

PRE-VISIT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Elementary Grades



To prepare for your Jackie Robinson Museum field trip, use the following discussion questions in conjunction with the Museum Introduction Video, “[Life is Not a Spectator Sport](#),”* and [Timeline and Learning Guide](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)).

We encourage you to use at least three (3) of the prompts below to introduce Jackie Robinson and explore key concepts from the program with your class.

1. **Mallie Robinson’s Lessons**

Why did Jackie Robinson’s mother, Mallie, leave Georgia and move her family to California? What lessons did Jackie learn during his childhood from his mother?

2. **Jackie’s Leadership Traits**

Throughout his life, Jackie Robinson demonstrated the following character traits as a leader. Define each and look for an example in the Resource Guide.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| • Bravery | • Strength |
| • Determination | • Humility |
| • Staying true to himself (Integrity) | • Caring |

3. **Youth Sports**

What other sports did Jackie Robinson excel at besides baseball? How did sports help Jackie develop his leadership skills?

Make a connection! Think about a time you have been part of a team. What made your team successful? What does it mean to be a **team player** and what character traits does a team player have?

4. **Rachel Robinson**

The video describes Rachel Robinson as an equal partner to her husband, Jackie, and says they shared the same values and commitment to fighting for equality. Find two examples of Rachel Robinson’s leadership in the video or Timeline booklet.

*The video is password protected and the password is in your field trip confirmation email.

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5. Breaking the Color Barrier

Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson understood the first Black player in modern Major League Baseball would face racist opposition. What agreement did they make about how Jackie would deal with hurtful insults and attacks? What character traits do you think Jackie used to persevere during this challenging experience?

6. Activism

Jackie Robinson said, “The right of every American to first-class citizenship is the most important issue of our time.” What kinds of **equal rights** do you think are part of “*first-class citizenship*?”

One step further: Do you think all Americans have “first-class citizenship” today? Why or why not?

7. Your Leadership

At the end of the video, Rachel says, “Jackie left us with the idea that...we can make a difference.” Is there a difference, or change, that you want to make in your school or communities? What is it and why did you choose it?

Brainstorm! What are some actions you can take with family and friends to create that change?

Bus Banter

Have time on your bus ride to the Museum? Try these short “turn and talk” prompts to get students warmed up for the Museum field trip!

1. **What does it mean to be a leader?** Come up with a definition with your partner. Exchange definitions with another group and discuss how your ideas are similar and different.
2. **What is one word or phrase you think of when you hear the name Jackie Robinson?** Share in pairs or as a class and discuss. What themes or categories are most common?
3. **What Are You Wondering?** Think about a question you have about Jackie Robinson that you would like to learn about at the Museum. Alternately, think about something you are hoping to see at the Museum.