

Name _____

Possessive Nouns

A **possessive noun** shows ownership. A **singular possessive noun** shows that one person, animal, place, or thing has or owns something. A **plural possessive noun** shows that more than one person, animal, place, or thing has or owns something.

- To make a singular noun show possession, add an apostrophe (') and *-s*.
a bird's song
- To make a plural noun that ends in *-s* show possession, add an apostrophe (').
several weeks' work
- To make a plural noun that does not end in *-s* show possession, add an apostrophe (') and *-s*.
the women's papers

Directions Write each noun as a possessive noun. Write *S* if the possessive noun is singular. Write *P* if the possessive noun is plural.

- friends _____
- story _____
- freedom _____
- mornings _____
- children _____
- milk _____

Directions Add an apostrophe (') or an apostrophe (') and *-s* to make each underlined word possessive. Write the sentence on the line.

7. A soldier life can be difficult.

8. Would the Union flag fly in the South?



Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow.

The President Pitches!

A Baseball Tradition Begins

by Katherine L. House, Highlights

1 April 14, 1910, was more than just another spring day in Washington, D.C. It was Opening Day of the baseball season. That afternoon, the hometown Nationals would play the “lid lifter,” their first game of the year.

2 Plenty of people left work early for the 3:45 P.M. matchup at the ballpark. By game time, the temperature reached nearly 70 degrees. More than 13,000 fans, most of them men, jammed into wooden seats and bleachers. Few seemed to mind that the Nationals, often called the “Nats,” had finished last in the American League one year earlier. Instead, fans were looking forward to the promise of a new season.

3 Even President William Howard Taft decided to show his support. Like other fans, the 27th president was dressed in a suit and tie and wore a bowler hat. Taft, his wife, Helen, and their friends sat in chairs in a box in the first row. Patriotic bunting adorned the railing in front of them.

4 Taft could have sat in a box high up in the stadium reserved for presidents, but he preferred to watch the action with the rest of the crowd.

5 One newspaper predicted that the game would be a “pitchers’ battle.” After all, the Nationals’ right-handed pitcher Walter Johnson boasted one of the fastest pitches in baseball. For the Philadelphia Athletics, dependable lefty Eddie Plank would step on the mound. But it was another pitcher who would make headlines that day.

President Taft Plays Ball

6 Before the game started, the umpire walked over to the president in his first-row box and handed him a new baseball. The president took off his dress gloves, while Mrs. Taft held the ball. Taft, a six-foot right-hander, then stood up. With his hat firmly in place, he prepared to throw the ball. Washington catcher Gabby Street waited for the pitch at home plate. But Taft surprised everyone by hurling the ball all the way to the pitcher’s mound, where Walter Johnson caught it. Johnson, one of the best pitchers of his day, recalled that Taft’s aim was “very good.”

A Tradition Begins

7 Taft’s small act turned into a big deal. Fans expected a fire chief, mayor, or another politician to throw out the first ball on Opening Day. Never had anyone as important as a U.S. president handled the honors.

8 Sportswriters and fans saw Taft’s pitch as more than a simple throw. *The Washington Post* reported, “Of course, it goes without saying that after President Taft had done his part so nobly, the Nationals simply could not lose—and they didn’t.” Johnson pitched a one-hitter, and the Nationals shut out the Athletics, 3–0. Johnson and Taft were the stars of the day. *The Sporting News* declared Taft’s pitch a “momentous event in the history of the national game.” It boasted that Taft, by throwing out the first pitch, had endorsed the game as one “worthy of the patronage of every class of people in this broad land.”

9 Even Walter Johnson thought the president had done something special. The Nationals’ pitcher asked a friend to deliver the ball he caught to the White House with a note asking the president to sign it. Taft struggled to write on the small, round object, but he managed to scribble more than his name:

10 *For Walter Johnson, with the hope that he may continue to be as formidable as in yesterday’s game.*

11 A messenger delivered the prized souvenir to the ballpark where Johnson proudly showed it off to his teammates.

12 Walter Johnson didn’t know how special the pitch would turn out to be. In fact, Taft’s throw that day started a famous tradition. Since 1910, every president except Jimmy Carter has tossed out the first ball at least once to celebrate Opening Day. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt did it eight times. He had more opportunities because he held the office longer than anyone else.

13 The custom benefited presidents—and the game of baseball. Pictures of the commander in chief at the ballpark helped him score points with the public. And the custom helped to turn baseball into the popular sport of the country—its national pastime.

43 *The Sporting News* reported that baseball was now “worthy of the patronage of every class of people in this broad land.” What does the word “patronage” refer to?

- A** the fans’ attendance
- B** the president’s pitch
- C** the players’ success
- D** the game’s popularity

44 According to the passage, how did President Taft surprise people?

- A** He attended the game with Mrs. Taft.
- B** He wore a suit and bowler hat to the game.
- C** He threw the ball all the way to Walter Johnson.
- D** He requested to throw the first pitch.

45 The author calls the ball Taft signed a “prized souvenir” because the ball was

- A** an important reminder of a big event
- B** worth a lot of money even before it was signed
- C** given to the pitcher of the winning team
- D** pitched by other presidents as well

46 How does the author’s description of other presidents contribute to the reader’s understanding of the passage?

- A** It shows how the tradition of presidents throwing pitches has changed over time.
- B** It proves that most presidents are fans of the “national pastime.”
- C** It demonstrates how strong of an impact Taft’s first pitch had.
- D** It supports the idea that Taft was better than average at pitching baseballs.

- 47** Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the idea that pitching may have helped President Taft gain political support?
- A** “Johnson and Taft were the stars of the day.”
 - B** “Even Walter Johnson thought the president had done something special.”
 - C** “In fact, Taft’s throw that day started a famous tradition.”
 - D** “Pictures of the commander in chief at the ballpark helped him score points with the public.”

- 48** According to the passage, how did Taft’s pitch influence the game between the Nationals and the Athletics?
- A** It helped Eddie Plank play better.
 - B** It inspired the Nationals to win.
 - C** It made Walter Johnson proud but nervous.
 - D** It inspired each team to have a one-hitter.

- 49** How did President Taft change the game of baseball?
- A** He made it preferable for presidents to sit with the general public.
 - B** He inspired a practice of presidential pitching on Opening Day.
 - C** He began the tradition of presidents autographing baseballs.
 - D** He started a practice that fire chiefs and mayors later followed.

Reading Assignment

This week we will continue reading Esperanza Rising. We will read some of it in class together and students will have some time in class to read independently. Any reading they did not complete in class will have to be read at home.

Monday – Chapter 10

Tuesday – Chapter 11

Wednesday – Chapter 12

Thursday – Chapter 13