

Discover America

Course 15 - Teacher Guide



Jackie Robinson and the Integration of Baseball

Course 15

Scope & Sequence

Jackie Robinson & the Integration of Baseball

	K	1	2	3	4	5
Topic	Being Unique is a Good Thing	What Next? America After Slavery	Baseball's Role in Integration	Separate but Equal	Jackie Robinson	Reconstruction and Robinson
Activity	Tracing Practice Activity Page	Design a Jersey	Fact or Opinion	Biography	Baseball Review Game	Timeline
Learning More with Liberty	Bullying Being Unique	Prejudice after Abolition Discrimination	Jackie Robinson & the Dodgers Negro Leagues vs Major League Integration	Reconstruction Segregation Integration Jim Crow Laws	Jackie Robinson's Upbringing Jackie Robinson Athlete + Soldier Jackie Robinson & the Dodgers	Jackie Robinson Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson's Legacy Jim Crow Laws Integration
Objectives	<p>Explain that our country is made up of diverse people who still deserve the same opportunities</p> <p>Tell what makes Jackie Robinson important in American History</p>	<p>Describe the way Blacks were treated after the end of the Civil War</p> <p>Explain why Jackie Robinson is important in American History</p>	<p>Describe how life was different for Blacks and Whites after the Civil War ended</p> <p>Explain why Jackie Robinson is important in American History and the impact he had on Major League Baseball</p>	<p>Give examples of how Blacks were discriminated against after the Civil War ended</p> <p>Describe how Jackie Robinson was able to overcome obstacles Blacks were facing during his childhood</p> <p>Summarize why Jackie Robinson is remembered in American History and his impact on Major League Baseball</p>	<p>Explain why Jackie Robinson is remembered in American History</p> <p>Describe the impact Jackie Robinson had on Major League Baseball and other American sports</p> <p>Outline the challenges Jackie Robinson faced and tell how he was able to overcome those challenges</p>	<p>Describe what life was like for Black Americans during the Reconstruction era</p> <p>Explain why Jackie Robinson is remembered in American History and the impact he had on Major League Baseball</p> <p>Compare and Contrast what life was like for Jackie Robinson during his childhood, during his career as an athlete, and during his retirement</p>

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Course 15 - Teacher Guide



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9	Activity Page
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Kindergarten

Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Bravery
- Perseverance
- Breaking Barriers

Core Values

- Liberty
- Community
- Life

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain that our country is made up of diverse people who still deserve the same opportunities
- Tell what makes Jackie Robinson important in American History



Jackie Robinson - Kindergarten

Introduction

ASK Students

Look around our class. Do we all look the same? (allow students to respond)

What if boys could play out on the playground but girls could not, they could only play in the grass? What if kids with glasses got to eat lunch with their friends, and if you did not wear glasses you had to sit by yourself? Do these rules seem fair?

TELL Students

Even though we all look different, there are certain ways that we all want to be treated. How do you want your friends to treat you? Be kind? Include you when they play? Not make fun of you for any reason? (allow students to respond)

As humans we all want to be treated nicely and have the same opportunities to live a happy life.

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty



Scan Me!

Jackie Robinson - Kindergarten

Key Terms

- 01 **Diverse** - made up of people from multiple different cultures
- 02 **Unique** - different than everyone else
- 03 **Jackie Robinson** - the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era
- 04 **Major League** - top tier baseball group of teams who play against each other

Jackie Robinson - Kindergarten

Being Unique

TELL Students

Sometimes people are not given the same opportunities because of the way they look, talk, or act. It is not right to exclude someone because they look or behave differently than we do. We live in a country that has people of all backgrounds. Everyday we interact with friends who look differently and like different things than we do.

That is what makes America a diverse country.

Being different from one another does not make one person better than the other. Our differences are what makes each of us unique. After all, life would be pretty boring if we all looked the same way, talked the same way, and did all the same things. You may already know this, but this was not always the case for many people living in America a long time ago.

There was a time whenever people were mistreated because they looked different. There were even laws in our country that allowed people to have fewer opportunities just because of the way they look on the outside. People of certain backgrounds were mistreated and if they tried to stand up for themselves they got into trouble.

One person who was given the opportunity to stand up for equal rights for people of all backgrounds was Jackie Robinson. He was not allowed to play baseball in the Major League because of his skin color. However, one team, the Brooklyn Dodgers, invited him to play on their team anyways because he was so talented. He played so well and received so many awards for his amazing baseball skills. We remember him today because he was brave and did not let other people who thought less of him stop him from doing what he loved.

TRACING PRACTICE

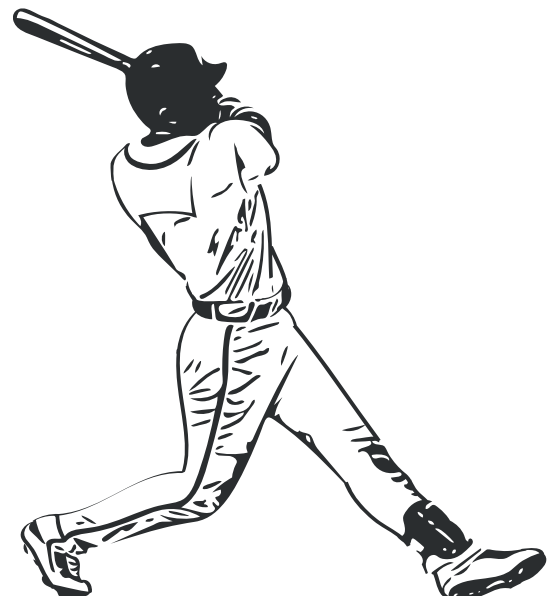
Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson

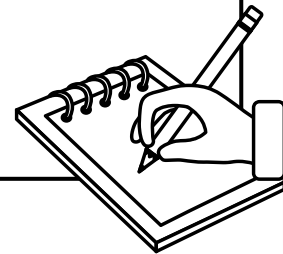
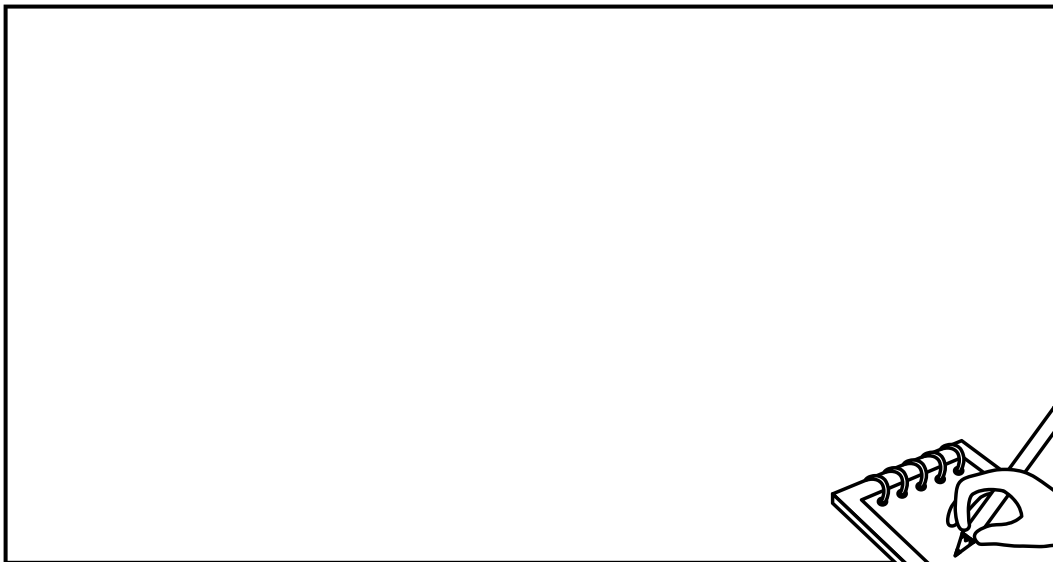
Jackie Robinson



Jackie Robinson



Jackie was a baseball player.



player. Jackie a was baseball

Discover America

Course 15 - Teacher Guide



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12	Fact or Fiction
13	Fact or Fiction Key
14	Resources
15	Notes

1st Grade

Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Bravery
- Perseverance
- Breaking Barriers

Core Values

- Liberty
- Community
- Life

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe the way Blacks were treated after the end of the Civil War
- Explain why Jackie Robinson is important in American History



Jackie Robinson - 1st Grade

Introduction

ASK Students

Have you ever seen a bully pick on a classmate because they are different?

