

Discover America

Course 15 - Teacher Guide



Jackie Robinson and the Integration of Baseball

Table of **Contents**

3	Themes + Values
4	Learning Objectives
5	Introduction
6	Key Terms
7	Lesson Guide
9	Flash Cards
12	Biography Activity
13	Assessment
15	Resources
16	Notes

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
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a. Pitcher **c. First baseman**
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9. Jackie Robinson made his National League debut for what team in MLB?
a. Kansas City Royals c. New York Yankees
b. Brooklyn Dodgers 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 **c. Opportunities**
b. Reconstruction d. Sports

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>

