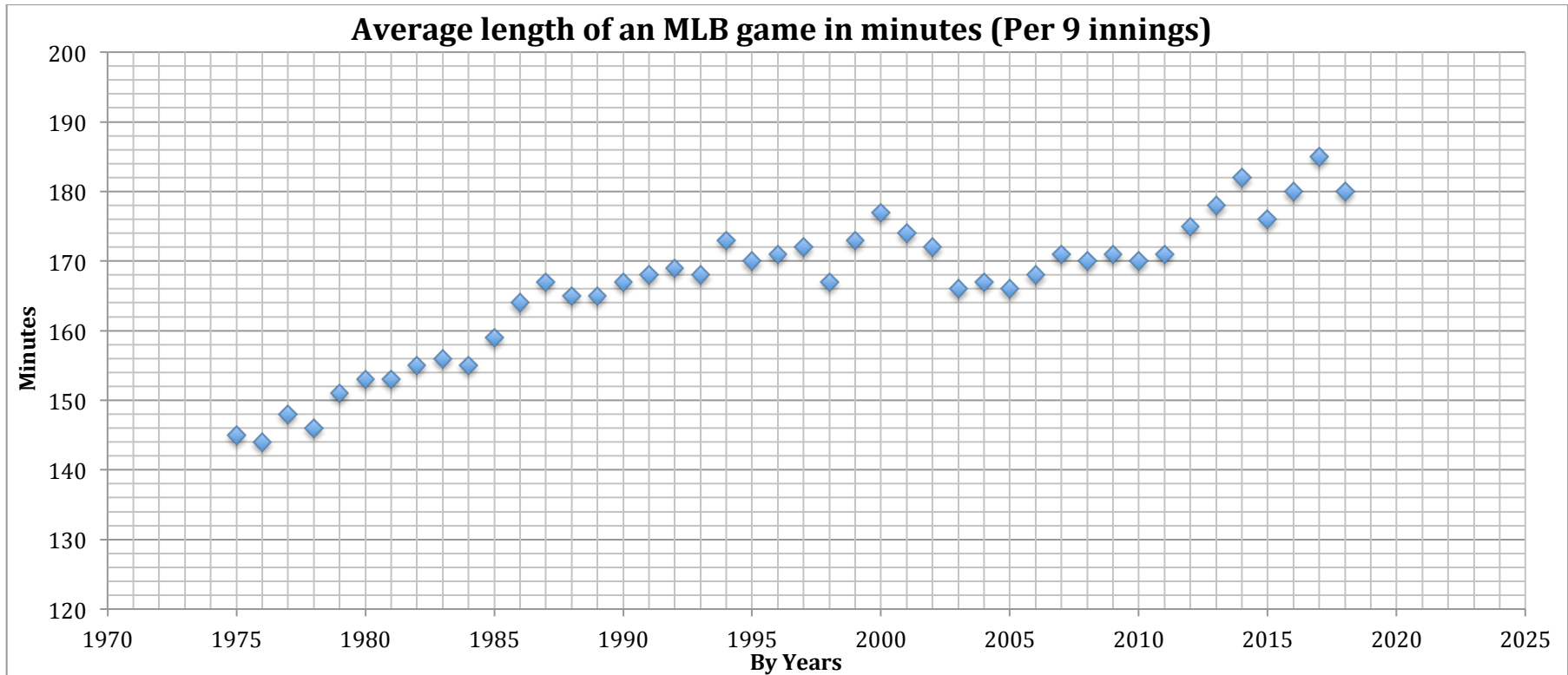


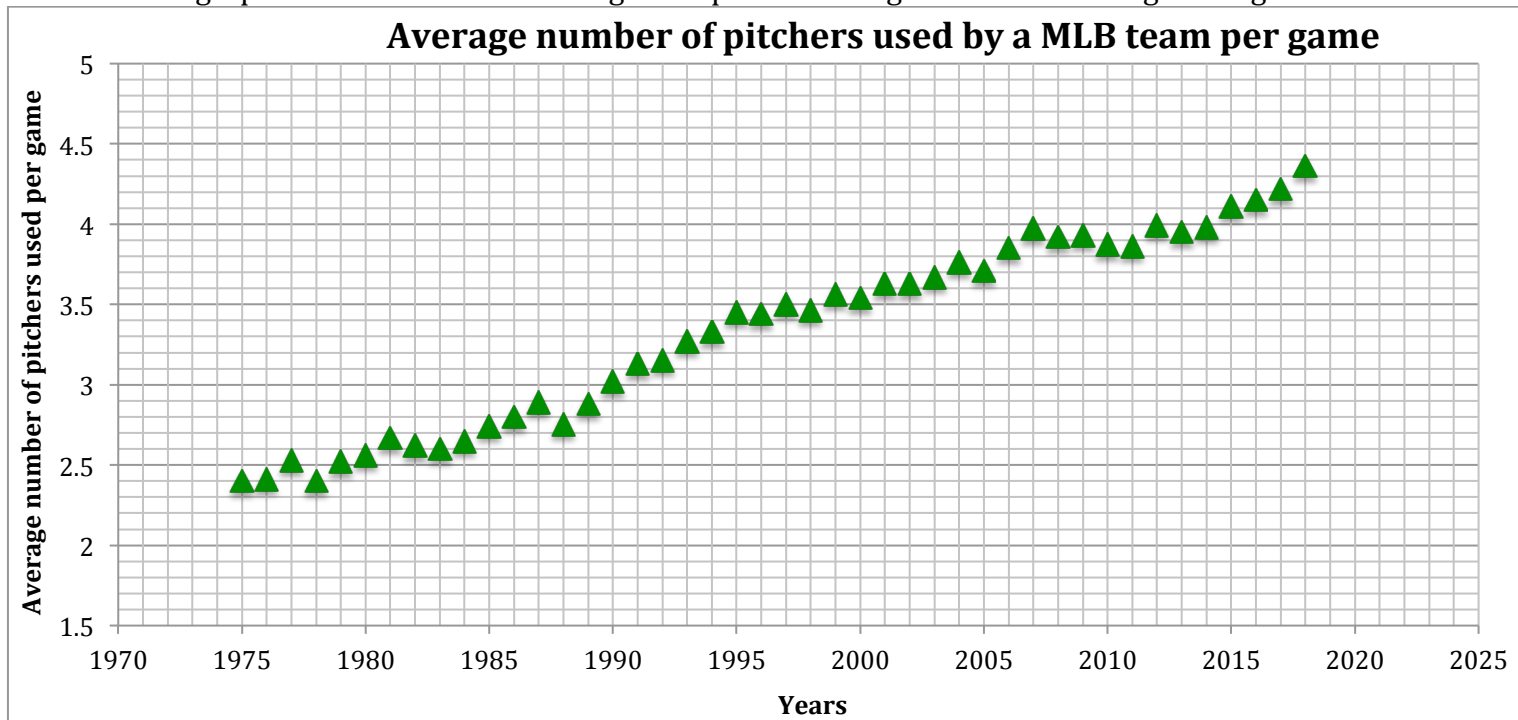
Are Baseball Games Getting Longer?

Are baseball games getting longer and if so, does anyone care? Many critics say that the sport is losing fans because the games take too long to play or the pace is too slow. What do you think? The graph below gives the average length of MLB games going back to 1975.



1. Looking at the graph what do notice and wonder?
2. How has the length of a game changed since 1975? How much longer is a game taking to play?
3. What are some reasons that the games might be taking longer to play? What variables affect length of a game?

4. On average how many additional minutes per year are being added to a MLB game?
5. Draw a straight line through, but not connecting the points. The line should show how or at what rate the length of game is changing.
6. Predict the length of a game for 2019 – 2025 and from 1970 – 1974 and add those points to the graph.
7. Take a look at the graph below. How would using more pitchers in a game affect the length of a game?



8. On average, how many more pitchers are being used per game (for each team) since 1975?

9. On the graph that was below problem #7, repeat the process that you used for the average length of games graph.
- Draw a line of best fit on the graph.
 - Plot the points that you predict for 1970 – 1974 and 2019 – 2025.
10. We can think of one other variable that might affect the length of game play. Has the relative number of foul balls that are hit in a game changed? How could this affect the length of a game?

11. What do you notice about foul ball rate over time?

Let's wrap up.

- What is happening to the length of MLB games?
- Why does it matter?
- What are some of the possible causes of the games taking longer?

12. The average MLB game is taking over 3 hours now! Put that in perspective: How many 90-minute movies can you watch in that time? How many 44-minute shows on Netflix? How many 22-minute shows on Netflix?