Maybe they have different skin, hair, or eye color. Maybe they sound different and speak with an accent, a lisp, or perhaps a stutter. Maybe they celebrate different religious holidays and family traditions. **(allow students to respond)**

TELL Students

Being different from one another doesn't make one person better than the other. It's what makes each of us unique! After all, school would be pretty boring if we all looked the same way, talked the same way, and did the same things. This probably seems obvious to you now, but this wasn't always the case for many people living in America a long time ago.

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty



Scan Me!

Jackie Robinson - 1st Grade

Key Terms

- 01 **Unique** - different than everyone else
- 02 **Reconstruction** - the time period after the Civil War ended
- 03 **Jackie Robinson** - the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era
- 04 **Major League** - top tier baseball group of teams who play against each other
- 05 **Perseverance** - not letting anything stop you from pursuing your goals

Jackie Robinson - 1st Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

As we discussed in the last lesson, the Union's victory in the Civil War and the passage of the 13th Amendment freed Blacks in America from the bondage of slavery. However, throughout the Reconstruction-era, which was the period after the Civil War had ended, Americans were divided over how to integrate free Blacks into American society.

Despite what the Constitution said, sadly, many white Americans, especially those who supported the Confederacy in the southern United States, still thought that Blacks were second-class citizens – all because of the color of their skin.

White people and Black people, although both were now free, did not have the same opportunities to live out their freedom. There were laws put in place specifically to keep Blacks and Whites separate and make sure that Blacks did not have as many opportunities as Whites. Blacks had fewer opportunities and the opportunities they did have were not as good as those that White people had access to.

Jackie Robinson - 1st Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

One thing that was separated by skin color during this time was sports. Blacks and Whites could not play together on the same teams or even in the same league in most cases. Jackie Robinson became the first Black baseball player of his time to play for the Major Leagues.

Previously, Black baseball players were only allowed to play in leagues with other Black players. They were banned from playing on the Major League teams. Robinson was invited to come play for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. People were not very supportive of this, but Robinson continued to show how great of a baseball player he truly was.

Jackie Robinson did not let other people's words or actions keep him from playing baseball in the Major League. His perseverance through all the persecution ultimately earned him several awards and recognition across the country. He was a very talented baseball player.

We remember him today because of his courage to stand up for what he believed in—equal opportunities for all people no matter their skin color.

Jackie Robinson - 1st Grade

Flash Cards



**JACKIE
ROBINSON**

the first African
American to play
in Major League
Baseball in the
modern era

UNIQUE

different than
everyone else

RECONSTRUCTION

the time period
after the Civil
War ended

Jackie Robinson - 1st Grade

Flash Cards



**MAJOR
LEAGUE**

top tier baseball
group of teams
who play against
each other

PERSEVERANCE

not letting
anything stop you
from pursuing
your goals

Jackie Robinson

Design a Jersey

Directions

Design a baseball jersey to show why **Jackie Robinson** is remembered in Major League Baseball history. Be sure to include details like his number, his team name, and other words and pictures that represent Jackie's **talent** and **impact**.

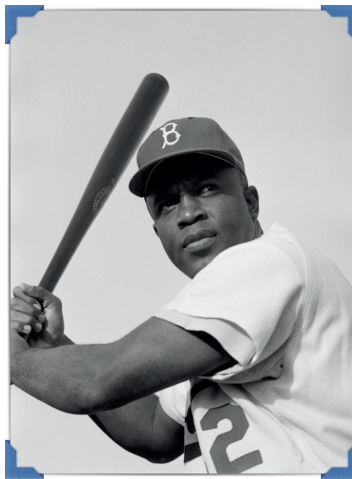


Jackie Robinson

Fact or Fiction

Directions

Draw a line to match the baseballs to Jackie Robinson if the fact on them is TRUE.



Jackie became the first Black baseball player to play for the Major Leagues

People were supportive of Jackie playing in the Major Leagues

Jackie played for the Brooklyn Dodgers

Jackie persevered even though people persecuted him

Jackie believed in equal opportunities for all people

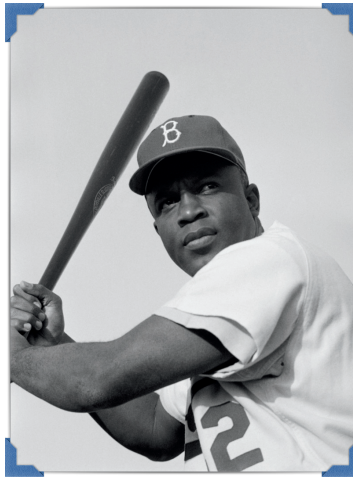
Jackie was not a very talented baseball player

Jackie Robinson

Fact or Fiction

Directions

Draw a line to match the baseballs to Jackie Robinson if the fact on them is **TRUE**.



Jackie became the first Black baseball player to play for the Major Leagues

People were supportive of Jackie playing in the Major Leagues (FALSE)

Jackie played for the Brooklyn Dodgers

Jackie persevered even though people persecuted him

Jackie believed in equal opportunities for all people

Jackie was not a very talented baseball player (FALSE)

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2nd Grade

Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Bravery
- Perseverance
- Breaking Barriers

Core Values

- Liberty
- Community
- Life

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe how life was different for Blacks and Whites after the Civil War
- Explain why Jackie Robinson is important in American History and the impact he had on Major League Baseball



Jackie Robinson - 2nd Grade

Introduction

ASK Students

Imagine you and some friends were going to play basketball at the park. Instead of being allowed to pick teams and all play together, when you got there everyone was split up and sent to play on different courts based on what they looked like. Girls and boys were separated as well as kids who were tall, short, blue eyed, brown eyed, etc. How would you feel about playing basketball there?
(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

There was a time in America where something very similar was happening. This was a little different, however, because it happened everywhere and with everything, not just basketball. After the Civil War, during a time known as "Reconstruction" in America, Blacks and Whites were forced to stay separate and use different things everywhere they went. They could not sit together on a bus, use the same bathrooms, or eat at the same restaurants. Blacks were not even allowed to drink from the same water fountain as Whites. Let's continue on and find out more about what one baseball player did to stand up against this injustice.

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty



Scan Me!

Jackie Robinson - 2nd Grade

Key Terms

- 01 **Reconstruction** - the time period after the Civil War ended
- 02 **Segregated** - separated
- 03 **Discrimination** - making a decision for or against someone based on the group or class that person belongs to rather than the individual themselves
- 04 **Major League** - top tier baseball group of teams who play against each other
- 05 **Debut** - first public appearance
- 06 **Prejudice** - thinking another person is "less than" because of a certain quality or characteristic, such as skin color, religious beliefs, or gender
- 07 **Jackie Robinson** - the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era

Jackie Robinson - 2nd Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

Even though the Civil War had ended, and slavery was officially abolished in the United States, Blacks in the South faced daily discrimination. Even for Blacks who did not live in the southern states, life still was challenging. Imagine what it would have been like dealing with prejudice from your neighbors and peers, or seeing friends, family, or people like you suffering because of what they look like. Blacks were not given the same opportunities as Whites due to a set of unfair laws specifically written to hinder Blacks from having as many freedoms. Almost everywhere they went, Blacks were forced to stay segregated, or separated from Whites.

