

# Fact or Fiction?

## True Blue Baseball Fans:

What is your real baseball IQ? Sort the following facts into the chart as fact or fiction. Place those that are facts in the left column, and those fiction in the right.

**Fact:**

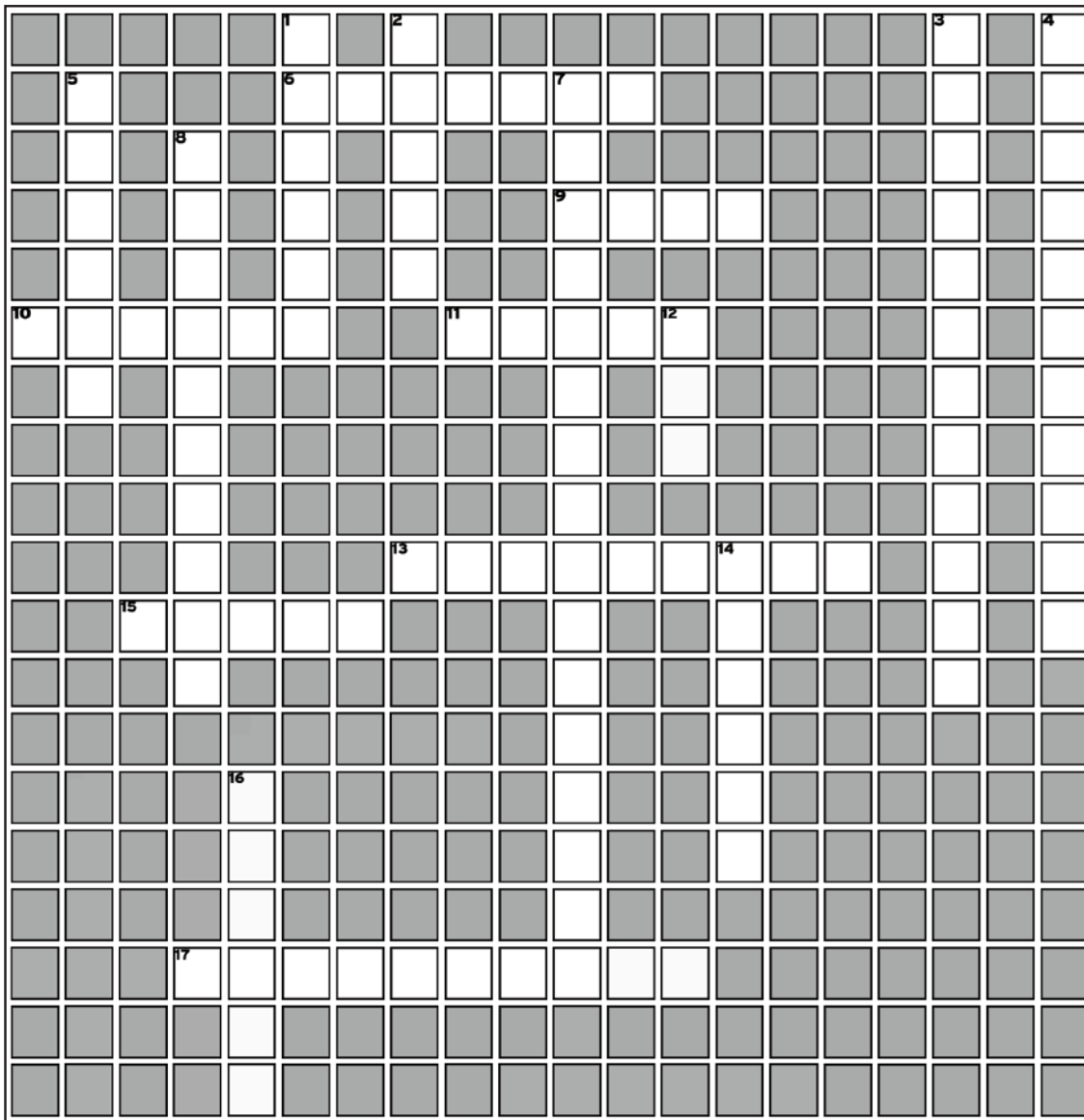
**Fiction:**

1. The first book of instructions for playing baseball appears in 1834.
2. A player named Popcorn Punnings throws the first curveball in the 1860's.
3. Al Spalding is the first player (other than a catcher) to wear a baseball glove on the field in 1876 (catchers wore a kind of glove already).
4. The American League begins in 1901 with a game between the White Stockings versus the Blues.
5. Eddie Plank is the first and only pitcher to win five hundred games.
6. President McKinley was the U.S. President who started the first-pitch tradition.
7. Fenway Park opened in April 1912 and is the oldest American League ballpark in operation.
8. The Cincinnati Redstockings were the first professional baseball team.
9. The phrase "Going, going, gone" is coined in 1929.
10. Babe Ruth is the first baseball player to make a million dollars in a season.

(Answer key on page 3)

# Grand Slam Crossword Puzzle

You may know your baseball facts, but are you a *Hothead* know-it-all as well?  
Test your knowledge here!



## ACROSS

6. Connor's baseball team
9. Something Connor and Melissa do not go on
10. Something Connor needs to control
11. Connor's favorite snack
13. Connor's position on the Orioles
15. Connor's best friend
17. Where Connor goes to school

## DOWN

1. Main character of *Hothead*
2. Good interview food
3. Nemesis of Connor
4. An important newspaper to Connor
5. Games in a row against the same team
7. Connor's favorite place
8. What hotheads face if they don't control their temper
12. The team to beat to become champions
14. Connor's age
16. Where a team meets

(Answer key on page 3)

