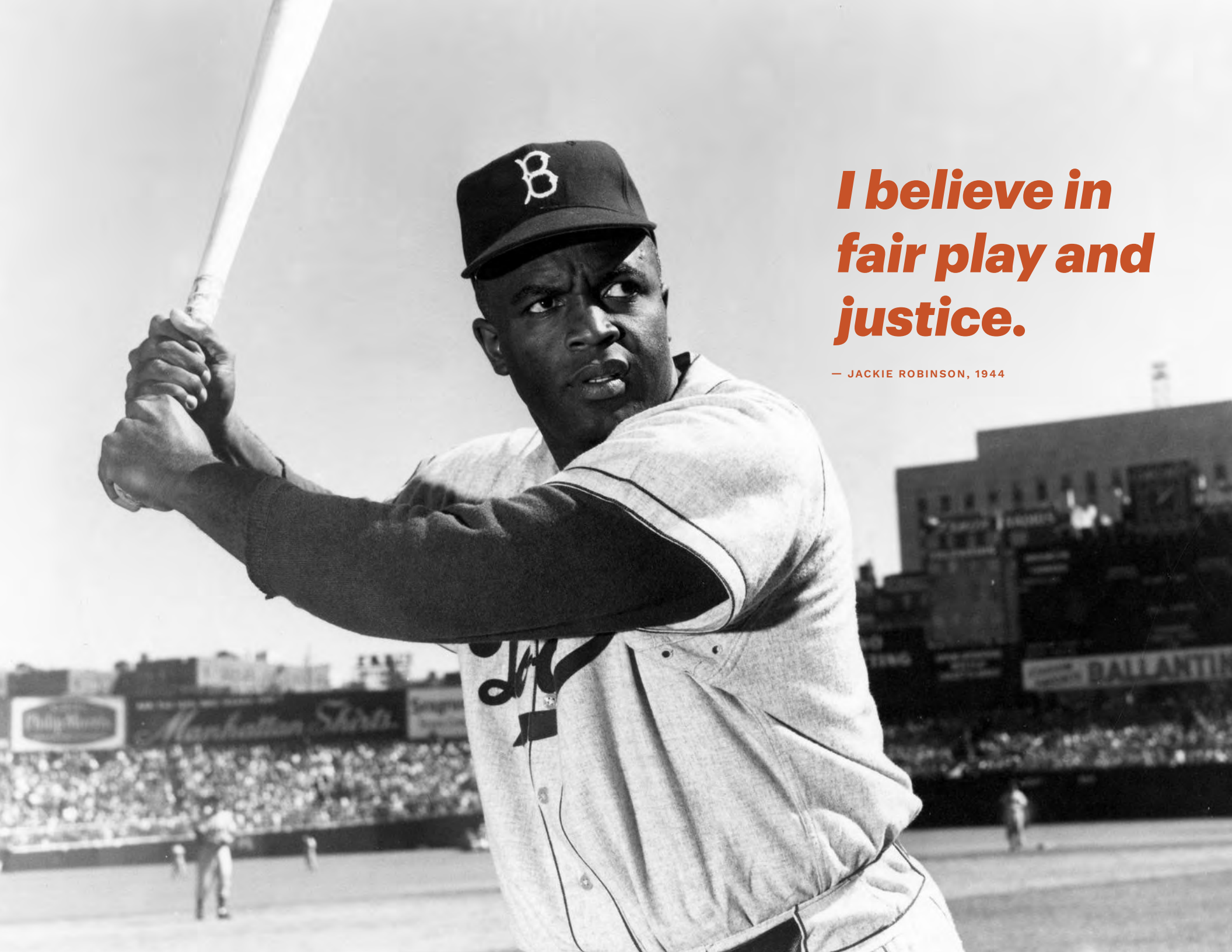


JACKIE ROBINSON

LIFE IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT



TIMELINE AND
LEARNING GUIDE



***I believe in
fair play and
justice.***

— JACKIE ROBINSON, 1944



MEET JACKIE ROBINSON

On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson took the field with the Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first African American to play Major League Baseball in the modern era. Jackie Robinson's history-making achievements in baseball were only part of his extraordinary life and legacy. He excelled as an all-star college athlete and served in the US Army during World War II. His achievements and leadership on the field gave him a platform to speak out nationwide about his belief in equality for all. Throughout his adult life, Robinson was a businessman, activist, and engaged citizen who continued to be an outspoken leader for civil and human rights, especially for African Americans. Today, Robinson's legacy continues to inspire people of all ages to embrace his values and advance social justice.

HOW TO USE THIS TIMELINE:

This resource is designed to stand alone as an engaging and accessible introduction to Jackie Robinson's life and legacy, but it can also pair with a visit to the Jackie Robinson Museum in New York City or with additional games, videos, and more online at www.jackierobinsonmuseum.org.

KIDS & TEENS

Read the timeline stops and look closely at the photos to learn about Jackie Robinson and the important moments in his life. Along the way, look for boxes with the book icon for background information to help you understand key ideas and events and the light bulb icon for *Dig Deeper* questions to get you thinking about what you see.

FAMILIES & MULTI-GENERATIONAL LEARNERS

Share the learning experience! Use the timeline stops, photos, and *Dig Deeper* questions to spark conversation about Jackie Robinson. If you're visiting the Jackie Robinson Museum too, explore the timeline as a warm-up before your visit or a follow-up to reinforce the museum experience.