Blacks were not even allowed to play on the same sports teams as Whites. Baseball in particular had a separate league for Black players and only White players were allowed in the Major League. This was the case until one day one Black baseball player named Jackie Robinson was given the opportunity to play on a Major League team. While Jackie was playing baseball for the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro League in 1945, Brooklyn Dodgers executive Branch Rickey was searching for a Black player with both talent and guts to join Major League Baseball, which at the time, unofficially banned Black players. There had not been a Black player in the major leagues since 1889.

Jackie Robinson - 2nd Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

Rickey was looking for a player to integrate the MLB who would “turn the other cheek” when facing taunts, abuse, and threats. While Rickey was interviewing Jackie for the job in August 1945, Robinson reportedly asked, “Are you looking for a Negro who is afraid to fight back?” Rickey is said to have replied that he was looking for someone “with guts enough not to fight back.” Jackie got the job and played for the Dodgers’ farm team, the Royals, in 1946. He did so well that he was called up to the Dodgers the next season.

On April 15, 1947, Jackie made his National League debut as a first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers and broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball. Jackie was on the receiving end of taunts, slurs, death threats, and hate mail, and while traveling with the team, had to navigate segregation laws. But Jackie endured and earned the respect of supporters, friends, and teammates. He led the Dodgers to many victories and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.

Jackie Robinson’s courage changed the course of history and today, his legacy still lives on.

Flash Cards



**JACKIE
ROBINSON**

the first African
American to play
in Major League
Baseball in the
modern era

SEGREGATED

separated

RECONSTRUCTION

the time period
after the Civil
War ended



DISCRIMINATION

making a decision for or against someone based on the group or class that person belongs to rather than the individual themselves

MAJOR LEAGUE

top tier baseball group of teams who play against each other

DEBUT

first public appearance

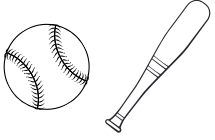
PREJUDICE

thinking another person is "less than" because of a certain quality or characteristic, such as skin color, religious beliefs, or gender

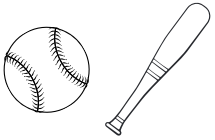
Fact or Opinion

Directions

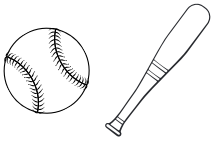
Color the baseball if the statement is a FACT. Color the bat if the statement is an OPINION.



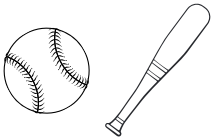
1. Even after slavery ended, Blacks and Whites were still forced to be separate, or segregated.



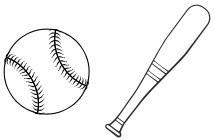
2. Blacks were not even allowed to play on the same sports teams as Whites.



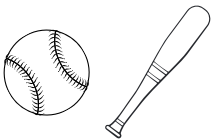
3. Baseball fans all wanted the teams to stay segregated.



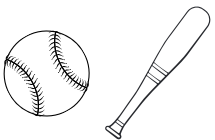
4. Jackie Robinson was given the chance to play for a Major League Baseball (MLB) team.



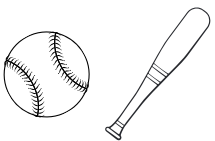
5. Jackie was a very talented baseball player and had a lot of courage to join the Major Leagues.



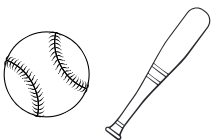
6. On April 15, 1947, Jackie made his National League debut, breaking the color barrier in MLB.



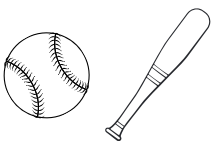
7. Jackie played first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers.



8. All of Jackie's teammates liked him.



9. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.



10. Jackie Robinson was the best baseball player ever.

Fact or Opinion

KEY

Directions

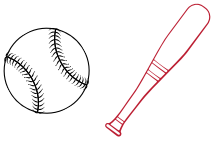
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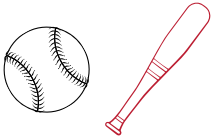
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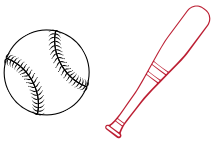
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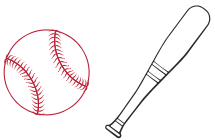
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Jackie Robinson - 2nd Grade

Assessment

1. During the Reconstruction-era in America, Blacks and Whites were forced to stay separate, or _____.
- a. Segregated
 - b. Integrated
 - c. Discriminated
 - d. Emancipated

2. Even after the Civil War, and slavery was abolished, Blacks in the South faced daily _____.
- a. Integration
 - b. Discrimination
 - c. Emancipation
 - d. Reconstruction

3. What sport had a separate league for Black players, where only White players were allowed in?
- a. Football
 - b. Basketball
 - c. Baseball
 - d. Volleyball

4. Jackie Robinson played for what team in the Negro League in 1945?
- a. Brooklyn Dodgers
 - b. Kansas City Royals
 - c. New York Yankees
 - d. Kansas City Monarchs

5. Branch Rickey was looking for a player to integrate what sports teams?
- a. Major League Baseball
 - b. Negro League Baseball
 - c. National Football League
 - d. National Basketball Association

6. What year was Jackie inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame?
- a. 1962
 - b. 1947
 - c. 1945
 - d. 1969

7. Why do we remember Jackie Robinson in American History?
- a. He was popular with all baseball fans
 - b. He broke the color barrier in MLB
 - c. He abolished slavery in America
 - d. He was the first black first baseman

8. What position did Jackie play on his Major League team?
- a. Pitcher
 - b. Catcher
 - c. First baseman
 - d. Third baseman

9. Jackie Robinson made his National League debut for what team in MLB?
- a. Kansas City Royals
 - b. Brooklyn Dodgers
 - c. New York Yankees
 - d. Kansas City Monarchs

10. Blacks were not given the same _____ as Whites due to a set of unfair laws specifically written to hinder Blacks from having as many freedoms.
- a. Segregation
 - b. Reconstruction
 - c. Opportunities
 - d. Sports

Jackie Robinson - 2nd Grade Assessment Key

1. During the Reconstruction-era in America, Blacks and Whites were forced to stay separate, or _____.
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 - b. Integrated
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 - b. Kansas City Royals
 - c. New York Yankees
 - d. **Kansas City Monarchs**

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- a. **1962**
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 - b. **He broke the color barrier in MLB**
 - c. He abolished slavery in America
 - d. He was the first black first baseman

8. What position did Jackie play on his Major League team?
- a. Pitcher
 - b. Catcher
 - c. **First baseman**
 - d. Third baseman

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- a. Kansas City Royals
 - b. **Brooklyn Dodgers**
 - c. New York Yankees
 - d. Kansas City Monarchs

10. Blacks were not given the same _____ as Whites due to a set of unfair laws specifically written to hinder Blacks from having as many freedoms.
- a. Segregation
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 - c. **Opportunities**
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Discover America

Course 15 - Teacher Guide



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3rd Grade

Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Bravery
- Perseverance
- Breaking Barriers

Core Values

- Liberty
- Community
- Life

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Give examples of how Blacks were discriminated against after the Civil War ended
- Describe how Jackie Robinson was able to overcome obstacles Blacks were facing during his childhood
- Summarize why Jackie Robinson is remembered in American History and his impact on Major League Baseball



Jackie Robinson - 3rd Grade

Introduction

ASK Students

Imagine there was a rule in your neighborhood that you could only play with kids who were the exact same height as you. If someone was taller than you or shorter than you, they were not allowed to play with you. In fact, there were even separate parks where the taller kids had nice, new equipment to play on, and shorter kids had old, rusty play equipment. Does this seem like a fun environment to live in? (allow students to respond)

TELL Students

It seems silly to separate kids by a physical feature they can't control such as their height. However, even after slavery had ended for good in America, people were still forced to be separated by one physical feature: their skin color. After the Civil War, during a time known as "Reconstruction" in America, there were laws put into place to keep Blacks from having the same opportunities as Whites. Blacks and Whites were segregated, or separated from each other, as much as possible, especially in public places.

