

Science of  
**baseball**



What type of  
wood makes the  
best bat?



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A heavy bat can give you more power, while a lighter bat can give you more speed.

In the early days of baseball, hitters like Babe Ruth used a hickory bat. Since hickory is a very strong, heavy wood, it can slow down a batter's swinging speed and bring down his batting average. Ash replaced hickory because it was lighter, but it's not as strong.

In the 1990s, some players began using

maple bats. Maple is stronger than ash and not as heavy as hickory. However, maple bats tend to break in long, jagged pieces that can cause injury to players, umpires, and fans.

**Learn more at**  
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Science of Baseball trading cards are supported by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and

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