EDUCATORS & YOUTH PROGRAM LEADERS

Request a free set for your youth group at www.jackierobinsonmuseum.org to incorporate this resource into your curriculum. As your group explores, use the *Dig Deeper* questions as discussion or writing prompts and find additional resources on page 21 and on our website.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR

You can see this artifact or document at the Jackie Robinson Museum!

Note about language: This resource uses *Black* and *African American* to refer to the racial group to which Jackie Robinson belonged. Some quotes and documents in this booklet use the words *Negro* and *Colored* to refer to African Americans. These words were used by Black people in the past to identify themselves and their organizations, so these words only appear in those contexts.



JUNE 1, 1920

MOVE TO PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

The Robinson family arrives in their new home of Pasadena, CA after a twelve day journey by train from Georgia. Jackie was one year old and lived with his four older siblings and mother, Mallie, who worked as a housekeeper. Pictured below (left to right): Mack, Jackie, Edgar, Mallie, Willa Mae, and Frank.

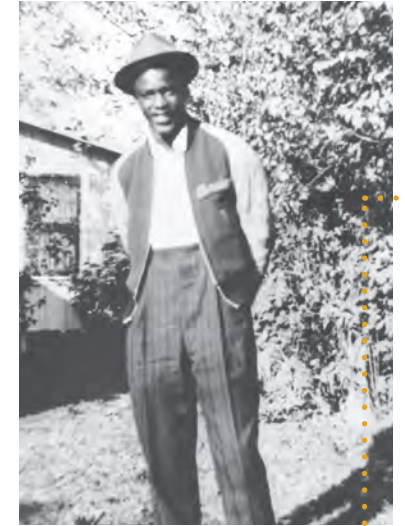
 SEE THE PORTRAIT AT THE MUSEUM



JULY 19, 1922

RACHEL ISUM IS BORN

Jackie's future wife, Rachel, is born to Charles and Zelle Isum in Los Angeles, CA.



SPRING 1936

ELITE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE

As a senior at John Muir Technical High School, Jackie Robinson plays football, basketball, baseball, and track. He earns a place on the Pomona Tournament All-Star baseball team, wins the Southland Class A broad jump title with a 23' 1" leap, and captures the junior boys' singles championship in the Pacific Coast Negro Tennis Tournament.

JANUARY 31, 1919

JACKIE ROBINSON IS BORN

Jack Roosevelt Robinson is born to Jerry and Mallie Robinson in Cairo, GA.



THE GREAT MIGRATION

The Robinsons' move from Georgia to California was part of the Great Migration, when millions of African Americans moved out of the Southern states for better opportunities in the North and West during the first half of the twentieth century.

The more I played the better I became – in softball, hardball, football, basketball, tennis, table tennis, any kind of game with a ball.

— JACKIE ROBINSON ON HIS CHILDHOOD SPORTS

..... 1937 - 1939

PASADENA JUNIOR COLLEGE

Jackie follows older brother and fellow athlete Mack Robinson to Pasadena Junior College, where he sets the national collegiate record in the broad jump with a leap of 25' 6" and leads the baseball, football, and basketball teams to California State Junior College championships.

..... JANUARY 1938

REVEREND KARL DOWNS

Robinson meets local activist minister Rev. Karl Downs, who becomes Jackie's mentor and inspires his lifelong commitment to working with young people.

..... 1939 - 1941

UCLA

While at UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles), Jackie Robinson excels and letters in football, basketball, track, and baseball. He is still the only athlete in UCLA's history to letter in four sports. He leaves school in his senior year to get a job as an Assistant Athletic Director at the National Youth Administration.

 **DIG DEEPER**

How did Jackie Robinson's experiences and talent as a young athlete help prepare him for being the first Black player in modern Major League Baseball? How did his experiences as a star athlete help prepare him for being a public figure in the fight for civil rights?





APRIL 3, 1942

DRAFTED INTO THE ARMY

Robinson enters the US Army and is stationed at Fort Riley, KS. After completing basic training, Robinson applied to Officer Candidate School (OCS). After being denied, he successfully worked with boxing champion Joe Louis to fight for Black soldiers to be accepted into the program. After completing OCS, Robinson became a Second Lieutenant.

 [SEE THE UNIFORM AT THE MUSEUM](#)

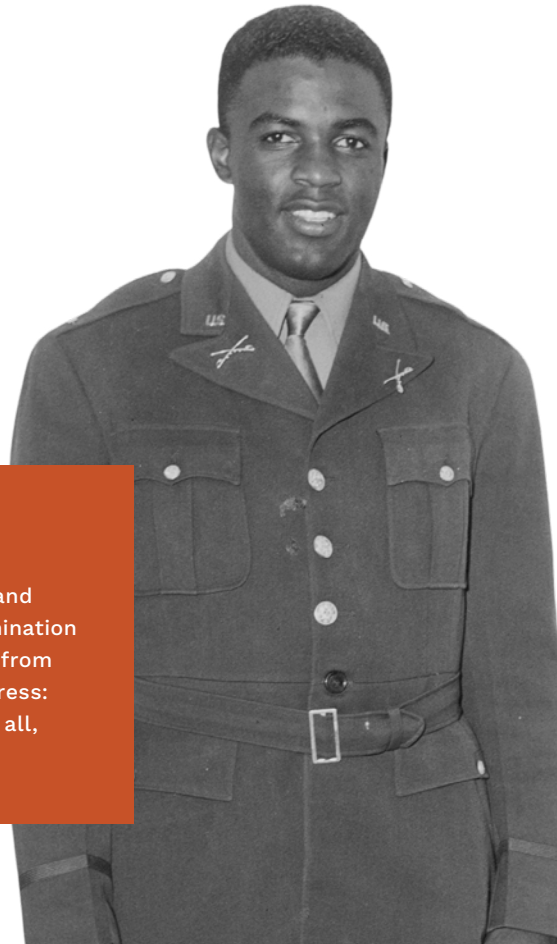
I had learned that I was in two wars, one against the foreign enemy, the other against prejudice at home.

