactives/perfectpitch/>
 - Around the Field: http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/educators/lessons/grade-3-4/All_Around_The_Baseball_Field.aspx
 - <http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/baseball/teachers/lesson4.html>
 - Teaching Ideas: <http://community.prometheanplanet.com/en/blog/b/blog/archive/2010/10/27/5-great-ideas-for-teaching-with-baseball.aspx#.UImMjkSkAew>
 - Lessons from Teachers Corner: <http://seasonal.theteacherscorner.net/baseball/>