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty



Scan Me!

Jackie Robinson - 3rd Grade

Key Terms

- 01 **Reconstruction** - the time period after the Civil War ended
- 02 **Segregated** - separated
- 03 **Discrimination** - making a decision for or against someone based on the group or class that person belongs to rather than the individual themselves
- 04 **Major League** - top tier baseball group of teams who play against each other
- 05 **Debut** - first public appearance
- 06 **Prejudice** - thinking another person is "less than" because of a certain quality or characteristic, such as skin color, religious beliefs, or gender
- 07 **Jackie Robinson** - the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era
- 08 **Inhumane** - without kindness or compassion
- 09 **Integration** - combined or united together

Jackie Robinson - 3rd Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

The passing of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments were supposed to help make life more equal for Blacks. However, despite what the Constitution said, many white Americans, particularly those who supported the Confederacy in the southern United States, still thought that Blacks were second-class citizens – all because of the color of their skin. There were even laws written and passed that were designed to limit opportunities for Blacks and to keep them separate from white Americans.

Blacks were forced to ride in separate sections of buses and trains, use different water fountains and restrooms, reside in different neighborhoods, and attend different schools. Public places from pools and libraries, to theaters and restaurants, to hospitals and elderly homes were segregated. Marriage was also segregated as blacks and whites weren't allowed to marry each other or live together in many states in the south. Signs on walls, windows, and doors read "Whites Only" and "Colored" and constantly reminded people of these inhumane laws.

Blacks in the South faced daily discrimination; life was not easy under the new laws that kept everything separate for Blacks and Whites. Even for Blacks who did not live in the southern states, life still was challenging. Imagine what it would have been like dealing with prejudice from your neighbors and peers, or seeing friends, family, or people like you suffering because of what they look like. You would not even be able to play on the same sports team as someone who had different colored skin than you.

However, in the 1940s, one man was given the opportunity to help start integration in baseball.

Jackie Robinson - 3rd Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era, was born during this dangerous time on January 31, 1919 in Cairo, Georgia. Jackie and his family were poor, and as the only black family living on their block, faced prejudice and exclusion because of the color of their skin. Yet despite resistance, Jackie worked hard and became an exceptional athlete, playing on his high school's varsity baseball, basketball, football, and track teams. If you play sports, whether on a team or on the field at recess, you know that being an athlete requires dedication, courage, discipline, selflessness, and physical and mental toughness. Jackie developed all of these qualities throughout his life.

On April 15, 1947, Jackie made his National League debut as a first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers and broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball. Jackie was on the receiving end of taunts, slurs, death threats, and hate mail, and while traveling with the team, had to navigate segregation laws. But Jackie endured and earned the respect of supporters, friends, and teammates.

We remember him today for the great courage he had to stand up for equal opportunities for Black Americans.

Flash Cards



**JACKIE
ROBINSON**

the first African
American to play
in Major League
Baseball in the
modern era

SEGREGATED

separated

RECONSTRUCTION

the time period
after the Civil
War ended

Flash Cards



DISCRIMINATION

making a decision for or against someone based on the group or class that person belongs to rather than the individual themselves

DEBUT

first public appearance

PREJUDICE

thinking another person is "less than" because of a certain quality or characteristic, such as skin color, religious beliefs, or gender

Jackie Robinson - 3rd Grade

Flash Cards



**MAJOR
LEAGUE**

top tier baseball
group of teams
who play against
each other

INHUMANE

without
kindness or
compassion

INTEGRATION

combined or
united together

Jackie Robinson Biography

Directions: Complete the graphic organizer with information that you have learned.

My name is:

I was born on:

Here is a picture of me:

Two facts about me:

- 1.

- 2.

I'm remembered for:

Jackie Robinson - 3rd Grade Assessment

1. What is the time period after the Civil War ended in America called?

- a. Emancipation
- b. Segregation
- c. Reconstruction
- d. Integration

2. Which amendment(s) were supposed to make life more equal for Blacks?

- a. 13th Amendment
- b. 14th Amendment
- c. 15th Amendment
- d. All of the above

3. Most public places were _____, which meant separate for Blacks and for Whites.

- a. Segregated
- b. Integrated
- c. Discriminated
- d. Emancipated

4. When was Jackie Robinson born in Cairo, Georgia?

- a. January 3, 1939
- b. January 31, 1919
- c. January 1, 1913
- d. January 13, 1919

5. Jackie and his family faced _____ and exclusion because of the color of their skin.

- a. Prejudice
- b. Opportunities
- c. Sports
- d. Integration

6. What sport(s) did Jackie Robinson play?

- a. Tennis
- b. Soccer
- c. Baseball
- d. All of the above

7. When did Jackie play his first game in MLB?

- a. April 15, 1972
- b. April 15, 1962
- c. April 15, 1945
- d. April 15, 1947

8. What position did Jackie play on his Major League team?

- a. Pitcher
- b. Catcher
- c. First baseman
- d. Third baseman

9. Jackie Robinson made his National League debut for what team in MLB?

- a. Kansas City Royals
- b. Brooklyn Dodgers
- c. New York Yankees
- d. Kansas City Monarchs

10. Blacks were not given the same _____ as Whites due to a set of unfair laws specifically written to hinder Blacks from having as many freedoms.

- a. Segregation
- b. Reconstruction
- c. Opportunities
- d. Sports

Jackie Robinson - 3rd Grade Assessment Key

1. What is the time period after the Civil War ended in America called?
a. Emancipation **c. Reconstruction**
b. Segregation d. Integration
2. Which amendment(s) were supposed to make life more equal for Blacks?
a. 13th Amendment c. 15th Amendment
b. 14th Amendment **d. All of the above**
3. Most public places were _____, which meant separate for Blacks and for Whites.
a. Segregated c. Discriminated
b. Integrated d. Emancipated
4. When was Jackie Robinson born in Cairo, Georgia?
a. January 3, 1939 c. January 1, 1913
b. January 31, 1919 d. January 13, 1919
5. Jackie and his family faced _____ and exclusion because of the color of their skin.
a. Prejudice c. Sports
b. Opportunities d. Integration
6. What sport(s) did Jackie Robinson play?
a. Tennis **c. Baseball**
b. Soccer d. All of the above
7. When did Jackie play his first game in MLB?
a. April 15, 1972 c. April 15, 1945
b. April 15, 1962 **d. April 15, 1947**
8. What position did Jackie play on his Major League team?
a. Pitcher **c. First baseman**
b. Catcher d. Third baseman
9. Jackie Robinson made his National League debut for what team in MLB?
a. Kansas City Royals c. New York Yankees
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10. Blacks were not given the same _____ as Whites due to a set of unfair laws specifically written to hinder Blacks from having as many freedoms.
a. Segregation **c. Opportunities**
b. Reconstruction d. Sports

Discover America

Course 15 - Teacher Guide



Jackie Robinson and the Integration of Baseball

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4th Grade

Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Bravery
- Perseverance
- Breaking Barriers

Core Values

- Liberty
- Community
- Life

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain why Jackie Robinson is remembered in American History
- Describe the impact Jackie Robinson had on Major League Baseball and other American sports
- Outline the challenges Jackie Robinson faced and tell how he was able to overcome those challenges



Jackie Robinson - 4th Grade

Introduction

ASK Students

Who is your favorite athlete? Why?