— JACKIE ROBINSON ON HIS COURT MARTIAL, 1944

SEPTEMBER 1, 1940

JACKIE ROBINSON AND RACHEL ISUM MEET

Fellow athlete Ray Bartlett introduces senior Jackie Robinson to first year student Rachel Isum on campus at UCLA.



AUGUST 2, 1944

ARREST AND COURT MARTIAL

Second Lieutenant Robinson is arrested at Camp Hood, TX following his insistence on keeping his seat on a desegregated military bus. He is charged with refusal to obey a superior officer's order and behavior unbecoming an officer. Robinson faces a court martial, or military trial, and is found not guilty of all charges on August 2, 1944. In December, he is honorably discharged from the Army.

 [SEE THE CHARGE SHEET AT THE MUSEUM](#)

A SEGREGATED ARMY

When Jackie Robinson served in the Army, it was largely segregated. Black and white soldiers served in different units and African Americans faced discrimination in promotions, on-base facilities, and service assignments. Facing pressure from Black activists and American allies, this period also saw some signs of progress: military buses were desegregated and wartime federal jobs were opened to all, regardless of race.

MARCH 27, 1945

JOINING THE MONARCHS

Robinson joins the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Leagues. Celebrated early on for his batting and ability to turn the double play, he is named the starting shortstop. He plays just under a season before being drafted by the Montreal Royals.



JUNE 1, 1945

RACHEL ISUM GRADUATES FROM UCLA

Rachel Isum graduates with honors from UCLA with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

OCTOBER 23, 1945

THE MONTREAL ROYALS

Branch Rickey, the president and general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers baseball team, signs Jackie Robinson to play with the Montreal Royals, the Brooklyn Dodgers' minor league team. Rickey learned about Robinson's talent from baseball scouts and Wendell Smith, a sports reporter for the *Pittsburgh Courier*, one of the largest Black newspapers in the US.



FEBRUARY 10, 1946

JACKIE ROBINSON AND RACHEL ISUM MARRY

Reverend Karl Downs, Robinson's mentor, marries Jackie Robinson and Rachel Isum in Los Angeles. Three weeks later, Rachel joins Jackie as he reports to Florida for spring training with the Montreal Royals.



THE NEGRO LEAGUES

Established in 1920, the Negro Leagues were professional baseball leagues made up of mostly Black players. African American ballplayers had been forbidden from playing on the major league teams since 1887. Negro League teams had devoted fan bases and created pathways for Black entrepreneurship in their hometowns, which were often in smaller cities outside major league markets.





APRIL 18, 1946

ROYAL DEBUT

On opening day for the Montreal Royals, Robinson hits 4-for-5 with a three-run home run and two stolen bases. That season, Robinson wins the International League Most Valuable Player Award and leads Montreal to win the minor league pennant and the Little World Series.

NOVEMBER 18, 1946

JACKIE AND RACHEL START A FAMILY

Jack Robinson, Jr., the first child of Rachel and Jackie Robinson, is born. Jackie Jr. is joined by sister Sharon on January 13, 1950, and youngest brother David on May 14, 1952.



APRIL 15, 1947

BREAKING THE COLOR BARRIER

Opening Day at Ebbets Field: Jackie Robinson takes the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers at first base, becoming the first African American in modern baseball history to play for a major league team. During his early seasons, Robinson faced tremendous opposition from racist spectators and fellow players, which included insults, on-field attacks, and unfair calls from umpires.



DIG DEEPER

Jackie Robinson and Dodgers owner Branch Rickey agreed from the start that Robinson would not fight back verbally or physically against the racist opposition that he would face when he joined the major leagues. Robinson was someone who was used to standing up for himself, so why do you think Robinson was willing to make this agreement?

[Rachel was] my strongest supporter during these trials... she always had the wise suggestion, the comforting touch, the encouragement to go on which carried me through.

— JACKIE ROBINSON, 1947



SEPTEMBER 26, 1947

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Sporting News recognizes Jackie Robinson with the first league-wide “Rookie of the Year” award. Forty years later, this honor is renamed the “Jackie Robinson Rookie of the Year” award.

