

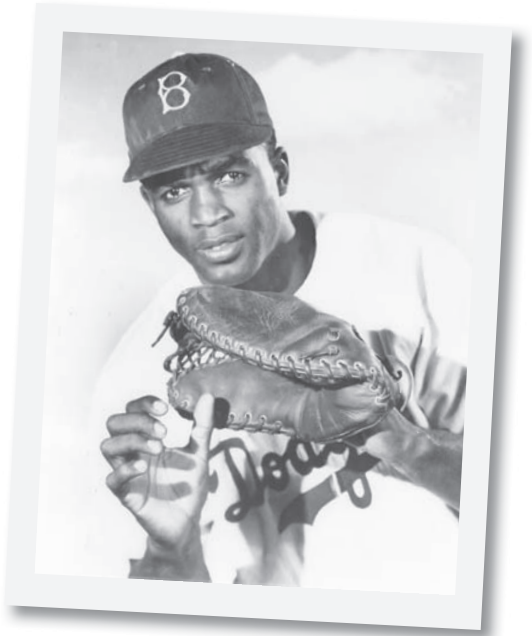


THE JACKIE ROBINSON STORY

A Student Resource Guide



Jackie Robinson's mother, Mallie Robinson, with her children (from left) Mack, Jack, Edgar, Willa Mae and Frank



*“A life is not
important except
in the impact it has
on other lives.”*

Jackie Robinson



Jack Roosevelt Robinson

was born in Cairo, Georgia, on January 31, 1919, the youngest of five children of **Jerry and Mallie Robinson**. He grew up in Pasadena, California and remains the only student to have lettered in four sports: football, baseball, basketball and track at UCLA. **He was widely regarded as the finest all-around athlete in the United States at that time.**

After three years in the segregated Army, he played with the **Kansas City Monarchs** of the American Negro Leagues in 1945. Later that year, **Branch Rickey** who was the President and General Manager of the **Brooklyn Dodgers** signed Jackie Robinson to a contract with his organization. It was an historic move that ended decades of discrimination against blacks in baseball. After a successful season in 1946 with its farm club, the Montreal Royals, he became the **first black player in the Major Leagues** since the nineteenth century.



Highlights of his baseball career include:

- 1947 – Rookie of the Year
- 1949 – National League Most Valuable Player Award
- 1957 – Retired from baseball after helping the Dodgers win six pennants and one World Series
- 1962 – Elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame

Robinson's history-making achievements

in baseball were only part of his extraordinary life and legacy. He made his gift for the game into a forum for all of America to engage in a conversation that would leave a lasting impact on almost every facet of our society. His outspoken leadership on issues of **civil and human rights** continued throughout his years as a corporate executive, civil servant, and major figure in national politics.



In 1957, Robinson became the **Vice President of Chock Full 'O Nuts**, a coffee and restaurant chain. He later co-founded **Freedom National Bank of Harlem**, where he was Chairman of the Board from 1964 to 1972. In 1970, he **organized the Jackie Robinson Construction Corporation**. In both banking and construction his major aim was to contribute to the improvement of living conditions for Black Americans, especially in the major metropolitan areas.

At the same time, Jackie Robinson was also deeply concerned with the struggle for civil rights. Starting in 1957, he traveled extensively to raise funds for the **NAACP** and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's **Southern Christian Leadership Conference**. He was also a staunch supporter of the **Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai Brith**. These efforts led to close relationships with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other prominent leaders.



His concern with politics led him to influence leaders such as **Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy and Nixon; Hubert Humphrey and Nelson Rockefeller**. In 1964, he resigned from Chock Full O' Nuts to work full time on the campaign of Governor Rockefeller, who later appointed him as Special Assistant of Community Affairs. In 1968, he campaigned on behalf of **Vice President Hubert Humphrey** in his presidential bid.



Jackie Robinson worked tirelessly over the years with a variety of church groups and community organizations. He served on the **Board of Managers of the Harlem YMCA**, where a building now bears his name;

and was a major supporter of the **National Conference of Christians and Jews** where he served as National Chairman of its Brotherhood Week in 1968.

Following his untimely death in 1972, his extraordinary commitment to youth was recognized when his wife Rachel founded the **Jackie Robinson Foundation (JRF)**. The Jackie Robinson Foundation honors Jackie's memory by providing educational opportunities to young people who otherwise couldn't afford to attend the college of their choice. The cornerstone of the program is its leadership development and mentoring components. Nearly 1200 young people have called themselves Jackie Robinson Scholars and in its nearly four decades, almost all of the Scholars have realized their dream of a college education.



