History of Baseball

Read about how baseball started to be played in America and then answer the questions below.

Reporters described baseball as a mania back in the 1840s; the sport was already established as a popular pastime when Civil War soldiers on both sides played it as a diversion. Many veterans took the game home after the war and it became a great unifier in the years that followed the Civil War.

In September 1845, a group of New York City men founded the New York Knickerbocker Baseball Club. One of them—volunteer firefighter and bank clerk Alexander Joy Cartwright—would create a new set of rules that would form the basis for modern baseball. The rules set up a diamond-shaped infield, foul lines and the three-strike rule. He also stopped the dangerous practice of tagging runners by throwing balls at them.

Cartwright's changes made the growing game faster-paced and more challenging. The changes also made it different than older games like cricket. In 1846, the Knickerbockers played the first official game of baseball against a team of cricket players, beginning a new, uniquely American tradition.   (From: https://www.history.com/news/who-invented-baseball)

1. Who helped create the rules of baseball? _____

2. How did baseball help after the Civil War? _____

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3. When was the first report of baseball happen? _____

4. How did the changes that Alexander Cartwright make change baseball? Give specific details.

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