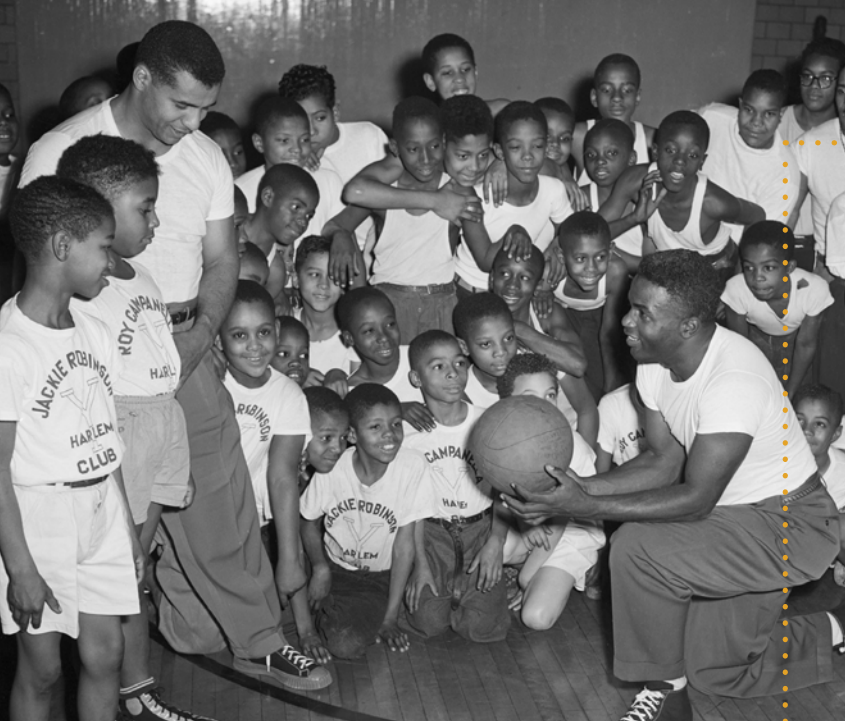


SEE THE TROPHY
AT THE MUSEUM



INTEGRATING BASEBALL BEYOND JACKIE

Though baseball integration is commonly associated with Jackie Robinson’s Brooklyn Dodgers debut on April 15, 1947, the road to desegregating baseball, on the field and in the front office, continues to this day. Major League Baseball took over a decade for each team to integrate its roster of players, with the Boston Red Sox being the last team to sign a Black player in 1959. After that, it took another sixteen years for Frank Robinson to be hired as the first Black major league manager. Well into the 1970s, All-Stars such as Hank Aaron and Reggie Jackson faced racist abuse despite record-breaking success. Today, the percentage of African American players and managers is the lowest it’s been in decades.



JULY 12, 1949

ALL-STAR GAME

Jackie Robinson is the National League's starting second baseman in the MLB All-Star game, the first to include African American players. Robinson was joined by Dodgers teammates, catcher Roy Campanella and pitcher Don Newcombe, and the American League's first Black player, Larry Doby, who played for Cleveland.



JULY 18, 1949

HOUSE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

During his testimony before the US House of Representatives' Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), Jackie Robinson denounced alleged remarks by acclaimed entertainer and activist Paul Robeson, who had questioned Black Americans' willingness to fight to defend the US against Communists. However, most of Robinson's testimony called out racial injustice in America.



SEE THE SPEECH AT THE MUSEUM

NOVEMBER 1, 1948

HARLEM YMCA

Following his second season on the Dodgers, Jackie Robinson and teammate Roy Campanella report for duty as coaches and counselors in the Boy's Work Department of the Harlem YMCA in New York City.



OFF-SEASON WORK

Like most ballplayers, Robinson took a variety of jobs in the baseball off-seasons. He endorsed products such as Bond Bread, worked at an appliance store, made paid radio and television appearances, opened a retail store in Harlem, and played in exhibition baseball games across the country.

...a sport, to be a real sport, has got to be contested on the basis of the best man or team winning—and that 'best' has got nothing to do with...a man's skin.

— JACKIE ROBINSON, HUAC TESTIMONY, 1949



FALL 1949

NATIONAL LEAGUE MVP

By 1949, Jackie has proven to be a highly valuable player and is released from his agreement with Branch Rickey to turn the other cheek. With this newfound freedom, he is more vocal about his experiences with racism off the field and intensified his play on the field with his statistical best season, leading in batting average, steals, and fielding percentage at second base.

 SEE THE AWARD AT THE MUSEUM



MAY 16, 1950

MOVIE PREMIERE

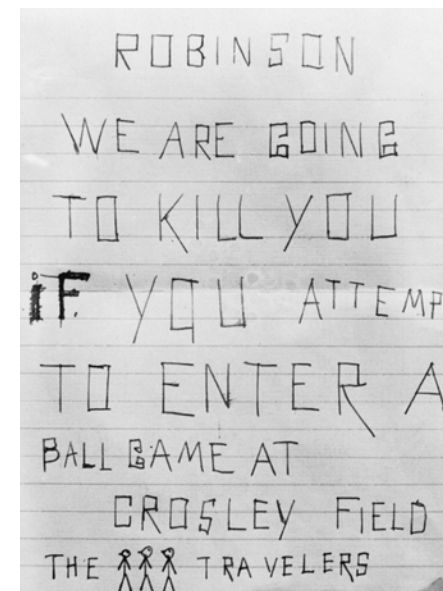
Feature film *The Jackie Robinson Story*, starring Jackie Robinson as himself, opens at the Astor Theater in New York City.

 SEE THE POSTER AT THE MUSEUM

MAY 21, 1951

DEATH THREAT

Arriving at a hotel in Cincinnati, Jackie Robinson finds two FBI agents waiting for him in response to a death threat against him—just one of a vast number of racist actions Jackie faced on a daily basis. With the support of his teammates, Robinson decides to play that day anyway.





FEBRUARY 4, 1952

BROADCAST CAREER

WNBC and WNBT announce that they have signed Jackie Robinson as Director of Community Activities to deliver commentary on-air and to supervise the development of youth programs in collaboration with the Police Athletic League (PAL), Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), Boy Scouts, and YMCA.



