

**BATTER UP LESSONS**

**Negro Leagues and The Baseball Hall of Fame  
developed by  
Ms. Michelle Hamlett’s Historiography Classes 2020-2022  
Eastside High School**

| Learning Objective(s)  | Essential Question(s)  | Suggested Activities   | Standards  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>The student will be able to explain the meaning of the phrase “separate but equal” in terms of the struggle for civil rights in the U.S.</p> <p>The student will be able to explain the significance of the Negro League players being recognized in the regular Baseball Hall of Fame.</p> | <p>How did Supreme Court decisions affect the civil rights of African Americans in the U.S in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?</p> <p>How did enshrinement of Negro League players in the regular Baseball Hall of Fame satisfy Social Justice principles?</p> | <p>Students will compare and contrast the Supreme Court decisions “Plessy vs. Ferguson” to “Brown vs. Bd of Ed.</p> <p>Students will create a timeline that will combine the two Supreme Court cases and the journey of the Negro League players into the Baseball Hall of Fame.</p> <p>Students will each select and prepare a biography of a Negro League player in the Baseball Hall of Fame.</p> | <p>6.1.12.CivicsDP.13.a: Analyze the effectiveness of national legislation, policies, and Supreme Court decisions in promoting civil liberties and equal opportunities (i.e., ... Brown v. Board of Education...).</p> <p>6.1.12.HistorySE.14.b: Use a variety of sources from diverse perspective to analyze the social, economic and political contributions of marginalized and underrepresented groups and/or individuals.</p> |

**Research Sources**

**Note: At the time of this publication these websites were active.**

“*Plessy v. Ferguson* was a landmark 1896 U.S. Supreme Court decision that upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation under the “separate but equal” doctrine.”

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/plessy-v-ferguson>

“*Brown v. Board of Education* was one of the cornerstones of the civil rights movement and helped establish the precedent that “separate-but-equal” education and other services were not, in fact, equal at all.”

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/brown-v-board-of-education-of-topeka>

## BATTER UP LESSONS

“The Hall of Fame has 35 Negro Leaguers enshrined in Cooperstown, and at least in part, they can thank Ted Williams for it.

The date was July 25, 1966. Williams entered the Hall of Fame that day and made a speech that still resonates around the baseball world. He used his induction speech as an opportunity to speak on behalf of Negro League players. He felt that stars like Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson had largely been overlooked and should be in Cooperstown. Williams knew about their talents, as he competed against Negro Leaguers during barnstorming games starting in the early '40s, when Major League Baseball was still segregated.

“I hope that someday, the names of Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson can ... be added to the symbol of the great Negro League players that are not here only because they were not given a chance,” Williams told the crowd that day.”

<https://www.mlb.com/news/ted-williams-hall-of-fame-speech-honored-negro-league-players>

“Below is a rundown of each of the 35 Negro Leagues stars enshrined in Cooperstown, featuring a mix of players and influential executives elected by various committees over the last five decades. The inductees are listed in chronological order, beginning with Satchel Paige's landmark election to the Class of 1971.”

<https://www.mlb.com/news/negro-leaguers-in-the-national-baseball-hall-of-fame>

Similarly, <https://baseballhall.org/discover/negro-leagues-electees/>

This includes a link to Ted Williams' Speech.

<https://www.boston.com/sports/boston-red-sox/2017/07/25/ted-williams-used-his-hall-of-fame-speech-to-advocate-for-african-american-players/>

The direct link to Ted Williams' Speech:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yi8ukM\\_NCf4&t=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yi8ukM_NCf4&t=3s)

“How Negro Leaguers finally entered the Hall of Fame  
*It took more than a speech from Ted Williams.*”

<https://www.beyondtheboxscore.com/2021/2/22/22294356/how-negro-leaguers-finally-entered-the-hall-of-fame-ted-williams-monte-irvin-buck-o-neil>