What makes them someone you admire?
(allow students to respond)

In this lesson we will be learning about a very famous athlete who was known for something that is probably different from what you admire about your favorite athlete. This athlete is known for more than just his incredible baseball talent. Jackie Robinson is known for being the first Black baseball player allowed to join a Major League Baseball team. That's right, there was a time when only White Americans could play in the Major Leagues. His courage, talent, and determination helped pave the way for other African American athletes to play on major teams in other sports across the United States.

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty



Scan Me!

Jackie Robinson - 4th Grade

Key Terms

- 01 **Major League** - top tier baseball group of teams who play against each other
- 02 **Exclusion** - being left out or kept out on purpose
- 03 **Jackie Robinson** - the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era
- 04 **Integrate** - combine or unite together
- 05 **Debut** - first public appearance
- 06 **Segregation** - separation of Black and White Americans
- 07 **Prejudice** - thinking another person is "less than" because of a certain quality or characteristic, such as skin color, religious beliefs, or gender
- 08 **Rookie** - an athlete who has never played on a professional sports team before
- 09 **Discrimination** - making a decision for or against someone based on the group or class that person belongs to rather than the individual themselves
- 10 **Inducted** - to be brought in as a member

Jackie Robinson - 4th Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

Life after the Civil War did not solve all the problems that Black Americans were facing. Prejudice was still high and discrimination was very present in our country. There were even laws passed specifically designed to limit opportunities for Blacks and keep them separate from Whites.

Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era, was born during this dangerous time on January 31, 1919 in Cairo, Georgia. Shortly after Jackie was born, his father abandoned the family and his mother moved Jackie and his four older siblings to Pasadena, California, where she raised them on her own as a single mother.

Jackie and his family were poor, and as the only black family living on their block, faced prejudice and exclusion because of the color of their skin. Yet despite resistance, Jackie worked hard and became an exceptional athlete, playing on his high school's varsity baseball, basketball, football, and track teams. If you play sports, whether on a team or on the field at recess, you know that being an athlete requires dedication, courage, discipline, selflessness, and physical and mental toughness. Jackie developed all of these qualities throughout his life.

Jackie Robinson - 4th Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

While Jackie was playing baseball for the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro League in 1945, Brooklyn Dodgers executive Branch Rickey was searching for a Black player with both talent and guts to join Major League Baseball, which at the time, unofficially banned Black players. There had not been a Black player in the major leagues since 1889.

Rickey was looking for a player to integrate the MLB who would “turn the other cheek” when facing taunts, abuse, and threats. While Rickey was interviewing Jackie for the job in August 1945, Robinson reportedly asked, “Are you looking for a Negro who is afraid to fight back?” Rickey is said to have replied that he was looking for someone “with guts enough not to fight back.”

Jackie got the job and played for the Dodgers’ farm team, the Royals, in 1946. He did so well that he was called up to the Dodgers the next season.

On April 15, 1947, Jackie made his National League debut as a first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers and broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball. Jackie was on the receiving end of taunts, slurs, death threats, and hate mail, and while traveling with the team, had to navigate segregation laws. But Jackie endured and earned the respect of supporters, friends, and teammates, such as Dodgers shortstop, Pee Wee Reese.

Jackie Robinson - 4th Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

Jackie's talent spoke for itself. In his rookie season, Jackie hit 12 home runs, had a .297 batting average, led the league with 29 steals, and was named the National League Rookie of the Year. In 1949, he became the first Black player to win the National League Most Valuable Player Award, was an All-Star every year from 1949-1954, and led the Brooklyn Dodgers to victory in the 1955 World Series against the New York Yankees.

After winning the World Series, Jackie retired and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962. As Roger Craig, Jackie's former Dodger teammate said, "I think a lot of people think he got in the Hall of Fame because he was the first." However, Jackie's induction was not a recognition of his skin color, but of his talent. As Craig confirmed, "He was a great, great ballplayer. He could've done anything he wanted to."

To honor the barriers that Jackie broke down, in 1997, his number was retired by all big-league teams. Every April 15, the anniversary of Jackie's first game in the Major Leagues, is now known as Jackie Robinson Day and all players and personnel wear his number 42 on their jerseys. Jackie is remembered in American History for his courage to stand up for equal opportunities for Black Americans.

Flash Cards



**JACKIE
ROBINSON**

the first African
American to play
in Major League
Baseball in the
modern era

SEGREGATION

separation of
Black and
White
Americans

INDUCTED

to be brought in
as a member



DISCRIMINATION

making a decision for or against someone based on the group or class that person belongs to rather than the individual themselves

MAJOR LEAGUE

top tier baseball group of teams who play against each other

DEBUT

first public appearance

PREJUDICE

thinking another person is "less than" because of a certain quality or characteristic, such as skin color, religious beliefs, or gender



ROOKIE

an athlete who has never played on a professional sports team before

EXCLUSION

being left out or kept out on purpose

INTEGRATE

combine or unite together

Jackie Robinson Baseball Review Game

Materials: game board, deck of questions, game piece, timer

Directions: Start your game piece on home plate. Have your partner get the deck of questions and start the one minute timer. Every time you answer a question correctly, move one "base" around the baseball diamond and give yourself 1 point. Once you go around the board back to home plate, give yourself 5 points. After one minute is up, switch roles with your partner. Repeat the process with your partner's game piece beginning on home plate. Play three rounds taking turns each time the timer is up.

Whoever has the most points at the end of three rounds wins!!



Jackie Robinson

Baseball Review Game





Who was the first African American
to play in Major League Baseball
in the modern era?

JACKIE ROBINSON

baseball review game





Where was Jackie Robinson born?

CAIRO, GEORGIA

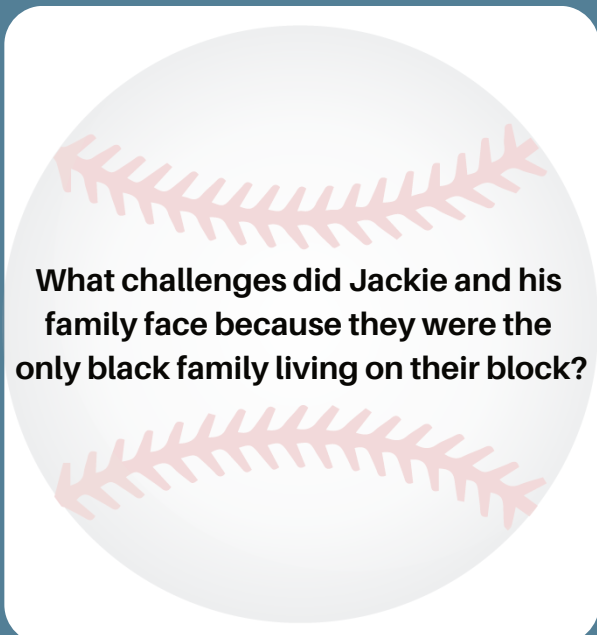
baseball review game

A stylized baseball with red stitching on a light gray background, centered within a white rounded square.

When was Jackie Robinson born?

JANUARY 31, 1919

baseball review game

A stylized baseball with red stitching on a light gray background, centered within a white rounded square.

What challenges did Jackie and his family face because they were the only black family living on their block?

PREJUDICE + EXCLUSION

baseball review game





In what year did Jackie
join the Negro League?

1945

baseball review game





Jackie played baseball for what
team in the Negro League?

