



Important Dates in Baseball History

1834	First book of instructions for baseball is published
6-19-1846	First baseball game using Cartwright (modern rules) is played
1857	Team scoring the most runs wins, prior it was first team to 21 runs
1860s	Candy Cummings is credited with throwing the first curveball
1864	Fair balls caught on the bounce are not outs
1868	Called strikes are allowed
4-22-1876	First game in the history of the National League is played
1876	Players wear gloves on the field for the first time
1879	Walk – 9 balls
1881	Pitchers mound moved from 45 feet to 50 feet
1883	Foul balls caught on the bounce are not outs
1884	Pitchers may throw overhand
5-1-1884	Moses Walker is the first black player to play in a major league game
1888	First rule giving three strikes for an out appears
1889	First rule giving four balls for a walk appears
1893	Pitchers mound is moved to current distance of 60 feet 6 inches
1898	First modern rules defining a balk and stolen base appear
1900	First pentagon shaped home plate appears on the diamond
4-17-1901	First game in the history of the American League is played
10-1-1903	First World Series game is played
8-5-1921	First baseball game is broadcast on the radio
4-16-1929	Cleveland becomes the first team ever to wear numbers on their uniforms
1929	Harry Hartman is first announcer to say “Going, going, gone.”
7-6-1933	First major league All-Star Game is played
5-24-1935	First major league night game is played
1936	First group of players are inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame
8-26-1939	Dodgers & Reds play the first major league game shown on television
1939	Lou Gehrig is the first player to have his number retired
1941	Dodgers are the first team to wear plastic batting helmets
4-15-1947	Jackie Robinson is the first black player in the 20 th century
1954	It becomes illegal for players to leave their gloves on the field when batting
3-11-1958	First rule requiring players to wear batting helmets appears
1960	Pitchers are credited for saves
4-6-1973	American League begins allowing the designated hitter
4-29-1986	Roger Clemens is the first pitcher to strike out 20 in one game.