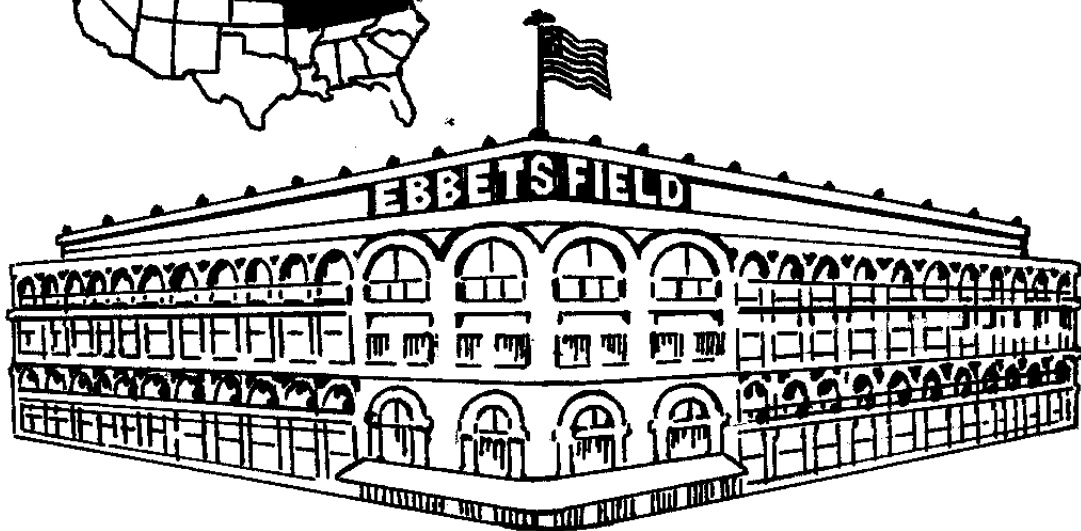


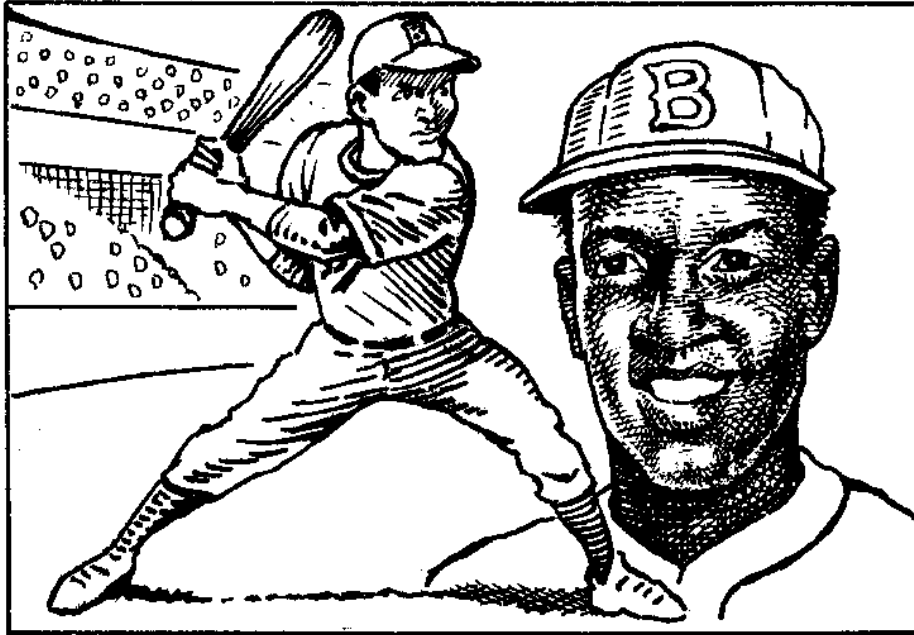
# Where Jackie Robinson Played Baseball



National League Cities: 1947



# Jackie Robinson



## Discuss

Look at the map and the picture and share what you know about:

racial discrimination  
segregation  
baseball  
Jackie Robinson

## Read

In 1945, almost one hundred years after the Emancipation Proclamation, America was still a nation divided by race — Black and White. Discrimination was a fact of life. Everything, especially in the south, was segregated — schools, restaurants, hotels. Baseball was segregated, too. Blacks were not allowed to play with Whites on the same team. Branch Rickey, the general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, asked Jackie to join his team. In 1947, Jackie became the first Black player to play on a major all-White team.

## Answer

1. What still divided America in 1945?
2. What was segregated?
3. Where was segregation especially strong?
4. Why didn't Blacks and Whites play on the same team?
5. What happened in 1947?