RADIO HOST

Robinson had a number of jobs as a radio show host:

- “The Jackie Robinson Sports Show” (1948)
- “Jackie Robinson Sports Classroom” (1950)
- “Jackie Robinson Radio Shots” (1958)
- “The Jackie Robinson Show” (1959-1960)



SEPTEMBER 28, 1955

“HE’S SAFE!”

Jackie Robinson steals home plate in game one of the 1955 World Series, creating great team momentum. The Brooklyn Dodgers win the series in seven games, earning the Dodgers their first World Championship.

DECEMBER 8, 1956

SPINGARN MEDAL

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) announces that Jackie Robinson will receive its highest honor, the Spingarn Medal, given annually to an African American whose achievements brought credit to the race. Robinson received this award for “superb sportsmanship and for his singular role in athletics.” Beginning in 1957, Robinson served on the NAACP’s Board of Directors for the next decade.



SEE THE MEDAL AT THE MUSEUM



WHAT IS THE NAACP?

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is a civil rights organization dedicated to advancing equal rights and justice for African Americans. Operated by a network of state and local chapters, the NAACP remains an active organization fighting for racial equity through the court system and social protest. Check them out at <https://naacp.org>.

We have waited one hundred years for these rights. In my view, now is the time for Negroes to ask for all the rights which are theirs.

— JACKIE ROBINSON, NAACP FREEDOM FUND SPEECH, 1957



DECEMBER 12, 1956

CAREER CHANGE

The Brooklyn Dodgers attempt to trade Jackie Robinson to the New York Giants, but Robinson had already decided to retire from baseball. In January, Robinson announces his retirement from baseball in *LOOK* magazine and his new job as Vice President of Personnel at Chock full o' Nuts, a chain of coffee shops in New York City. Robinson is responsible for making sure the company supports its workers.



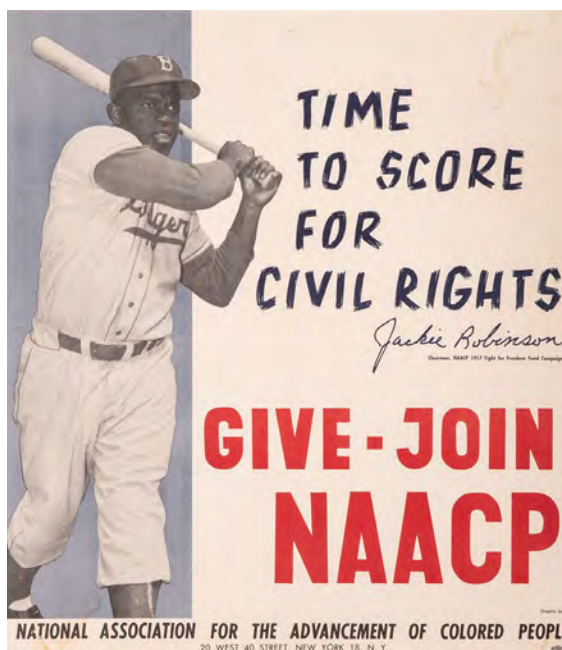
1957

CIVIL RIGHTS FUNDRAISING

Between January and March, Jackie Robinson leads his first major fundraising campaign as chair of the NAACP's Fight for Freedom Fund and meets his goal of raising \$1 million through his cross-country speaking tour. He also travels extensively the same year to raise funds for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which advocates for the end of segregation. Two years later, Robinson helps form the African American Students Foundation that funds higher education opportunities in the United States for 720 students from Kenya.



SEE THE POSTER AT THE MUSEUM





▲ Jackie Robinson serves as marshal for the Youth March for Integrated Schools, October 25, 1958. Also pictured: Jackie Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Michael Prinz, Rabbi Joachim Prinz, Ruth Harris Bunche, Julie Robinson, and Harry Belafonte.



OCTOBER 17, 1957

LITTLE ROCK NINE

Jackie Robinson joins members of the NAACP in New York City for a telephone conversation with Arkansas chapter president Daisy Bates and seven of the nine teens who had integrated Little Rock's Central High School to provide encouragement for their efforts. Robinson also pens a heated telegram to President Eisenhower demanding action in Little Rock. The following year, Robinson leads 10,000 marchers at the Youth March for Integrated Schools in Washington, DC.



A LONG ROAD TO SCHOOL INTEGRATION

Little Rock, AR was just one of many cities across the country where school integration mandated by the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* ignited fierce—sometimes violent—backlash by white residents against Black students. While the Little Rock Nine demanded federal intervention, others like the Clinton 12 (Tennessee, 1956) and Poolesville 15 (Maryland, 1956) had similar experiences in their efforts to claim the education to which they were entitled. School integration efforts continued well into the 1970s in cities like Boston, MA and Greensboro, NC.

FALL 1960

NIXON FOR PRESIDENT!

Jackie Robinson takes a leave of absence from Chock full o' Nuts to campaign for Republican presidential candidate Richard Nixon. Robinson believed Nixon to be a stronger candidate on civil rights than his opponent John F. Kennedy. Ultimately, Kennedy wins the election in 1960. Over the years that followed, Robinson soured on the Republican Party's anti-civil rights wing, which includes Nixon, who represented the party again in 1968.

