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The White Sox Sweep to Victory

A very long wait is finally over for the Chicago White Sox. On October 27, 2005, the team won its first World Series championship in 88 years. It was the third title ever for the White Sox, who won in 1906 and 1917, and their first World Series appearance since 1959.

The White Sox were almost perfect. The team lost only one postseason game on the way to the championship. They swept the Boston Red Sox in the first round of the playoffs. Then they beat the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in five games to take the American League title. Finally, Chicago defeated the Houston Astros in four straight games to win the World Series.

White Sox right fielder Jermaine Dye was named the Series' most valuable player. In the eighth inning of the final game, he hit a single and drove in the game's only run, leading his team to a 1–0 victory.

The championship has allowed the White Sox to finally step out of the shadow of Chicago's more well-known hard-luck baseball team, the Cubs, who haven't won a World Series since 1908. Even some Cubs fans hit the streets to celebrate victory. "We're happy to be able to bring a championship to the city of Chicago," Dye said.

Top Five-Longest World Series Games

During the World Series, many baseball teams hang on until the bitter end and then come out swinging for more! Game three of the 2005 Series between the Chicago White Sox and the Houston Astros lasted nearly six hours. Listed below are the longest World Series games on record.

1. 2005 Game Three—Chicago White Sox v. Houston Astros: 5 hours 41 minutes
2. 2000 Game One—New York Yankees v. New York Mets: 4 hours 51 minutes
3. 1993 Game Four—Toronto Blue Jays v. Philadelphia Phillies: 4 hours 14 minutes
4. 1973 Game Two—New York Mets v. Oakland Athletics: 4 hours 13 minutes
5. 1997 Game Seven—Florida Marlins v. Cleveland Indians: 4 hours 11 minutes

The White Sox Sweep to Victory *(cont.)*

Directions: Answer the questions. You may use the article.

1. Which team won the World Series on October 27, 2005? How long had it been since it won its last World Series? How many titles does it have now and in what years did they earn them?

2. How long did game 3 of the World Series last? Can you imagine how tired the players must have been? As a fan, would you have lasted six hours?

3. Who was the team's most valuable player? What did he do to earn that honor?

4. In your own words, what does the article title "Sweep to Victory," mean?

5. The White Sox are not the city of Chicago's only baseball team. What is the other team? Describe its World Series history.

6. Write a front-page newspaper article for the day the White Sox won the World Series on October 27, 2005. Include game facts, perspectives of both players and fans, and a picture of the celebration at home plate. Use the back of this page.

The White Sox Sweep to Victory *(cont.)*

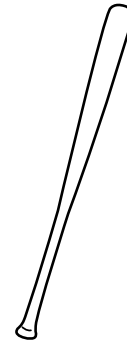
Take Me Out to the Ball Game

The song *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* was written in 1908—by two men who had never attended a baseball game! It first became popular in vaudeville. Vaudeville was a popular style of live entertainment with music, comedy, and other acts. Later, the song began to be played at baseball games. It is usually sung in the middle of the seventh inning, also called the seventh-inning stretch. People stand and sing, sometimes adding hand motions to the song.

Today, the song is said to be the third-most commonly played song in the United States, after *Happy Birthday* and *The Star-Spangled Banner*. The full song also has verses that are not sung at baseball games. The part most people know is really only the chorus of the song:



Take me out to the ball game,
Take me out with the crowd.
Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jacks.
I don't care if I never get back.
Let me root, root, root for the home team.
If they don't win, it's a shame!
For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out,
At the old ball game.



—Jack Norworth (*lyrics*) and Albert Von Tilzer (*music*)

1. What two songs are more commonly played in the United States today than *Take Me out to the Ball Game*?

2. Describe what happens during the seventh-inning stretch. Have you ever participated in one?

3. Judging by the song, what might it have been like to attend a vaudeville show?

The White Sox Sweep to Victory *(cont.)*

Document-Based Extension Activities

Students may work independently, or the teacher may copy this page and then cut out activities and distribute them to students for completion in small groups.

1. Research the history of the Negro Baseball League. Create a time line showing key dates and milestones. Develop a presentation about the league. You should include, but are not limited to, answers to the following questions:

- Who was responsible for starting the league?
- What were the names of the first teams?
- Who were some of the first players?
- How were the players treated?
- What was life like for them compared to the lives of white baseball players?
- What was the difference in salaries?

2. List the top-three team managers (coaches) in both the National and American Leagues with the most World Series wins.

3. Research which team has won the World Series each year since the World Series began. Create a pie chart or bar graph to show which teams have won most often.

4. How has the recent rise in alleged illegal drug use impacted baseball? Some players will have difficulty making it into the baseball Hall of Fame as a result of this very issue. For those involved, how are their accomplishments affected? How do current Hall of Famers and fans feel about these types of players?