

**Blue Crabs Baseball**  
**EDUCATIONAL PACKET**  
LEARN WITH THE BLUE CRABS!

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# **HISTORY OF ATLANTIC LEAGUE BASEBALL**

In 1998, the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball played its inaugural season. The creation of the league was the result of the New York Mets' objection to Frank Boulton's proposal to move the former Albany-Colonie Yankees to Long Island. The Mets objected to the move because of its territorial rights to the region.

Boulton, a Long Island native, decided to create a new league that would have a higher salary cap for its players and a longer season than most of the other independent baseball organizations. He modeled the Atlantic League after the older Pacific Coast League, with facilities that exceed AAA-level standards. Boulton also emphasized signing players of Major League Baseball experience for all Atlantic League teams, raising the level of play above other independent leagues.

With the success of the Atlantic League and his hometown Ducks, Frank Boulton hardly regrets the New York Mets' rejection to his proposal to move an affiliated team to Long Island. He expanded the league and the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs were born. The Blue Crabs are based in Waldorf, Maryland and are a member of the Liberty Division of the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball. From the 2008 season to the present, the Blue Crabs have played their home games at Regency Furniture Stadium.

In 2006, Southern Maryland residents chose the name "Blue Crabs" in a name-the-team contest. The name alludes to the official state crustacean of Maryland. The team represents the Southern Maryland counties of Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's. The fan base of the Blue Crabs has the nickname of "Crustacean Nation", an allusion to the Cardinal Nation and the Red Sox Nation fan clubs of the St. Louis Cardinals and Boston Red Sox.

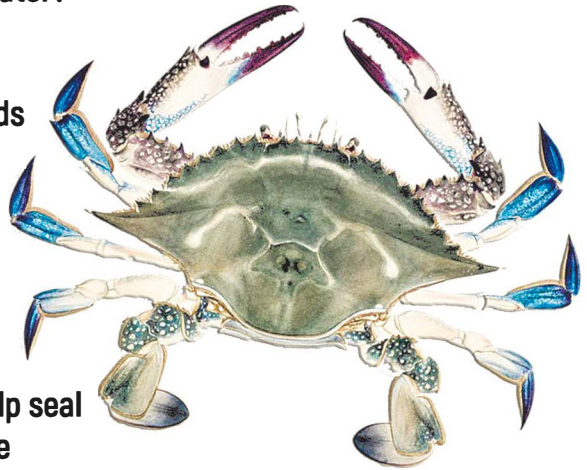
The Blue Crabs opened Regency Furniture Stadium on May 2, 2008 to a sell-out crowd that included co-owner and baseball Hall-of-Farmer Brooks Robinson. Since 2008, the Blue Crabs have welcomed over one and a half million fans. The Blue Crabs have had five playoff berths, claiming the liberty division championship in 2009 and the freedom division championship in 2015. During the Blue Crabs tenure, the Atlantic League have added teams in Sugar Land Texas and New Britain, Connecticut.

In 2019, the Atlantic League signed a three-year deal with Major League Baseball for rule changes and testing. One of those rule changes is that there is an electronic strikezone (YES, a robot umpire) and you are also allowed to steal first base. The Blue Crabs third baseman Tony Thomas became the first player in baseball history to steal first base on 07/13/2019, and one month later his cleats were inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York.

# SCIENCE: QUESTIONS ABOUT BLUE CRABS

**Q: How do crabs breathe? How long can they stay out of water?**

**A: Crabs use their gills to extract oxygen from the water, much like a fish. However, crabs can survive for long periods out of the water, and some live almost exclusively on land. As long as a crab can keep its gills moist, oxygen from the air will diffuse into the moisture, and then into the gills. One way to keep their gills from drying out is to seek out cool, dark and moist hiding places when on land. This way they can keep breathing and stay hidden from predators. Also, they have articulating plates around their gills that help seal them in and prevent drying out. Land crabs have even more adaptations to prevent drying out. They drink water from dew and the ground, they get it from food and even from water vapor. They also store water in their bladder, blood and specialized pockets throughout their bodies.**



