

Discover America

Course 15 - Teacher Guide



Jackie Robinson and the Integration of Baseball

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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

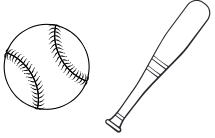
PREJUDICE

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

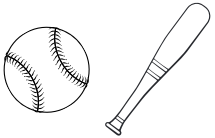
Fact or Opinion

Directions

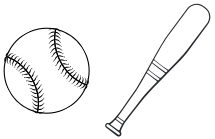
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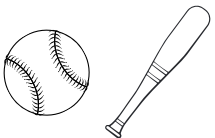
1. Even after slavery ended, Blacks and Whites were still forced to be separate, or segregated.



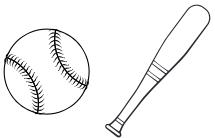
2. Blacks were not even allowed to play on the same sports teams as Whites.



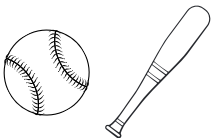
3. Baseball fans all wanted the teams to stay segregated.



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



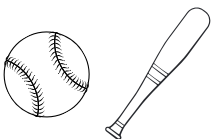
5. Jackie was a very talented baseball player and had a lot of courage to join the Major Leagues.



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



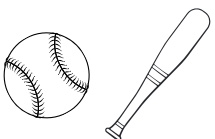
7. Jackie played first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers.



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

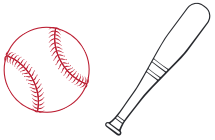


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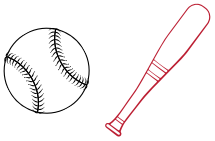
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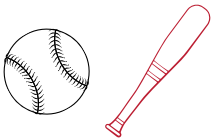
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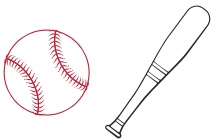
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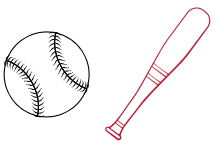
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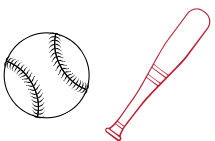
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Jackie Robinson - 2nd Grade

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

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 - b. Reconstruction
 - c. **Opportunities**
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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>

