

# Discover America

## Course 15 - Teacher Guide



## Jackie Robinson and the Integration of Baseball

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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**.

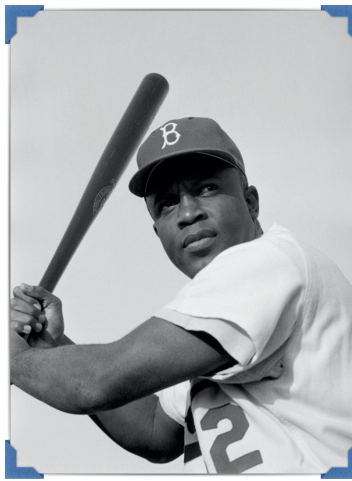


# Jackie Robinson

## 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

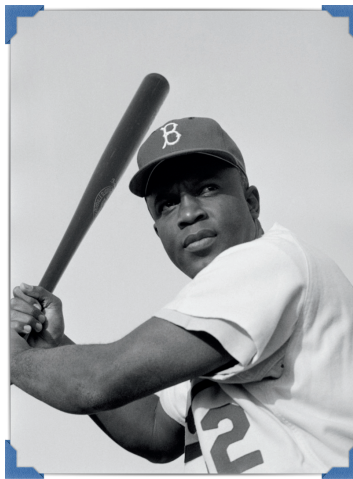
Jackie was not a very talented baseball player

# 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)

# 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>