**Q: How do crabs find food in the dark?**

**A: Crabs do not rely on vision like you and I do, when looking for food. Crabs cannot see very well and usually only use their vision when their prey is very close. Crabs find their food in the dark by something called "chemoreception". This is kind of like our sense of smell. They have very sensitive chemoreceptors (or smell organs) on their antennae and in their mouthparts and distributed throughout their body. So, crabs can "smell" the chemicals that their prey put out in the water and follow these "smells" to find food.**

**Q: Where do crabs go in the winter?**

**A: When the temperature starts to fall and the days start getting shorter, the blue crab retreats to deep water and burrows into the muddy or sandy bottom to spend the winter. A crab buries itself by forcing its abdomen backwards into the bottom with quick snapping motions. While doing this, the crab will also pick and claw at the bottom with its hind walking legs and flip it away with the paddies of its swimming legs. Within a few minutes the crab is resting at a 45 degree angle in the bottom, with only antennae, the tips of its eye stalks, and small breathing channels visible in the mud. Crabs do not hibernate, rather they lie dormant for the long winter, usually from November through May.**



# MATH: BASEBALL WORD PROBLEMS

1. On a baseball field, there are 90 feet between each of the bases. What is the perimeter of a baseball field?
2. On a baseball field, there are 90 feet between each of the bases. What is the area of a baseball field?
3. Shaun Cumberland was at bat 120 times and he hit the ball  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the time. How many time did he hit the ball?
4. Mark is going to buy a new baseball bat for \$19.25, a new glove for \$24.98 and 4 balls for \$3.95 each. How much will he spend in all?



# BASEBALL WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the words below.

1. ATB \_\_\_\_\_
2. SAESB \_\_\_\_\_
3. TGDQUU \_\_\_\_\_
4. DLOFTEIU \_\_\_\_\_
5. BBUSCLAER \_\_\_\_\_
6. RHMOE \_\_\_\_\_
7. NCPIH \_\_\_\_\_
8. MDUON \_\_\_\_\_
9. VAES \_\_\_\_\_

Now, write down each letter that is underlined from the above words.

\_\_\_\_\_

Unscramble these letters to find out where all the action happens at Regency Furniture Stadium.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# MATH: NUMBERS GAME

For each box, solve the addition or subtraction problem. Then match the numbered answer with the correct letter.

42	17	38	17	9	33		4	35	26	35
- 2	+ 17	- 8	+ 4	+ 12	- 4		+36	- 3	- 2	-9

20	34	10	14	15
+ 7	-2	+12	+ 3	+18

20	30	7		36	18	27
- 1	+ 2	+ 13		- 3	+ 14	-4

22	27	14	32
- 1	+3	+14	- 6

20	19	13	20	23	25	32
+ 5	- 1	+ 7	+20	- 4	+ 1	+ 1

33	15	32	15
+ 7	+ 15	- 7	+ 13

30	23	21	19	28	20	26	18	27	25	32	24	22	29	17	31	33	34	40
A	G	B	H	S	T	E	I	M	P	O	V	U	Y	N	B	D	R	C



## ENGLISH: HOW MANY WORDS CAN YOU FIND?

Find as many words within the two **bolded** words below.

## Regency Furniture Stadium

## Professional Baseball

[illegible][illegible]



# GEOGRAPHY: HOW MANY MILES?

Geography is used every day, whether it pertains to the earth or everyday distance calculations. Even the Blue Crabs use Geography when calculating how far they need to travel to other Atlantic League Teams.

