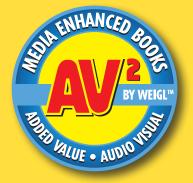


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Introduction

he NHL expanded from six teams to twelve in 1967. When the league granted Pittsburgh one of these **expansion** teams, many thought they would be overshadowed by the beloved Pirates, a Major League Baseball (MLB) team, and the Steelers, a National Football League (NFL) team. These powerhouse **franchises** had owned Pittsburgh since 1887 and 1933 respectively. When the Penguins skated onto the ice to play the legendary Montreal Canadiens on October 11, 1967, Pittsburgh fans fell in love with their new hockey team.

