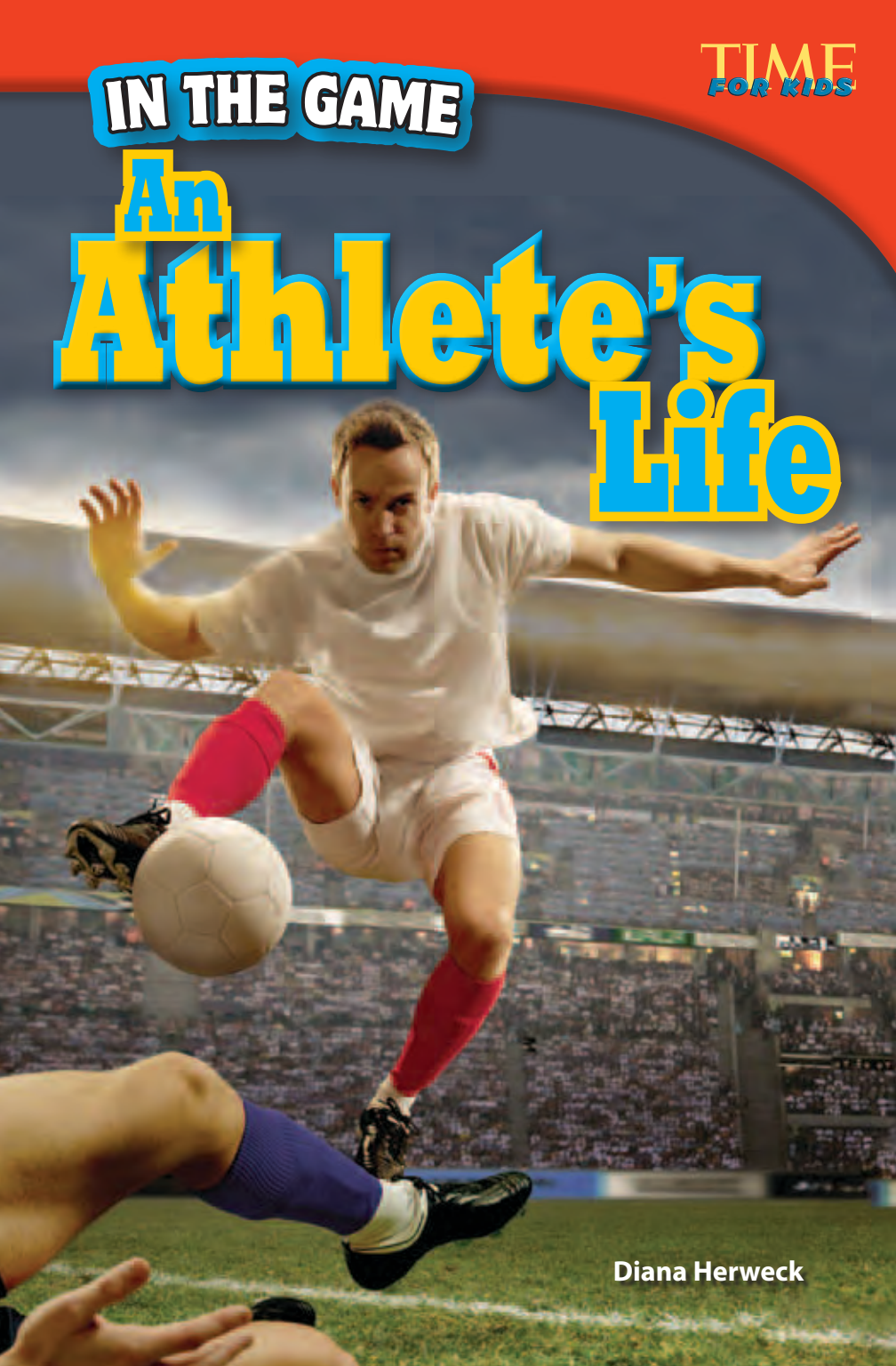
TIME FOR KIDS

IN THE GAME

An Athlete's Life



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For teachers' inspection ONLY

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Ready, Set, Go!

Aim for the basket! *Shoot!*
Run for the base! *Slide!*
Kick it to the goal! *Score!*
And the crowd goes wild!



Kids play sports in China, Brazil, France, and Kenya. Kids play sports in every country in the world! Many kids consider themselves to be athletes. It's their passion in life, and they would rather be playing a sport than doing anything else. If you think playing sports is just about the best thing in the world, you are probably an athlete, too.

THINK LINK

Imagine you are an athlete.