Use the chart below to answer the following questions:

TEAM	MILES
LANCASTER BARNSTORMERS	139.26
SOMERSET PATRIOTS	221.96
YORK REVOLUTION	114.50
NEW BRITAIN BEES	355
LONG ISLAND DUCKS	292.76

1. If the Blue Crabs have a game against the New Britain Bees on Saturday and then on Sunday travel to your to play the Revolution, how far did they travel over the weekend?  
(Do NOT forget traveling back to Waldorf) \_\_\_\_\_
2. If the Blue Cabs play the Somerset Patriots three times during the month of May, how many TOTAL miles will they travel? (Do NOT forget traveling back to Waldorf) \_\_\_\_\_
3. In what state is the Long Island Ducks field located? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What teams are not from New Jersey or Pennsylvania and how many miles are they from Waldorf?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. If the Blue Crabs play each one of these teams once during the season, how many TOTAL miles will they travel? (Do NOT forget traveling back to Waldorf) \_\_\_\_\_



# HEALTH: HOW THE BLUE CRABS STAY HEALTHY

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The Southern Maryland Blue Crabs play many games and to do so they need to stay very active during both the off and on season. Just as the Blue Crabs do, you need to continue to stay physically active. It's also very important to stay safe while playing so you do not get injured.

Here are five ways that Blue Crabs stay healthy when they play and how you can also stay safe playing your favorite sport.

- 1. Wear Protective Gear:** You will notice that the Blue Crabs never go up to the plate without a helmet on their head. Several players also wear protective elbow guards on their arms, as well as shin and ankle guards to protect them from foul balls. Staying protected is a great way to guard against the dangers of the game, so make sure you wear the proper protection when playing any sport or riding a bicycle.
- 2. Warm Up:** Blue Crabs players spend hours preparing or warming up for their games. They take batting practice two hours before game time to ready their swings for the game ahead, and they also take plenty of time to stretch. Stretching is a key part of warming up the muscles before a game and should be done before any athletic activity. That way, your muscles are ready to go and are much less likely to get hurt.
- 3. Know the Rules:** The Blue Crabs always hit the field knowing the rules of baseball. With all the players on the field knowing the rules, fewer injuries happen. The players know where they are supposed to be as well as where the other team will be at all times, helping avoid any accidents that could cause an injury. With sports that use plays, it helps to understand the plays and what your role is in each one. Being where you are supposed to be can help you stay out of harm's way, too.
- 4. Be Alert:** Just as the Blue Crabs know where they are supposed to be, they also stay very focused on the game. This helps to avoid accidents on the field that could cause an injury and it also helps the Crabs win games! The Blue Crabs also communicate with each other on the field to know who is going to catch the ball or who will back up a play at a different base. Be Alert!
- 5. Don't Play When Hurt:** If the Blue Crabs do get injured, they immediately go to the team trainer to check on the injury. The trainer along with the manager and player will make a decision on whether or not the player can go back in the game. It is important not to play when hurt because you could do further damage to your body.



# BASEBALL WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

R B H P L L R O H M F H Z A R K P L F G  
B Z U Y P H E E E T M B Q H C U K B E L  
U T O R Y I T H R R F T A R F N Z D X T  
Q W I T G C T S A I F G P W U K Q D M M  
E V Z Q Z S A C P P P A W R K O O E N F  
R V D E B H B Q H L E M N J Y C M K Y P  
L J X Y B R S A F E R X U P L C V I K I  
H L K S M Q A M R Z R A W A J T M R N Z  
K Z A T S R I H X J A D L Q N H V T Y N  
J C C B R J G M Z N X F M Z T S I S R C  
M K Q G E T B S I T C A T C H E R S O J  
K X P L R S A N J E D V L O F X Q I L J  
N Z L M N Z A W R V Z C M U U W E N U H  
J B A S E T M B M L S E B T U W K G M Y  
I M S W B Y K U I N T C Q G M R H L F D  
A X O G A N I W R J S K O S Y H L E U C  
U L O M U D D G N M T A C R H L R K Q U  
D A P T A Q J M G V N T L W E Y P Q W Q  
B I C T Q Q G R Z C V D X Z I Z B L U S  
T T S N Q U P S G M G G E J Z P M Y Y V

BASE  
SCORE  
HOME  
TRIPLE  
SAFE

CATCHER  
STRIKE  
RUN  
BATTER  
STADIUM

PITCHER  
BASEBALL  
SINGLE  
OUT  
UMPIRE

# Coloring Pages



