

Name: _____

Date: _____

Find the Evidence

Can you find the PROOF for your answers? Use a crayon in the color shown to underline where you found each answer in the text.

Opening Day of America's Pastime

As the weather begins to warm up, baseball fans get ready for Opening Day. For decades, baseball fans have enjoyed sitting in the stands, looking out over a baseball field, watching the teams play, and even following traditions like singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" before the game begins. In fact, America loves baseball so much that it's considered our national pastime!

Every year, the Major League Baseball season officially begins on Opening Day. Although there are sometimes games that occur before Opening Day, this is always the first day when more than one game is played. Opening Day usually falls on the first Monday in April. In Cincinnati, Ohio, Opening Day is a city holiday with an annual parade. Because the Cincinnati Reds were baseball's first professional team, the Reds are the only team who always get to open the season at home.

Opening Day is so loved by baseball fans that a man named Ozzie Smith even began a movement to ask the United States government make Opening Day a national holiday. While it's not yet an official holiday, the start of baseball season is so exciting for Major League Baseball fans!



Who petitioned to make Opening Day a national holiday?



What is America's national pastime?



Where is there an Opening Day parade?



Why do the Reds get to play at home on Opening Day?



Which team was the first professional baseball team?



When does Opening Day usually fall?