KANSAS CITY MONARCHS

baseball review game

A stylized illustration of a baseball with red stitching on a light gray background, centered within a white rounded square.

When did Jackie make his
National League debut?

APRIL 15, 1947

baseball review game

A stylized illustration of a baseball with red stitching on a light gray background, centered within a white rounded square.

Branch Rickey was looking
for a player to do what to the MLB?

INTEGRATE

baseball review game



A white baseball with red stitching is centered in a white rounded square, which is set against a dark blue background.

What MLB team did Jackie play for?

BROOKLYN DODGERS

baseball review game

A small black icon of a pair of scissors is positioned on the left side of a horizontal dashed line that spans the width of the page.

What position did Jackie play in MLB?

FIRST BASEMAN

baseball review game



Why is Jackie Robinson important in American History?

baseball review game



BREAKING THE COLOR BARRIER IN MLB



After winning the World Series, Jackie retired and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in what year?

baseball review game



1962

Jackie Robinson - 4th Grade Assessment

Use the words from the word bank to complete the facts below.

prejudice	integrate	Negro League	inducted	1962
April 22, 1987	intersect	Kansas City Monarchs	April 15, 1947	Major League
1975	Jackie Robinson	Brooklyn Dodgers	January 31, 1919	New York Yankees

- _____ was the first African American to play in _____ Baseball in the modern era.
- He was born on _____ in Cairo, Georgia.
- On _____, Jackie made his National League debut as a first baseman for the _____ and broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball.
- Jackie and his family were the only black family living on their block so they faced _____ and exclusion because of the color of their skin.
- Jackie played baseball for the _____ in the _____ in 1945.
- Branch Rickey was looking for a player to _____ the MLB.
- Jackie led the Brooklyn Dodgers to victory in the 1955 World Series against the _____.
- After winning the World Series, Jackie retired and was _____ into the Baseball Hall of Fame in _____.

Jackie Robinson - 4th Grade Assessment Key

Use the words from the word bank to complete the facts below.

prejudice	integrate	Negro League	inducted	1962
April 22, 1987	intersect	Kansas City Monarchs	April 15, 1947	Major League
1975	Jackie Robinson	Brooklyn Dodgers	January 31, 1919	New York Yankees

1. Jackie Robinson was the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era.
2. He was born on January 31, 1919 in Cairo, Georgia.
3. On April 15, 1947, Jackie made his National League debut as a first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers and broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball.
4. Jackie and his family were the only black family living on their block so they faced prejudice and exclusion because of the color of their skin.
5. Jackie played baseball for the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro League in 1945.
6. Branch Rickey was looking for a player to integrate the MLB.
7. Jackie led the Brooklyn Dodgers to victory in the 1955 World Series against the New York Yankees.
8. After winning the World Series, Jackie retired and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.

Discover America

Course 15 - Teacher Guide



Jackie Robinson and the Integration of Baseball

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5th Grade

Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Bravery
- Perseverance
- Breaking Barriers

Core Values

- Liberty
- Community
- Life

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe what life was like for Black Americans during the Reconstruction era
- Explain why Jackie Robinson is remembered in American History and the impact he had on Major League Baseball
- Compare and Contrast what life was like for Jackie Robinson during his childhood, during his career as an athlete, and during his retirement



Jackie Robinson - 5th Grade

Introduction

ASK Students

What characteristics do athletes need to have in order to become well known celebrities? (allow students to respond)

Some adjectives that come to mind probably include hard-working, determined, dedicated, talented, etc. The athlete we are learning about in this lesson was all those things and more. He was both famous for his incredible baseball talent and something else. He grew up during a time of segregation in America. After the Civil War, Jackie Robinson had to overcome a lot in order to play in Major League Baseball. At the time, Blacks were not allowed to play for the Major Leagues—they had their own separate baseball league. Jackie was given the opportunity to start the process of integrating baseball.

Let's learn more to find out what that means.

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty



Scan Me!

Jackie Robinson - 5th Grade

Key Terms

- 01 **Reconstruction** - the time period after the Civil War ended
- 02 **Integrate** - combine or unite together
- 03 **Discrimination** - making a decision for or against someone based on the group or class that person belongs to rather than the individual themselves
- 04 **Segregated** - separated
- 05 **Major League** - top tier baseball group of teams who play against each other
- 06 **Exclusion** - being left out or kept out on purpose
- 07 **Prejudice** - thinking another person is "less than" because of a certain quality or characteristic, such as skin color, religious beliefs, or gender
- 08 **Debut** - first public appearance
- 09 **Rookie** - an athlete who has never played on a professional sports team before
- 10 **Jackie Robinson** - the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era
- 11 **Inducted** - to be brought in as a member
- 12 **Sportscaster** - a person who provides sports news on TV or the radio
- 13 **Posthumously** - after someone's death

Jackie Robinson - 5th Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

As we discussed in the last lesson, the Union's victory in the Civil War and the passage of the 13th Amendment freed Blacks in America from the bondage of slavery. However, throughout the Reconstruction-era, which was the period after the Civil War had ended, Americans were divided over how to integrate free Blacks into American society. Despite what the Constitution said, tragically, many white Americans, particularly those who supported the Confederacy in the southern United States, still thought that Blacks were second-class citizens – all because of the color of their skin.

Known collectively as the Jim Crow laws, these laws were designed to limit opportunities for Blacks and to keep them separate from white Americans. Beginning in the 1890s, and with the 1896 “separate but equal” ruling in the Plessy v. Ferguson case, these laws came to dominate daily life in the south.

Blacks were forced to ride in separate sections of buses and trains, use different water fountains and restrooms, reside in different neighborhoods, and attend different schools. Public places from pools and libraries, to theaters and restaurants, to hospitals and elderly homes were segregated. Marriage was also segregated as blacks and whites weren't allowed to marry each other or live together in many states in the south. Signs on walls, windows, and doors read “Whites Only” and “Colored” and constantly reminded people of these inhumane laws.

Jackie Robinson - 5th Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

As Blacks in the South faced daily discrimination, life was not easy under the new laws. Even for Blacks who did not live in the southern states, where the laws were most brutal, life still was challenging. Imagine what it would have been like dealing with prejudice from your neighbors and peers, or seeing friends, family, or people like you suffering because of what they look like.

Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era, was born during this dangerous time on January 31, 1919 in Cairo, Georgia. Shortly after Jackie was born, his father abandoned the family and his mother moved Jackie and his four older siblings to Pasadena, California, where she raised them on her own as a single mother.

Jackie and his family were poor, and as the only black family living on their block, faced prejudice and exclusion because of the color of their skin. Yet despite resistance, Jackie worked hard and became an exceptional athlete, playing on his high school's varsity baseball, basketball, football, and track teams. If you play sports, whether on a team or on the field at recess, you know that being an athlete requires dedication, courage, discipline, selflessness, and physical and mental toughness. Jackie developed all of these qualities throughout his life.

Jackie Robinson - 5th Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

He later went to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) where he continued to run track and play baseball, basketball, and football. Jackie was so amazingly gifted as an athlete that he became the first Bruin to earn varsity letters in four sports at the university. He even won the NCAA long jump championship in 1940 and was awarded a spot on the All-American football team in 1941.

After leaving college because of financial challenges, Jackie spent two years playing semi-professional football for integrated teams, and then served in the U.S. Army where he was promoted to second lieutenant. As we've learned from our earlier lessons about our American heroes, being a soldier also requires a lot of determination, bravery, strength, and sacrifice, qualities that Jackie exemplified.

During his time in the Army, Jackie continued to experience discrimination, as he was assigned to segregated units in Kansas and then Texas. In 1944, Jackie was honorably discharged from the Army after taking a stand against the Jim Crow laws of the south and refusing to sit in the back of a segregated bus at Fort Hood in Texas.