## Read

Jackie Robinson was born on January 31, 1919, to a very poor family in Georgia. His family moved to Los Angeles for a better life. There, he went to high school and college, where he played sports. He excelled in all of them — football, basketball, track, and baseball. He was an excellent athlete.

He was a very talented baseball player, but no white professional team would accept him. In 1945, Black players were still excluded from the White professional leagues, called the Major Leagues. Blacks had to play in their own league, the Negro League, which paid much less money.

The owners of the Major League teams didn't want Blacks. They were afraid that fans wouldn't come to the games. Branch Rickey, general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, didn't agree. He saw Jackie's talent and wanted him to play. Yet, he knew it wouldn't be easy. The fans, the other teams, and even his own team would make it very difficult for Jackie.

Jackie, however, was ready to fight for his rights. When he was in the army, a bus driver told him all Blacks had to sit in the back of the bus. Jackie refused, and the case was taken to court. Jackie won. Yes, he was a fighter. Now he was ready to fight again.

However, that was exactly what Rickey did not want him to do — fight with anyone, no matter how he was treated. Jackie agreed it would be very difficult.

In 1947, he began to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers. The fans booed, called him terrible names and threw things at him. He even got threats on his life, but he

would show them, not with words, but with actions. He played extremely well, and at the end of the year he was named the best new player in his league. In 1949, he was given the Most Valuable Player award. He helped the Dodgers win six National League championships and one World championship.

In 1962, he received baseball's highest award. He was voted into The Baseball Hall of Fame, the first Black, ever. He died on October 24, 1972, a great ball player who had changed the history of sports.

## Answer These Questions

Write T for true and F for false.

1. \_\_\_\_ Jackie Robinson was born in Los Angeles.
2. \_\_\_\_ He went to college in Los Angeles.
3. \_\_\_\_ He excelled in several sports.
4. \_\_\_\_ In 1945 Blacks could only play in the National League.
5. \_\_\_\_ Branch Rickey wanted Jackie to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers.
6. \_\_\_\_ Jackie had been in the army.
7. \_\_\_\_ Rickey wanted Jackie to be a fighter.
8. \_\_\_\_ After his first year, Jackie was named the best new player.
9. \_\_\_\_ The Dodgers won six National League championships.
10. \_\_\_\_ He was elected to the Hall of Fame after he died.

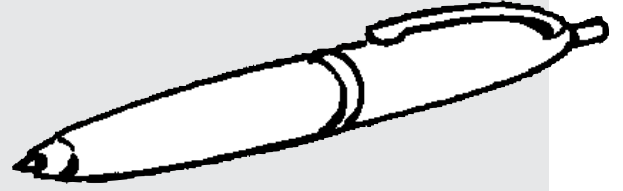
Now go back to the story and check your answers. Write your score here and on page 134.

Number right \_\_\_\_\_/10

## Write

Now what do you know about:

racial discrimination  
segregation  
baseball  
Jackie Robinson



## Timeline Scramble

Finish the timeline.

- |      |                              |  |
|------|------------------------------|--|
| 1919 | _____                        | 1. Wins Most Valuable Player Award       |
|      | _____                        | 2. <b>Named best new player</b>          |
|      | _____                        | 3. Moves to California                   |
|      | _____                        | 4. Jackie dies                           |
| 1947 | _____                        | 5. Born in Georgia                       |
|      | <u>Named best new player</u> | 6. Refuses to sit in the back of the bus |
| 1949 | _____                        | 7. Begins to play for Brooklyn Dodgers   |
| 1962 | _____                        | 8. Voted into Hall of Fame               |
| 1972 | _____                        | 9. Plays sports in college               |

## New Words

Look at the story again and underline nine words that you are not sure of. Write them below and ask your classmates or teacher about them or look them up in your dictionary.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

## Working with Words

Tell what these people do and did.

Example:	player	<i>plays</i>	<i>played</i>
	1. manager	_____	_____
	2. owner	_____	_____
	3. driver	_____	_____
	4. fighter	_____	_____
	5. winner	_____	_____
	6. visitor	_____	_____
	7. explorer	_____	_____
	8. interpreter	_____	_____
	9. reader	_____	_____
	10. publisher	_____	_____
	11. traveler	_____	_____
	12. speaker	_____	_____
	13. rider	_____	_____
	14. inventor	_____	_____
	15. hiker	_____	_____
	16. farmer	_____	_____

## Tell the Story of Jackie Robinson

Use these words and phrases:

January 31, 1919

Los Angeles

1945

Negro League

Branch Rickey

fans

ready to fight

bus driver

threats

show them with actions

best new player

Most Valuable Player

Hall of Fame

history of sports

## Test Yourself

Read, write, and look again.

