



# THE NEGRO LEAGUES

## Tell the Tale

Chapter Four of this book explores how Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier. Imagine you were at Opening Day in 1947 when the Brooklyn Dodgers played the Boston Braves. Write 200 words about the experience. How did the crowd react? How could you tell this was a historic moment?





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## Say What?

Studying the history of baseball can mean learning a lot of new vocabulary. Find five words in this book you've never seen before. Use a dictionary to find out what they mean. Then write the meanings in your own words, and use each word in a new sentence.





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## Another View

This book discusses Jackie Robinson's debut in the major leagues. As you know, every source is different. Ask an adult to help you find another source about this event. Write a short essay comparing and contrasting the new source's point of view with that of this book's authors. What is the point of view of each source? How are they similar and why? How are they different and why?





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## Take a Stand

There was disagreement over whether or not novelty teams were good for baseball. They brought huge crowds and provided jobs and opportunities for Black athletes. But many people did not like that they played to racial stereotypes. Do you think these novelty teams were good for baseball? Why or why not?





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## Dig Deeper

After reading this book, what questions do you still have about the Negro Leagues? With an adult's help, find a few reliable resources that can help you answer your questions. Write a paragraph about what you learned.





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## Discussion Questions

- In what ways were Black ballplayers discriminated against in the late 1800s and early 1900s? How did segregation affect them?
- Why did Andrew “Rube” Foster want to form an all-Black professional baseball league? How did he go about forming this league?
- What challenges did the Negro Leagues face in the 1930s and 1940s? Why did many leagues fold after World War II?





- MLB integrated in 1947 after Robinson's debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers. How did integration affect the Negro Leagues?
- What is the legacy of the Negro Leagues? How do you think this history could be taught in schools and communities today?

