



1 Article : [Hidden Wonders of Japan] Where Baseball Began in the Land of Samurai

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

Only a minute's walk from Jinbocho Station in Tokyo is a monument of a catcher's hand, [commemorating](#) the start of baseball in Japan.

I was walking in front of Gakushikaikan in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward when I noticed someone's right hand poised to throw a ball at me. Instinctively, I [braced myself](#). However, upon closer inspection, I discovered that this "hand" was made of bronze, stood about 2 m (6.6 ft) tall, and held an enormous baseball.

The monument was erected in 2003 to [commemorate](#) Horace Wilson's induction into the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame. Wilson was an American teacher who introduced baseball to Japan in 1872. Because the sculpture represents the "birthplace" of Japanese baseball, many baseball players come here to take photos.

I also [found out](#) that the statue depicts the moment of catching, not pitching. It [signifies](#) that Japan has indeed received the sport of baseball from the United States. As if to reiterate this point, the ball is also a globe, with a seam connecting the two countries.

Source : [Hidden Wonders of Japan] Where Baseball Began in the Land of Samurai
[JAPAN Forward](#)

2 Key phrases and vocabulary

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

- 1. commemorate** (特別な出来事などを) 祝う、記念する、追悼する、(死者を) しのぶ
・ We should have a party to **commemorate** our 30th wedding anniversary.
- 2. brace oneself** 身構える、心の準備をする、覚悟する、気持ちを引き締める
・ When the press conference started, he **braced himself** for a lot of annoying questions.
- 3. find out** (真実・事実などを) 見出す、明らかにする、解明する、突き止める、確認する、(事実などが調べた結果) わかる
・ Let's **find out** how this accident happened.
- 4. signify** (感情や事実などを) 示す、知らせる、意味する、たとえる
・ We are trying to figure out what the marks on the ancient stones **signify**.

3 Questions

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

- 1. What did the author see when he was walking in front of Gakushikaikan?**
- 2. What does the bronze baseball represent?**
- 3. Do you play and/or watch any sports?**
- 4. Why do you think baseball has become so popular in Japan?**

4

日本語関連記事：世界地図が描かれたボール 日本野球発祥の地

学士会館（東京都千代田区）前を歩いていると、ボールを投げつけられそうになり身構えた。よくよく見ると、巨大な野球ボールを握った右手のブロンズ像だ。高さは約2メートルもある。

明治5年に日本に野球を伝えた米国人教師、ホーレス・ウィルソン氏の野球殿堂入りを記念し、平成15年に作られた。「日本野球発祥の地」として、野球選手が記念撮影に訪れることもあるという。

彫像は投球ではなく捕球の瞬間で、米国の「ベースボール」を確かに受け取ったという意味。球には世界地図が描かれ、米国と日本が縫い目で結ばれている。