# Resource Page/Answer Key

## Did You Know?

### Baseball Terminology: Here are some lesser-known baseball terms:

**Around the horn:** A double play that goes from third to second to first

**Backdoor slider:** A pitch that seems out of the strike zone but breaks perfectly over the plate

**Baltimore chop:** A ground ball that bounces off or near home plate and leaps over an infielder's head

**Bronx cheer:** Booming crowd

**Can of corn:** A fielder's easy catch

**Cheese:** A fastball

**Circus catch:** An amazing catch by a fielder

**Hot corner:** Third base

**Tater:** A home run

**Uncle Charlie:** A curveball

**Wheelhouse:** The power zone for each player

### Cal Ripken, Jr. has had quite a career! Check out these stats!

1. He played his entire baseball career as a Baltimore Oriole.
2. In 1982 Cal Ripken, Jr. was named Rookie of the Year.
3. He played a total of 2,632 consecutive games, breaking Lou Gehrig's record!
4. Memorial Stadium in Baltimore ended its career with Ripken as the last batter up.
5. Cal Ripken, Jr. was an All-Star 19 times.
6. He only played in one World Series, in 1983, despite his amazing career.
7. In 1991 and 1992 Cal Ripken, Jr. received the Gold Glove Award
8. He was named the American League MVP in both 1983 and 1991.
9. Cal Ripken, Jr. is one of only eight players in history with over 3,000 hits and 400 home runs!
10. In 1990 he made only three errors, a major league record by a shortstop.
11. Cal Ripken, Jr.'s nickname is "Iron Man."
12. His teammates called him *Junior* since his father worked for the Orioles for three decades.
13. In 2007 Cal Ripken, Jr. was inducted in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.
14. For five straight years he played in every single inning in every single game for the Orioles.
15. Cal Ripken, Jr.'s career high RBI for a season was 114.

## Answer Key

### Fact or Fiction answer key (from page 10)

1. FACT
2. FICTION: It was Candy Cummings.
3. FACT
4. FACT
5. FICTION: Cy Young was the first and only pitcher to win 500 games.
6. FICTION: It was Taft.
7. FACT
8. FACT
9. FACT
10. FICTION: Babe Ruth only made \$80,000 a year!

### Crossword answer key (from page 11)