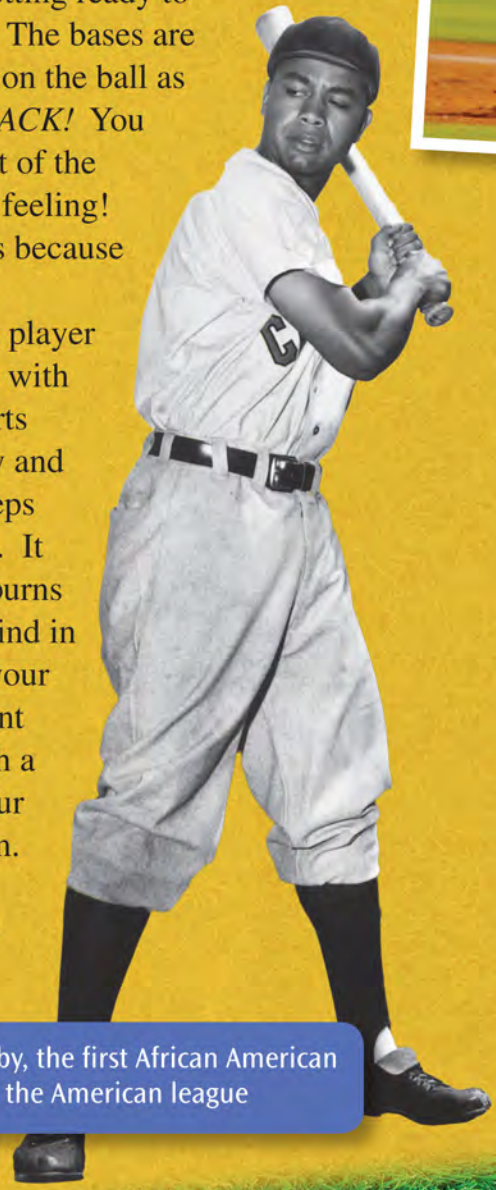
- What skills do you need to have?
- How do you prepare for a challenge?
- Why is training so important?



Love of the Game

You feel the sun on your back as you grip the bat. The pitcher is getting ready to throw the ball your way. The bases are loaded. You concentrate on the ball as it soars toward you. *WHACK!* You hit the ball, sending it out of the park. What an awesome feeling!

Some kids love sports because it makes them feel good. Whether you are the best player on the team or the player with the most team spirit, sports are healthy for your body and mind. Playing sports keeps your body in good shape. It tones your muscles and burns fat. It also keeps your mind in good shape by building your **confidence**. It's important to learn how to work with a team and predict how your **competitors** will perform. With so many sports to choose from, you're sure to find one you like!



Larry Doby, the first African American player in the American league



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Cash Talk

Baseball was the first professionally played team sport. In 1869, players earned about $800 for the season. Today, the lowest amount a player earns is about $300,000 a year. And some players earn as much as $30 million!

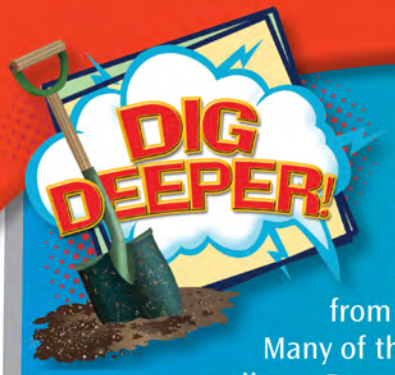


Billy Sunday, one of the first professional athletes

Up to Bat!

Can you picture your face on the front of a baseball card? It could happen! Some kids start playing baseball as early as four years old. They work their way up from T-ball to the big leagues—the big leagues for kids, that is! When kids are between 9 and 12, they can play in the major **division** of Little League Baseball. They might even make the league's All-Star Team and play in an international **tournament**. That means they will play against kids from other countries. The very best teams go to the Little League Baseball World Series.

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On the Road

Major League baseball players play 162 games a season. That's about three or four games a week from the months of April to October. Many of those games are at the home stadium. But many of them are not. That means the players are traveling to different cities and states—sometimes even countries—to play ball!

Extreme Experts

Some teams take buses to get from game to game. Other teams fly. They sleep in a new hotel every few days, sometimes every night. The only belongings athletes can bring from home are the ones that fit in a suitcase. They travel often and miss their families. Some athletes use a webcam to talk to their families. Or they stay in touch over the phone.

How many miles did this team travel in 4 days?





A

1,822 miles
about 1 day

B

981 miles
about 17 hours

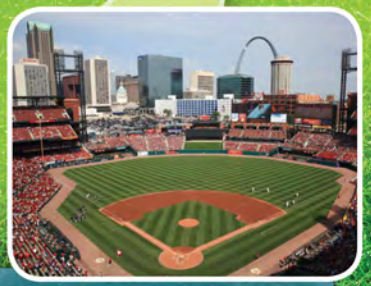
C

206 miles
about 3 hours

D



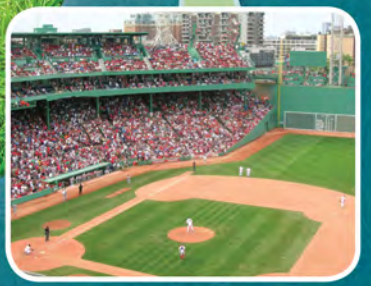
Angel Stadium



Busch Stadium

Yankee Stadium





Fenway Park