But for Jackie, this was just the beginning of his fight for equality.

Jackie Robinson - 5th Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

While Jackie was playing baseball for the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro League in 1945, Brooklyn Dodgers executive Branch Rickey was searching for a Black player with both talent and guts to join Major League Baseball, which at the time, unofficially banned Black players. There had not been a Black player in the major leagues since 1889.

Rickey was looking for a player to integrate the MLB who would “turn the other cheek” when facing taunts, abuse, and threats. While Rickey was interviewing Jackie for the job in August 1945, Robinson reportedly asked, “Are you looking for a Negro who is afraid to fight back?” Rickey is said to have replied that he was looking for someone “with guts enough not to fight back.”

Jackie got the job and played for the Dodgers’ farm team, the Royals, in 1946. He did so well that he was called up to the Dodgers the next season.

On April 15, 1947, Jackie made his National League debut as a first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers and broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball. Jackie was on the receiving end of taunts, slurs, death threats, and hate mail, and while traveling with the team, had to navigate segregation laws. But Jackie endured and earned the respect of supporters, friends, and teammates, such as Dodgers shortstop, Pee Wee Reese.

Jackie Robinson - 5th Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

And Jackie's talent spoke for itself. In his rookie season, Jackie hit 12 home runs, had a .297 batting average, led the league with 29 steals, and was named the National League Rookie of the Year. In 1949, he became the first Black player to win the National League Most Valuable Player Award, was an All-Star every year from 1949-1954, and led the Brooklyn Dodgers to victory in the 1955 World Series against the New York Yankees.

After winning the World Series, Jackie retired and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962. As Roger Craig, Jackie's former Dodger teammate said, "I think a lot of people think he got in the Hall of Fame because he was the first."

However, Jackie's induction was not a recognition of his skin color, but of his talent. As Craig confirmed, "He was a great, great ballplayer. He could've done anything he wanted to."

After Jackie retired, he worked as a sportscaster and the Vice President of Personnel for the Chock full O'Nuts coffee company, established the Jackie Robinson Construction Company to build low-income housing for families, and remained active in advancing equality for Blacks in America. "Jackie Robinson made my success possible," said Civil Rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Without him, I would never have been able to do what I did."

Jackie Robinson - 5th Grade

Lesson Guide

TELL Students

In 1972 at the age of 53, Jackie died from a heart attack and was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Reagan in 1984, and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2005.

To honor the barriers that Jackie broke down, in 1997, his number was retired by all big-league teams. Every April 15, the anniversary of Jackie's first game in the Major Leagues, is now known as Jackie Robinson Day and all players and personnel wear his number 42 on their jerseys

Jackie Robinson's courage changed the course of history and today, his legacy still lives on. Just like Jackie Robinson, with courage, determination, and hard work, you too can make positive change happen in your school, your neighborhood, and even throughout America.

Flash Cards



**JACKIE
ROBINSON**

the first African
American to play
in Major League
Baseball in the
modern era

SEGREGATED

separated

INDUCTED

to be brought in
as a member



DISCRIMINATION

making a decision for or against someone based on the group or class that person belongs to rather than the individual themselves

MAJOR LEAGUE

top tier baseball group of teams who play against each other

DEBUT

first public appearance

PREJUDICE

thinking another person is "less than" because of a certain quality or characteristic, such as skin color, religious beliefs, or gender



ROOKIE

an athlete who has never played on a professional sports team before

EXCLUSION

being left out or kept out on purpose

INTEGRATE

combine or unite together

RECONSTRUCTION

the time period after the Civil War ended



SPORTSCASTER

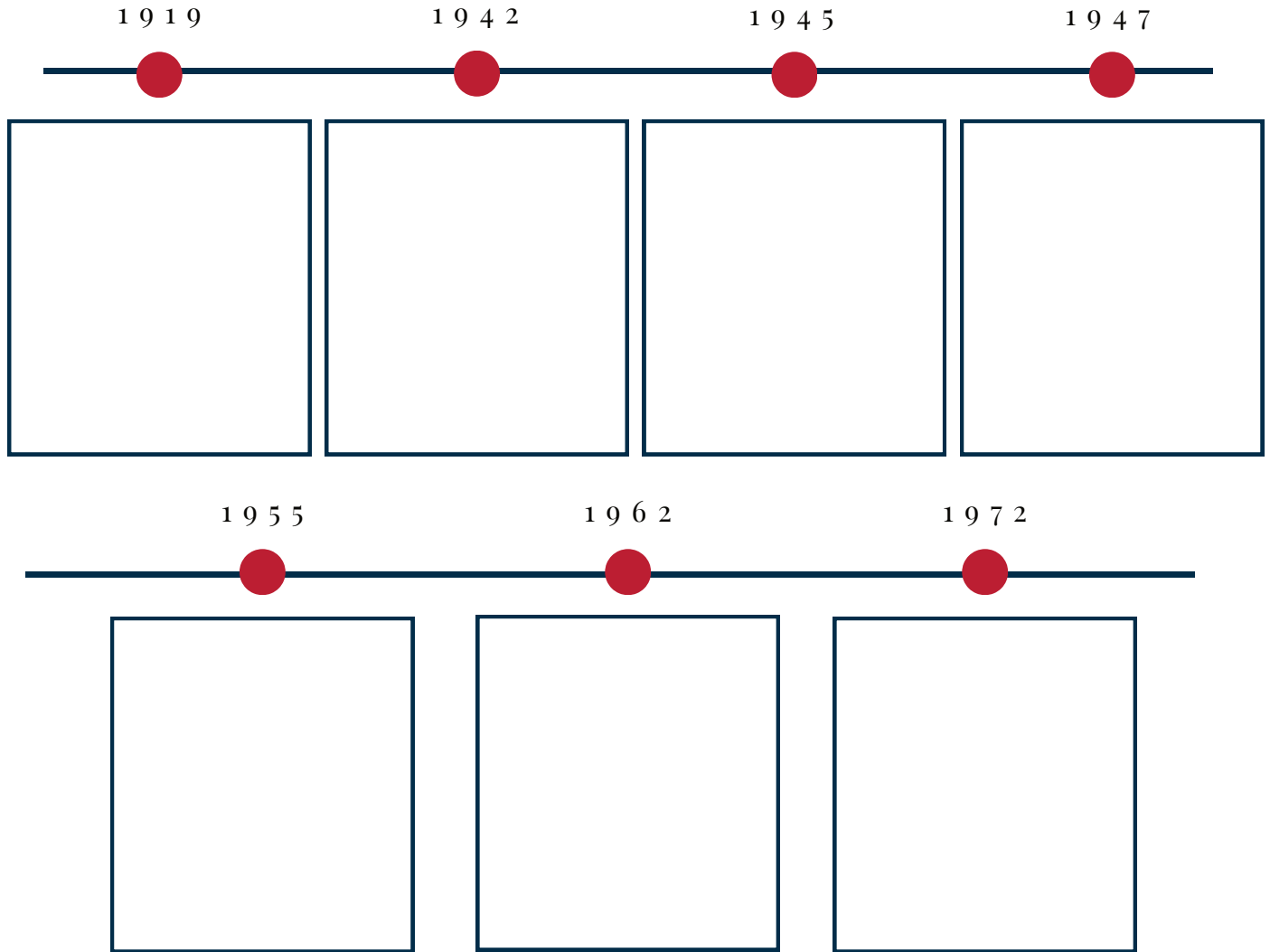
a person who provides sports news on TV or the radio

