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Biography

Babe Ruth

[Biography](#)



Babe Ruth in 1921

Author: George Grantham Bain

- **Occupation:** Baseball Player
- **Born:** February 6, 1895 in Baltimore, Maryland
- **Died:** August 16, 1948 in New York City, New York
- **Best known for:** A New York Yankee outfielder and one of the greatest baseball players in history
- **Nicknames:** Babe, The Bambino, The Sultan of Swat

Biography:

Where did Babe Ruth grow up?

George Herman Ruth, Jr. was born in Baltimore, Maryland on February 6, 1895. He grew up in the tough working-class neighborhood of Pigtown where his father ran a saloon. As a boy, George got into so much trouble his parents sent him away to St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys.

Learning to Play Baseball

At reform school, George learned to work hard. He was taught skills including carpentry and how to make shirts. One of the monks at the school, Brother Matthias, got George into playing [baseball](#). George was a natural. With Brother Matthias' help, George became an excellent pitcher, hitter, and fielder.

How did he get the nickname Babe?

George became so skilled at baseball that the monks convinced the owner of the Baltimore Orioles to come watch

George play. The owner was impressed and, at the age of 19, George signed his first professional baseball contract. Because George was so young, the veteran Orioles players started calling him "Babe", and the nickname stuck.

A Pitcher for the Red Sox

In 1914, the Orioles sold Babe to the Boston Red Sox. At that time, he was known more for his pitching than his hitting. At the Red Sox, Ruth became one of the best pitchers in the major leagues. In 1916, he went 23-12 and led the league with an ERA of 1.75. The Red Sox soon discovered that Babe was an even better hitter than he was a pitcher. They moved him to the outfield and, in 1919, he hit 29 homeruns. This set the single season record for homeruns at the time.

A New York Yankee

In December of 1919, Ruth was sold to the New York Yankees. He played for the Yankees for the next 15 years and became one of the most celebrated baseball players in history. He helped the Yankees win four World Series titles and led the league in home runs almost every year. In 1927, he anchored one of the greatest hitting lineups in history nicknamed "Murderer's Row." That year Babe hit a record 60 homeruns.

What was Babe Ruth like?

Babe Ruth's rebellious personality of his childhood continued into his adult life. Ruth lived a wild lifestyle. He was known for eating huge meals and drinking too much alcohol. This lifestyle caught up to him later in his career as he gained weight and could no longer play outfield. Babe was also known to be warm-hearted and a showman. He brought in huge crowds wherever he went because everyone wanted to see "Babe" swing the bat.

Baseball Records

In 1936, Babe Ruth retired. He played his last year for the Boston Braves. At the time of his retirement he held 56 major league records. His most famous record was his career leading 714 homeruns. This record held until it was broken by Hank Aaron in 1974. Today (2015), he still sits in the top ten in many MLB statistics including home runs (714), batting average (.342), RBI (2,213), slugging percentage (.690), OPS (1.164), runs (2,174), bases (5,793), and walks (2,062).

Death

Ruth died of cancer on August 16, 1948.

Interesting Facts About Babe Ruth

- The sale sending Babe Ruth to the Yankees from the Red Sox is often called the "Curse of the Bambino" because the Red Sox would not win another World Series until 2004.
- The Yankee Stadium built in 1923 was often called "the house that Ruth built."
- His lifetime pitching record was 94-46 with a 2.28 ERA.
- He was called the best left-handed pitcher in the American League of the 1910s.
- He won three World Series with the Red Sox and four with the Yankees.
- In the 1916 World Series, Ruth pitched a complete game of 14 innings. It is the most innings ever pitched by a single pitcher during the postseason.
- The Baby Ruth candy bar was not named after Babe Ruth, but after Ruth Cleveland, the daughter of [President Grover Cleveland](#).

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