Jackie Robinson was born on January 31, 1919 to a \_\_\_\_\_ poor family in Georgia. His family moved to Los Angeles for a \_\_\_\_\_ life. There, he went to \_\_\_\_\_ school and college, where he played sports. He excelled in \_\_\_\_\_ of them — football, basketball, track, and baseball. He was an \_\_\_\_\_ athlete.

He was a \_\_\_\_\_ talented baseball player, but no \_\_\_\_\_ professional team would accept him. In 1945, \_\_\_\_\_ players were still excluded from the White \_\_\_\_\_ leagues, called the Major Leagues. Blacks had to play in their \_\_\_\_\_ league, the Negro League, which paid \_\_\_\_\_ less money.

The owners of the Major \_\_\_\_\_ teams didn't want Blacks. They were \_\_\_\_\_ that fans wouldn't come to the games. Branch Rickey, \_\_\_\_\_ manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, didn't agree. He saw \_\_\_\_\_ talent and wanted him to play. Yet, he knew it wouldn't be \_\_\_\_\_. The fans, the \_\_\_\_\_ teams, and even his \_\_\_\_\_ team would make it very \_\_\_\_\_ for Jackie.

Jackie, however, was \_\_\_\_\_ to fight for his rights. When he was in the army, a bus \_\_\_\_\_ told him all Blacks had to sit in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the bus. Jackie refused, and the case was taken to court. Jackie won. Yes, he was a fighter. Now he was \_\_\_\_\_ to fight again.

However, that was \_\_\_\_\_ what Rickey did not want him to do — fight with \_\_\_\_\_, no matter how he was \_\_\_\_\_. Jackie agreed it would be \_\_\_\_\_ difficult.

In 1947, he began to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers. The fans booed, called him \_\_\_\_\_ names and threw things at him. He even got threats on \_\_\_\_\_ life, but he would show them, not with \_\_\_\_\_, but with actions. He played \_\_\_\_\_ well, and at the end of the year he was named the \_\_\_\_\_ new player in his league. In 1949, he was given the \_\_\_\_\_ Valuable Player award. He helped the Dodgers win six National \_\_\_\_\_ championships and one World championship.

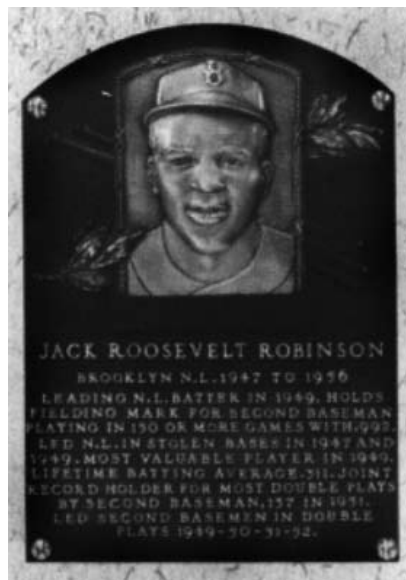
In 1962, he received baseball's \_\_\_\_\_ award. He was voted into The Baseball Hall of Fame, the \_\_\_\_\_ Black, ever. He died on October 24, 1972, a \_\_\_\_\_ ball player who had changed the history of \_\_\_\_\_.

Number correct \_\_\_\_\_/25. Put your score on page 134.

## Research and Write

Find more information and write a paragraph about one of these topics:

- (A) baseball,
- (B) Negro Leagues,
- (C) Baseball Hall of Fame,
- (D) Jackie's life after baseball



Jackie Robinson's plaque in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York

**"JACK ROOSEVELT ROBINSON, BROOKLYN N.L. 1947-1956. LEADING N.L. BATTER IN 1949. HOLDS FIELDING MARK FOR SECOND BASEMEN PLAYING IN 150 OR MORE GAMES WITH .992. LED N.L. IN STOLEN BASES IN 1947 AND 1949. MOST VALUABLE PLAYER IN 1949. LIFETIME BATTING AVERAGE .311. JOINT RECORD HOLDER FOR MOST DOUBLE PLAYS BY SECOND BASEMEN .137 IN 1951. LED SECOND BASEMEN IN DOUBLE PLAYS IN 1949-50-51-52.**

## What Does This Mean to You?

Discuss this stamp or write about it in your journal.



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