DIG DEEPER

Jackie Robinson sometimes made choices that many people, especially in African American communities, disagreed with (like speaking out against Paul Robeson in 1949 or supporting Richard Nixon in 1960). In response, sometimes Jackie stuck to his opinion and sometimes he later admitted he made a mistake. What character traits does each of these actions demonstrate?

APRIL 16, 1961

VOTER REGISTRATION

Robinson delivers a rousing speech encouraging voter registration at the Thankful Baptist Church in Decatur, GA and the next day in Chattanooga, TN. He travels the country through 1962 serving as a central figure in voter registration efforts for the NAACP.

I am neither a Republican nor a Democrat. I vote for people who I believe in, regardless of their party affiliations.

— JACKIE ROBINSON, *NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS*, 1963

MAY 1961

RACHEL ROBINSON EARNS A MASTER'S DEGREE

Rachel Robinson graduates from New York University (NYU) with a master's degree in psychiatric nursing after completing a two-year graduate program. Rachel later becomes Head of Psychiatric Nursing at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

JANUARY 1, 1962

NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST

Robinson starts a column called "Jackie Robinson Says" (later "Home Plate") in the *New York Amsterdam News*, New York's leading Black newspaper. Robinson's writing focuses on current events, politics, and civil rights. He had previously written for the *New York Post* from 1959 to 1960.



JANUARY 23, 1962

HALL OF FAME

Robinson becomes the first African American inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. He feels strongly that he only wants his playing record to be considered for this honor. In the course of his career, he led the league in fielding percentage at second base, stolen bases, and batting average.



SEE THE PLAQUE AT THE MUSEUM

MARCH 23, 1963

JACKIE ROBINSON AND MALCOLM X

Robinson and Malcolm X appear together at a rally in Harlem Square. The two had publicly criticized each other's approach to advancing Black rights. Malcolm thought Robinson worked too closely with "white bosses" like Branch Rickey, while Robinson thought Malcolm's emphasis on Black nationalism prevented progress on civil rights. However, their views become more aligned in 1964. Despite disagreements, they respect each other.

MAY 2-10, 1963

BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

During the SCLC's "Children's Crusade" in Birmingham, AL, one thousand high school students march to protest segregation, bravely facing brutal police retaliation and arrests. Jackie Robinson and other leaders call on President Kennedy to act in response to police violence. Robinson also travels to Birmingham and makes appearances at local churches to show his support for the protestors and their families.



▲ Jackie Robinson and his family with the Herbie Mann Jazz Group, (from left) Carlos Valdes on a bongo drum with David Robinson, Sharon Robinson and Herbie Mann with flutes, and bass player Ben Tucker at the second "Afternoon of Jazz."

JUNE 23, 1963

JAZZ FOR A CAUSE

Jackie and Rachel Robinson host a jazz concert at their home in Stamford, CT to raise bail money for civil rights activists who were jailed in the South. The Robinson family and the Jackie Robinson Foundation continue to host the "Afternoon of Jazz" concerts to support important causes annually until 2001.

"The Afternoon of Jazz" was a delightful experience and if we continue to gain this type of support, the sweltering summer of discontent can be transformed into an invigorating autumn of justice and freedom for all people.

— DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING TO RACHEL ROBINSON, 1963





MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR JOBS AND FREEDOM

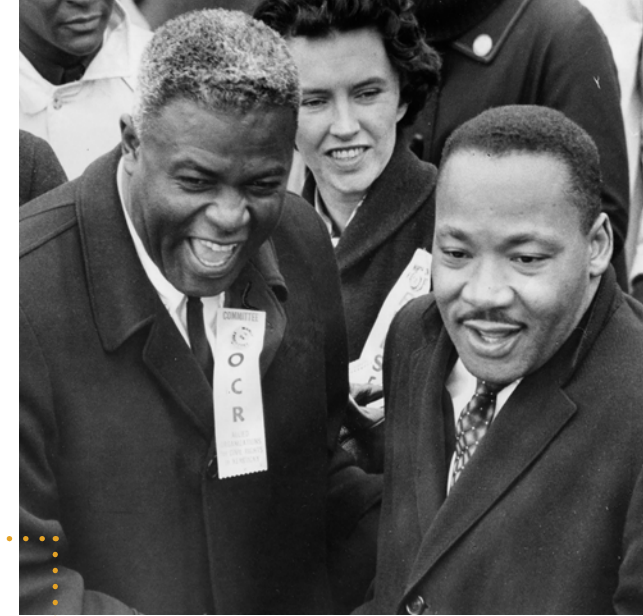
One of many marches that Jackie and his family joined, the 1963 March on Washington shed light on the limited job opportunities and other social injustices faced by African Americans such as voting rights, schools, and housing. Arranged by A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin and organized with the support of African American men and women, it was where Dr. King shared his “I Have A Dream” speech.

AUGUST 28, 1963

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

The Robinson family attends the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in Washington, DC, which attracted 250,000 people. The Robinsons, including Jackie Jr. (16), Sharon (13), and David (11), had adopted fighting for racial justice as a family mission and were inspired to take part in the large-scale demonstration.

► Jackie Robinson with his son David and NAACP activist Daisy Bates at the March on Washington.



MARCH 5, 1964

MARCH ON FRANKFORT

Jackie Robinson and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. lead 10,000 demonstrators in a march to the Kentucky state capitol to demand a “strong and meaningful” bill to end segregation of public spaces statewide. After meeting in 1957, Robinson and King developed a personal and professional friendship marked by mutual respect backed up by action. They helped each other raise money and inspire the public for specific civil rights causes and campaigns.