POSTHUMOUSLY

after someone's death

Jackie Robinson

Timeline

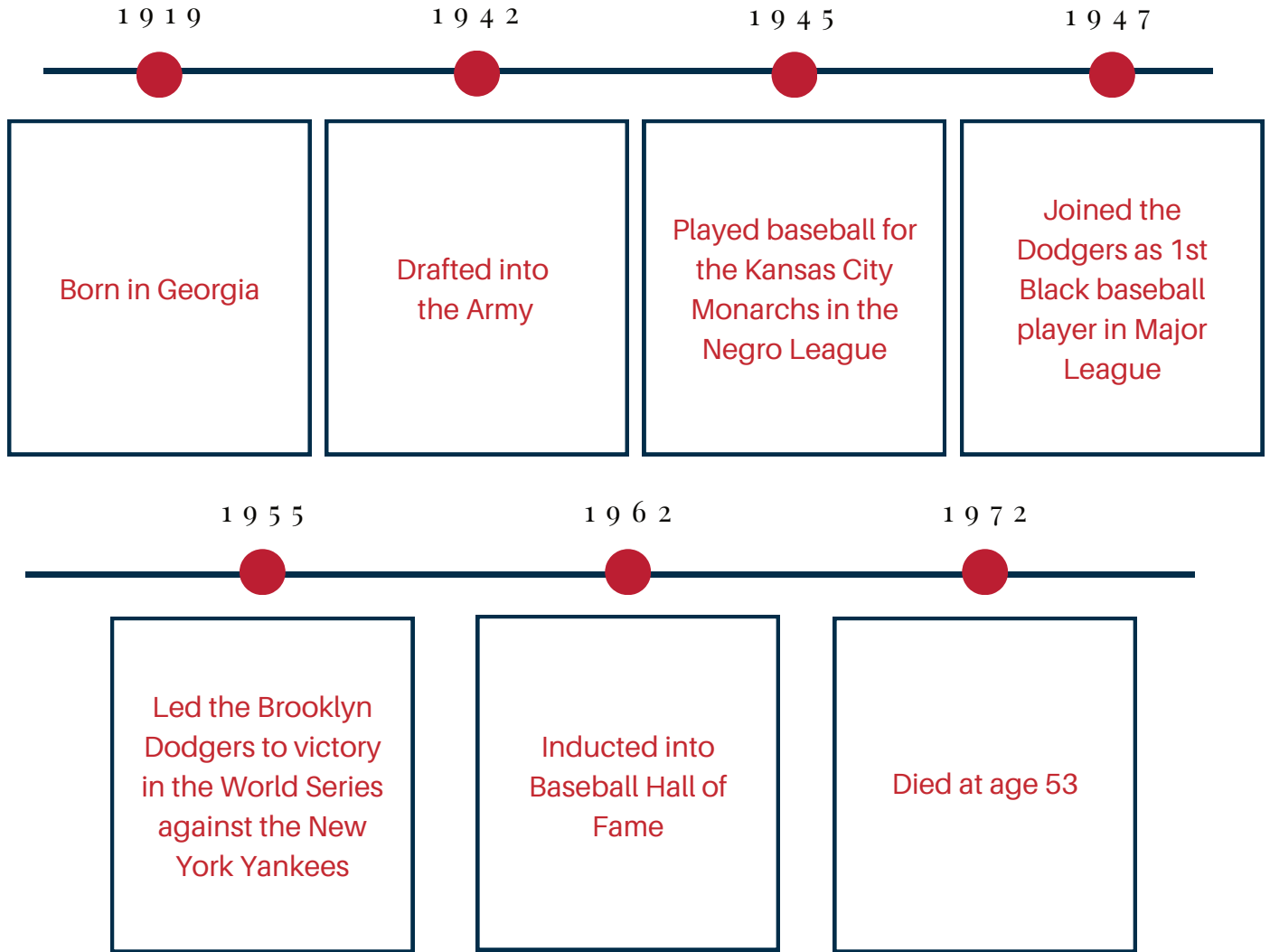


Using the blank timeline, fill in the following events in the order in which they occurred:

- Joined the Dodgers as 1st Black baseball player in Major League
- Died at the age of 53
- Led the Brooklyn Dodgers to victory in the World Series against the New York Yankees
- Drafted into the Army
- Inducted into Baseball Hall of Fame
- Born in Georgia
- Played baseball for the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro League



Jackie Robinson Timeline



Using the blank timeline, fill in the following events in the order in which they occurred:

- Joined the Dodgers as 1st Black baseball player in Major League
- Died at the age of 53
- Led the Brooklyn Dodgers to victory in the World Series against the New York Yankees
- Drafted into the Army
- Inducted into Baseball Hall of Fame
- Born in Georgia
- Played baseball for the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro League

Jackie Robinson - 4th Grade Assessment

Use the words from the word bank to complete the facts below.				
discrimination	integrate	Negro League	inducted	1962
Reconstruction	lieutenant	Kansas City Monarchs	April 15, 1947	Major League
Army	Jackie Robinson	Brooklyn Dodgers	January 31, 1919	New York Yankees

- Throughout the _____-era, which was the period after the Civil War had ended, Americans were divided over how to _____ free Blacks into American society.
- Blacks in the South faced daily _____; life was not easy under the new laws specifically designed to limit the opportunities given to Black Americans..
- On _____, Jackie made his National League debut as a first baseman for the _____ and broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball.
- _____ was the first African American to play in _____ Baseball in the modern era.
- Jackie played baseball for the _____ in the _____ in 1945.
- He was born on _____ in Cairo, Georgia and passed away at 53 from a heart attack..
- Jackie led the Brooklyn Dodgers to victory in the 1955 World Series against the _____.
- After winning the World Series, Jackie retired and was _____ into the Baseball Hall of Fame in _____.
- After leaving college because of financial challenges, Jackie spent two years playing semi-professional football for integrated teams, and then served in the U.S. _____ where he was promoted to second _____.

Jackie Robinson - 4th Grade Assessment

Use the words from the word bank to complete the facts below.				
discrimination	integrate	Negro League	inducted	1962
Reconstruction	lieutenant	Kansas City Monarchs	April 15, 1947	Major League
Army	Jackie Robinson	Brooklyn Dodgers	January 31, 1919	New York Yankees

1. Throughout the Reconstruction-era, which was the period after the Civil War had ended, Americans were divided over how to integrate free Blacks into American society.
2. Blacks in the South faced daily discrimination; life was not easy under the new laws specifically designed to limit the opportunities given to Black Americans..
3. On April 15, 1947, Jackie made his National League debut as a first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers and broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball.
4. Jackie Robinson was the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era.
5. Jackie played baseball for the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro League in 1945.
6. He was born on January 31, 1919 in Cairo, Georgia and passed away at 53 from a heart attack..
7. Jackie led the Brooklyn Dodgers to victory in the 1955 World Series against the New York Yankees.
8. After winning the World Series, Jackie retired and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.
9. After leaving college because of financial challenges, Jackie spent two years playing semi-professional football for integrated teams, and then served in the U.S. Army where he was promoted to second lieutenant.

Jackie Robinson Resource List

- 01 <https://jackierobinson.com/biography/>
- 02 <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/jackie-robinson>
- 03 <https://baseballhall.org/hall-of-famers/robinson-jackie>
- 04 <https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/jim-crow-laws>
- 05 <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/freedom-riders-jim-crow-laws/>
- 06 <https://www.mlb.com/mlb-community/jackie-robinson-day>
- 07 <https://www.nydailynews.com/sports/baseball/robinson-jack-trades-article-1.1315884>
- 08 <https://baseballhall.org/civilrights>
- 09 <https://jackierobinson.com/achievements/>
- 10 <https://www.mlb.com/phillies/community/educational-programs/uya-negro-league/african-american-players-banned>

