

**BATTER UP LESSONS**

**Jackie Robinson and The Breaking of the Color Line  
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 describe some of the hardships Jackie Robinson faced as he took on the task of being the first Black baseball player in the major leagues.</p> <p>The student will be able to explain how Robinson’s entry into the Major Leagues affected the Negro Leagues.</p> <p>The student will be able to give examples of how Jackie Robinson’s career extended beyond sports to the civil rights movement.</p>	<p>What is the significance of Jackie Robinson’s breaking the “color line” in major league baseball?</p>	<p>Respond to this statement by Jackie Robinson: “A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives”</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.**

“By the 1940s, organized baseball had been racially segregated for many years. The black press and some of their white colleagues had long campaigned for the integration of baseball. Wendell Smith of *The Pittsburgh Courier* was especially vocal. World War II experiences prompted more people to question segregation practices.

Although several people in major league baseball tried to end segregation in the sport, no one succeeded until Brooklyn Dodger’s general manager Branch Rickey set his “great experiment” ... into motion. In 1945, the Jim Crow policies of baseball changed forever when Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson of the Negro League’s Kansas City Monarchs agreed to a contract that would bring Robinson into the major leagues in 1947.”

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/jackie-robinson-baseball/articles-and-essays/baseball-the-color-line-and-jackie-robinson/1940-to-1946/>

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“The impact Robinson made on Major League Baseball is one that will be forever remembered. On April 15 each season, every team in the majors celebrates Jackie Robinson Day in honor of when he broke the color barrier in baseball, becoming the first African-American player in the 20th century to take the field in the big leagues. He opened the door for many others and will forever be honored for his contribution to the game.”

<https://baseballhall.org/hall-of-famers/robinson-jackie>

“During boot camp at Fort Hood, Texas, Robinson was arrested and court-martialed in 1944 for refusing to give up his seat and move to the back of a segregated bus. Robinson's excellent reputation, combined with the efforts of friends, the NAACP and various Black newspapers, shed public light on the injustice. Ultimately he was acquitted of the charges and received an honorable discharge. His courage and moral objection to racial segregation were precursors to the impact Robinson would have in Major League Baseball.”

<https://www.biography.com/athlete/jackie-robinson>

“Robinson’s dazzling athletic prowess and grace under pressure effectively led to the integration of the Major Leagues, and his 10-year career with the Dodgers — and his outspoken activism in his later years — helped set the stage for the burgeoning civil rights movement.”

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/jackie-robinson>

“Jack Roosevelt Robinson (1919-72), the first black man to "officially" play in the big leagues in the 20th century, possessed enormous physical talent and a fierce determination to succeed. In the course of a distinguished 10-year career beginning in 1947, Robinson led the Brooklyn Dodgers to six National League titles and one victorious World Series. Beyond his many and stellar baseball feats, Jackie Robinson went on to champion the cause of civil rights when he retired from the game.

The National Archives and Records Administration holds numerous records relating to Jackie Robinson, many of which pertain to his period of civil rights advocacy.”

<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/jackie-robinson>