ADVANCING CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION

The March on Frankfort, KY was one of hundreds of mass protests that occurred in the early 1960s in the struggle to pass more just laws at the local, state, and federal levels. In response to these demonstrations, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender or national origin in employment, federal programs, and use of public spaces.

..... MARCH 30, 1964

JACKIE JR. SERVES IN VIETNAM

Jackie and Rachel's oldest son, Jackie Jr., enlists in the US Army and is soon sent to combat service in Vietnam. During an ambush by the Viet-Cong, he is shot while attempting to rescue fellow soldiers. For his valor under fire, he is awarded the Purple Heart. Jackie Robinson is initially a supporter of US involvement in Vietnam, but his son's service experience sours his opinion of the war.



As for blacks who joined the Army... Many of them came to wonder, as Jackie finally did when he was in the hospital in Vietnam, about the contradiction of having fought for freedom for people on foreign soil only to come home to be denied equal rights.

— JACKIE ROBINSON ON THE VIETNAM WAR

..... JANUARY 4, 1965

FREEDOM NATIONAL BANK

Freedom National Bank opens in Harlem, with Jackie Robinson as co-founder and Chairman. The bank represents Robinson's beliefs about the importance of fair access to loans and banking services for African Americans. It becomes the largest Black-owned and operated bank in New York State.



Jackie Robinson said he believed two keys to creating equal opportunities for African Americans in the United States were “the ballot and the buck.” What do you think he meant? Review the stops from the early 1960s and identify events in his life that support this idea.

Maybe this is what Black Power should mean – that we withdraw our buying power from those who deny us opportunity and apply it to those who feel we have a right to exist in this world.

— JACKIE ROBINSON, *NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS*, 1967



.....1965

RACHEL ROBINSON AS DIRECTOR OF NURSING

Rachel Robinson becomes Director of Nursing for the state mental health center in New Haven, CT, and an Assistant Professor at the Yale University School of Nursing.



.....FEBRUARY 8, 1966

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER

Jackie Robinson is appointed by New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller to the position of Special Assistant for Community Affairs. In this role, Robinson works closely with Black constituents to advocate for their interests in the governor's administration.



SEE THE PIN AT THE MUSEUM

.....FEBRUARY 1, 1968

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

Jackie Robinson serves as Chairman of the National Conference of Christians and Jews' Brotherhood Week. Robinson was affiliated with the NCCJ as early as 1954 and believed in their mission of advancing interfaith civil rights activism and dialogue.

.....JANUARY 1970

JACKIE ROBINSON CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

Jackie Robinson co-founds the Jackie Robinson Construction Corporation. The company's mission is to build quality low- and middle-income housing, a long-held business priority for Robinson. Following Robinson's passing just two years later, Rachel Robinson takes over the company.

.....JUNE 17, 1971

JACKIE ROBINSON JR. DIES

Jackie Jr. dies in a car accident driving home from his job as Assistant Regional Director of Daytop, Inc., a drug rehabilitation center in Seymour, CT, where he helped participants overcome addiction, as he had.



▲ Jackie Robinson's last public appearance at the 1972 World Series, where he called for hiring Black managers in baseball.

.....OCTOBER 24, 1972

JACKIE ROBINSON PASSES AWAY

Jack Roosevelt Robinson dies of a heart attack at his home in Stamford, CT with his loving wife Rachel by his side. He is 53 years old.



MAY 1973

THE JACKIE ROBINSON FOUNDATION

Rachel Robinson honors her husband's memory by establishing the Jackie Robinson Foundation to provide scholarships, mentoring, and leadership development for talented college students with limited financial resources.

MARCH 26, 1984

PRESIDENTIAL RECOGNITION

President Ronald Reagan awards Jackie Robinson the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which Rachel Robinson accepts on his behalf.



[SEE THE MEDAL AT THE MUSEUM](#)



APRIL 15, 1997

MLB RETIRES 42

The nation, led by President Bill Clinton, celebrates the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's historic entry into baseball in an on-field ceremony with Rachel Robinson and MLB Commissioner Allan "Bud" Selig. MLB also honors Robinson by retiring his number 42 throughout Major League Baseball, the only number retired across the league. The number 42 is displayed in every major league ballpark in the United States.

OCTOBER 10, 2003

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL HONOR

The Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian award bestowed by Congress, is awarded to Jackie Robinson. President George W. Bush and Congress present the Medal to Rachel Robinson during a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda on March 2, 2005.



[SEE THE MEDAL AT THE MUSEUM](#)

APRIL 1, 2013

“42” MOVIE PREMIERES

Feature film “42” premieres in Los Angeles, CA. The film, starring Chadwick Boseman and Harrison Ford, depicts Jackie’s time in the minor leagues and first year with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Produced by Legendary Pictures, “42” is a box office success.



SEE THE SIGNED POSTER AT THE MUSEUM



DIG DEEPER

Since his passing over fifty years ago, Jackie Robinson has been honored in many ways. Why do you think so many people still recognize and honor him? *Legacy* means the lasting impact of ideas, values, or lessons that someone represents for future generations. What do you think Jackie Robinson’s legacy means today?



TODAY

The **Jackie Robinson Foundation** serves hundreds of college and graduate level scholars annually and nurtures an alumni network of over 1800.

The **Jackie Robinson Museum** opened in 2022, commemorating the life and legacy of Jackie Robinson and his multifaceted achievements as an athlete, activist, businessman, citizen, and family man.