“Life is not a spectator sport... if you’re going to spend your whole life in the grandstand just watching what goes on, in my opinion you’re wasting your life.”

Jackie Robinson

“I believe in the goodness of a free society. And I believe that society can remain good only as long as we are willing to fight for it—and to fight against whatever imperfections may exist.”

Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson has also been honored by the nation he helped changed. In 1996, Congress signed into law a bill authorizing the minting of **U.S. coins bearing Jackie's image.**

In 1997, Major League Baseball celebrated the **50th Anniversary of Jackie breaking baseball's color barrier** by retiring his number 42 in perpetuity during a ceremony at Shea Stadium with **Baseball Commissioner Allan Selig, Rachel Robinson and President Bill Clinton.** Jackie remains the only player to be so honored.



In 1956, Jackie Robinson received the prestigious **Spingarn Medal**, the highest award given annually by the NAACP for outstanding achievement by an African American.

1984, President Ronald Reagan gave Robinson the “**Medal of Freedom**”, the nation’s highest civilian award. The 39th President noted, “*He struck a mighty blow for equality, freedom and the American way of life. Jackie Robinson was a good citizen, a great man, and a true American champion.*”



And in 2005, Jackie Robinson became only the fourth athlete in our nation’s history to be awarded the **Congressional Gold Medal**, Congress’ highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions.

“He led America by example. He reminded our people of what was right and he reminded them of what was wrong. I think it can be safely said today that Jackie Robinson made the United States a better nation.”

***American League
President Gene Budig***

The Box Score

Jackie Robinson: Hitting Statistics

TEAM	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	R	RBI
1947 Dodgers	151	590	175	31	5	12	125	48
1948 Dodgers	147	574	170	38	8	12	108	85
1949 Dodgers	156	593	203	38	12	16	122	124
1950 Dodgers	144	518	170	39	4	14	99	81
1951 Dodgers	153	548	185	33	7	19	106	88
1952 Dodgers	149	510	157	17	3	19	104	75
1953 Dodgers	136	484	159	34	7	12	109	95
1954 Dodgers	124	386	120	22	4	15	62	59
1955 Dodgers	105	317	81	6	2	8	51	36
1956 Dodgers	117	357	98	15	2	10	61	43
CAREER	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	R	RBI
10 Years	1,382	4,877	1,518	273	54	137	947	734

Jackie Robinson: Miscellaneous Statistics

BASERUNNING STATISTICS			COMMON HITTING RATIOS			
TEAM	SB	CS	SB%	AB/HR	AB/K	HRR
1947 Dodgers	29	-	-	49.2	16.4	49.2
1948 Dodgers	22	-	-	47.8	15.5	47.8
1949 Dodgers	37	-	-	37.1	22.0	37.1
1950 Dodgers	12	-	-	37.0	21.6	37.0
1951 Dodgers	25	8	.758	28.8	20.3	28.8
1952 Dodgers	24	7	.774	26.8	12.8	26.8
1953 Dodgers	17	4	.810	40.3	16.1	40.3
1954 Dodgers	7	3	.700	25.7	19.3	25.7
1955 Dodgers	12	3	.800	39.6	17.6	39.6
1956 Dodgers	12	5	.706	35.7	11.2	35.7
CAREER	SB	CS	SB%	AB/HR	AB/K	HRR
10 Years	197	30	.868	35.6	16.8	35.6

**Jackie Robinson:
Biographical Data**

Birth Name:	Jack Roosevelt Robinson	Bats:	Right
Born On:	01-31-1919	Throws:	Right
Born In:	Cairo, Georgia	Height:	5-11"
Died On:	10-24-1972	Weight:	204
Died In:	Stamford, Connecticut	Debut:	1947
College:	UCLA		

BB	IBB	SO	SH	SF	HBP	AVG	OBP	SLG
74	-	36	28	-	9	.297	.383	.427
57	-	37	8	-	7	.296	.367	.453
86	-	27	17	-	8	.342	.432	.528
80	-	24	10	-	5	.328	.423	.500
79	-	27	6	-	9	.338	.429	.527
106	-	40	6	-	14	.308	.440	.465
74	-	30	9	-	7	.329	.425	.502
63	-	20	5	4	7	.311	.413	.505
61	5	18	6	3	3	.256	.378	.363
60	2	32	9	2	3	.275	.382	.412
BB	IBB	SO	SH	SF	HBP	AVG	OBP	SLG
740	7	291	104	9	72	.311	.409	.474

“He was a freedom rider before there were freedom rides.”

