

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Swinging into Softball: A Beginner's Guide

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The history of softball began in 1887 in Chicago when a group of men played an indoor version of baseball during a rain delay at a football game. It evolved over the years, and today, it is played with a larger, softer ball on a diamond-shaped field with underhand pitching.
2. In softball, there are nine players on a team. Some key positions and responsibilities include the pitcher, who throws the ball; the catcher, who tries to catch it; infielders, who cover the bases; and outfielders, who patrol the area beyond the infield.
3. To score a run in softball, a base runner needs to do the following:
  - Hit the ball and start running to first base.
  - Touch first base and continue running to second base.
  - Touch second base and continue running to third base.
  - Touch third base and finally return safely to home plate.
4. Safety equipment in softball, such as helmets and shin guards, is essential to protect players from injuries that can occur during the game. Wearing protective gear reduces the risk of getting hurt by a pitched or batted ball. It ensures the safety of players on the field.