Rachel Robinson, who turned 101 years old in 2023, and the **Robinson Family** continue to honor Jackie Robinson’s legacy by advancing the values of humanitarianism, education, and social justice.

If we don’t have a remembrance of that struggle, we lose touch with a significant period of American history that can help guide us today and it is a tribute to all the people who have taken my mother’s desire and made it happen.

— DAVID ROBINSON ON THE OPENING OF THE JACKIE ROBINSON MUSEUM, JULY 26, 2022

JACKIE'S STATS

Number: 42

Positions: 2B, 3B, 1B, OF, SS

Bats: Right

Throws: Right

Wt: 195lb

Ht: 5' 11"

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

NGL All Star (1945)

IntL Batting Champion (1946)

NL Rookie of the Year (1947)

NL Stolen Base Leader (1947, 1949)

NL MVP (1949)

NL Batting Champion (1949)

National Baseball Hall of Fame (1962)

Los Angeles Dodgers retire 42 (1972)

42 Retired by all MLB Teams (1997)

All Century Team (1999)

PROFESSIONAL DEBUT



Negro National League
May 6, 1945,
Kansas City Monarchs



International League
April 18, 1946,
Montreal Royals



Major League Baseball
April 15, 1947,
Brooklyn Dodgers

Year	Team	BA	G	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	FCPT
1945	KC Monarchs	.375	34	120	25	4	27	3	NA	16	.933
1946	Montreal Royals	.349	124	444	113	3	66	40	15	92	.985
1947	Brooklyn Dodgers	.297	151	590	125	12	48	29	11	74	.989
1948	Brooklyn Dodgers	.296	147	574	108	12	85	22	14	57	.983
1949	Brooklyn Dodgers	.342	156	593	122	16	124	37	16	86	.981
1950	Brooklyn Dodgers	.328	144	518	99	14	81	12	5	80	.986
1951	Brooklyn Dodgers	.338	153	548	106	19	88	25	8	79	.992
1952	Brooklyn Dodgers	.308	149	510	104	19	75	24	7	106	.974
1953	Brooklyn Dodgers	.329	126	484	109	12	95	17	4	74	.982
1954	Brooklyn Dodgers	.311	124	386	62	15	59	7	3	63	.982
1955	Brooklyn Dodgers	.256	105	317	51	8	36	12	3	61	.967
1956	Brooklyn Dodgers	.275	117	357	61	10	43	12	5	60	.978
Career Totals:		.313	1416	4997	972	141	761	200	76	756	.982

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Jackie Robinson said, “the right of every American to first-class citizenship is the most important issue of our time.” What did he mean by “first class citizenship” during his lifetime? What does “first class citizenship” mean today and do all Americans share this right equally?
2. In what areas of our society did Jackie Robinson have an impact that we benefit from today?
3. Jackie Robinson is often celebrated as an individual, but he did not reach all of his achievements alone. Who are some of the most important people in Robinson’s life and what was their influence on him? What fellow leaders and organizations did Robinson collaborate with to have a larger impact?
4. What values did Jackie Robinson embrace and live by that made him the leader that he was? What leadership skills do you have?
5. What are examples of the variety of tactics used by Jackie and Rachel Robinson, and their children, to fight injustice before, during, and after the Civil Rights Movement? Which tactics do you believe were most effective and why?

RESOURCES



JACKIEROBINSONMUSEUM.ORG

STUDENT AND FAMILY RESOURCES

Explore the Jackie Robinson Museum website to dig deeper into the life and legacy of American icon Jackie Robinson.

Images and artifacts courtesy of Jackie Robinson Museum, Richard Hollander, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Rachel Robinson, Getty Images, and AP Images.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Explore how the historical events in this booklet impact your local community.

NAMING PLACES

Do you have a place (school, park, street) named after Jackie Robinson in your neighborhood or city? Check it out and snap a photo there. If not, look up an example in another place.

HOMETOWN TEAM

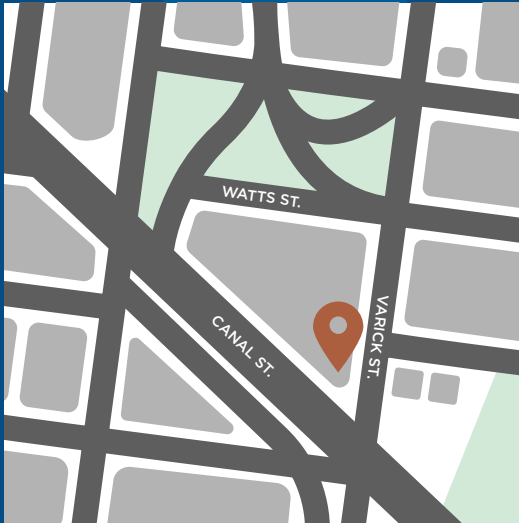
Baseball teams have come and gone and moved around. What major league teams have played in your state over time? Was there a Negro League team in your state? Look them up and learn more about them!

LOCAL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT

Think about an improvement you would like to fight for in your town or neighborhood. Be like Jackie: write a letter to your local officials or newspaper to speak your mind.

EYE ON 42

Look for references to Jackie Robinson in movies, video games, TV shows, ads, clothing, and shoes. Images such as Robinson’s face, signature, and jersey number “42” will catch your eye across pop culture today. Keep a list of examples as you spot them!



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