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Important Milestones in the Life of Jackie Robinson

On **March 18, 1942**, Jackie Robinson and Nate Moreland, two black players, ask the Chicago White Sox for a tryout. Manager Jimmy Dykes grants both players a workout, but neither will make the Sox' roster.

On **April 16, 1945**, Jackie Robinson and two other black players, Sam Jethroe and Marvin Williams, participate in a Boston Red Sox tryout at Fenway Park. The Red Sox elect to sign none of the three. Robinson and Jethroe will eventually become stars in the major leagues.



On **October 30, 1945**, Brooklyn Dodgers' executive Branch Rickey signs Jackie Robinson, an infielder with the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Leagues, to a minor league contract. Robinson will play the entire 1946 season with the Montreal Royals of the International League before earning a promotion to Brooklyn in 1947.

On **March 17, 1946**, Jackie Robinson makes his minor league debut in an exhibition game for the Montreal Royals. Robinson's inaugural appearance for the Royals, the top affiliate of the Brooklyn Dodgers takes place at Daytona Beach, Florida. A crowd of 3,100 attends the game at City Island Park, which will be renamed Jackie Robinson Stadium in 1990.

On **April 18, 1946**, Jackie Robinson makes his minor league debut for the Montreal Royals, the International League affiliate of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Robinson collects a home run and three singles in his debut, on his way to the International League title.

In 1946, Jackie Robinson married Rachel Isum, a nursing student at UCLA.



Together they had 3 children, Jackie, Jr. Sharon and David.



On **April 10, 1947**, Jackie Robinson becomes the first black player to sign a major league contract in the 20th century. Robinson signs with Brooklyn Dodgers, whose general manager, Branch Rickey, had personally recruited Robinson from the Negro Leagues.



On **April 15, 1947**, Jackie Robinson makes his major league debut for the Brooklyn Dodgers, becoming the first black player to play major league baseball in the modern

era. Robinson goes 0-for-3 against the Boston Braves, but flawlessly handles 11 chances at first base.

On **June 24, 1947**, Jackie Robinson steals home against the Pittsburgh Pirates, helping the Brooklyn Dodgers to a 4-2 win. The theft marks the first of 19 steals of home by Robinson during his major league career.

On **July 12, 1949**, Jackie Robinson makes his All-Star game debut for the National League, marking the first time that a black player participates in a mid-summer classic. Robinson is joined by fellow African Americans Roy Campanella and Don Newcombe on the National League team and Larry Doby on the American League roster.

On **April 23, 1954**, Jackie Robinson steals home on the front end of a rare triple steal, helping the Dodgers to a 6-5 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

On **September 28, 1955**, Jackie Robinson steals home in Game One of the World Series, but the Brooklyn Dodgers lose to the New York Yankees, 6-5. Robinson's eighth inning steal of home had brought the Dodgers within one run. The Dodgers eventually won the series in seven games earning the Dodgers their first World Championship.

On **January 15, 1957**, Jackie Robinson announces his retirement, voiding a recent trade to the rival New York Giants. In December, the Dodgers had dealt Robinson to the Giants for pitcher Dick Littlefield and \$35,000. Giants' vice president Charles Fenney had offered Robinson a \$60,000 contract for the 1957 season, in the hope that Robinson would agree to report to the Giants and help boost sagging attendance at the Polo Grounds. Robinson, citing problems with his legs, decides to call it quits.



On **January 23, 1962**, the Baseball Writers Association of America elects Jackie Robinson to the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. Robinson, who is selected along with Bob Feller, becomes the first African-American to gain election to the Hall.

On **July 23, 1962**, Jackie Robinson is one of four men inducted into the **Baseball Hall of Fame** in Cooperstown. Robinson is joined by Bob Feller, Bill McKechnie, and Edd Roush.

On **July 14, 1987**, the Baseball Writers Association of America rename the Rookie of the Year Award the "Jackie Robinson Award." In 1947, Robinson won the first ever Rookie of the Year award.

On **April 15, 1997**, Commissioner Allan (Bud) H. Selig announces during a ceremony at Shea Stadium in New York City that Major League Baseball is retiring Jackie Robinson's number 42 in perpetuity. Robinson is the only player to be so honored in any sport.

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National Baseball Hall of Fame
www.baseballhalloffame.org

Los Angeles Dodgers
<http://losangeles.dodgers.mlb.com/la/history/index.jsp>

Major League Baseball
www.mlb.com

The Library of Congress
www.loc.gov

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