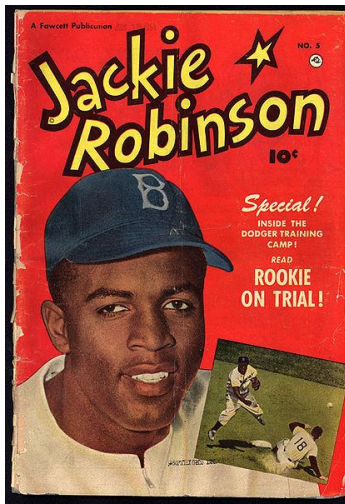


## Famous African Americans Jackie Robinson



Jackie Robinson was the first African American to play Major League Baseball. Robinson played for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Although he played multiple positions, he was most famous for playing second base. He was also an **outstanding**<sup>1</sup> hitter and fast runner.

In 1947, Robinson was named Rookie of the Year. It was his first year playing Major League Baseball. Two years later, he received the National League's Most Valuable Player award. Each year, his popularity grew and grew. He led the Brooklyn Dodgers to a World Series victory in 1955.

The most amazing thing about Jackie Robinson was his courage. Even though he was an incredible player, many people didn't like him. Why? They didn't like the fact that he was African American. Every game was a **trial**<sup>2</sup> for him. He had to put up with viewers and other players making racist remarks towards him. Sometimes even his own teammates called him names.

Robinson didn't let the racism bother him. He had the courage to continue playing. In 1962, Jackie Robinson was **elected**<sup>3</sup> into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. In 1984, he was awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

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<sup>1</sup> **outstanding:** attracting notice because of excellence

<sup>2</sup> **trial:** a test of faith, patience, or strength

<sup>3</sup> **elected:** selected by vote

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Jackie Robinson was Major League Baseball's first
  - a. Brooklyn Dodger.
  - b. Most Valuable Player.
  - c. Hall of Famer.
  - d. African American.
  
2. Why does the author include information about Robinson being called names?
  - a. to show how jealous other players were of how good Robinson was
  - b. to show how baseball players used to treat each other differently than today
  - c. to show how racism made playing baseball difficult for Robinson
  - d. to show why Robinson was popular with all the fans but not other players
  
3. Based on the passage, it can be inferred that some of Robinson's teammates
  - a. were racist.
  - b. were not good baseball players.
  - c. were also African American.
  - d. wanted to be second baseman.
  
4. Read the following sentence: "Although he played multiple positions, he was most famous for playing second base."

The word **multiple** means

  - a. easiest
  - b. most important
  - c. very unusual
  - d. more than one
  
5. This passage mainly describes
  - a. why Jackie Robinson played for the Brooklyn Dodgers.
  - b. how the Brooklyn Dodgers won a World Series in 1955.
  - c. Jackie Robinson's career and why it was important.
  - d. famous African-American athletes from different sports.

6. Name two important accomplishments of Robinson's baseball career discussed in the passage.

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7. Explain why Jackie Robinson would have been awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

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8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_ Robinson was an incredible baseball player, many people didn't like him.

- a. Otherwise
- b. So
- c. Although
- d. However

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

**In 1949, Robinson received the National League's Most Valuable Player award because he was a great second baseman.**

1. Who? Robinson
2. What did Robinson do? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Vocabulary Word:** courage: having the strength to do something difficult or dangerous.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Guide and Answers**

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 630

**Featured Text Structure:** Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

**Passage Summary:** This passage describes the life of Jackie Robinson, the first African-American player in Major League Baseball. The passage also describes various achievements and awards he received throughout his life.

1. Jackie Robinson was Major League Baseball's first
  - a. Brooklyn Dodger.
  - b. Most Valuable Player.
  - c. Hall of Famer.
  - d. African American.**
  
2. Why does the author include information about Robinson being called names?
  - a. to show how jealous other players were of how good Robinson was
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5. This passage mainly describes

- a. why Jackie Robinson played for the Brooklyn Dodgers.
- b. how the Brooklyn Dodgers won a World Series in 1955.
- c. Jackie Robinson's career and why it was important.**
- d. famous African-American athletes from different sports.

6. Name two important accomplishments of Robinson's baseball career discussed in the passage.

**Suggested answer:** Accomplishments mentioned in the passage include that he was the first African-American player and that he won a Rookie of the Year award, a Most Valuable Player Award, a World Series, and was inducted into the sport's Hall of Fame.

7. Explain why Jackie Robinson would have been awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

**Suggested answer:** Robinson would have been important enough to win a Medal of Freedom because of his courage to play baseball despite the problems that racism caused for him. As the first African-American Major League Baseball player, he could have inspired other African Americans afterward to be courageous.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_ Robinson was an incredible baseball player, many people didn't like him.

- a. Otherwise
- b. So
- c. Although**
- d. However

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

**In 1949, Robinson received the National League's Most Valuable Player award because he was a great second baseman.**

1. Who? Robinson
2. What did Robinson do? **received the National League's Most Valuable Player award**
3. When? **in 1949**

4. Why? **because he was a good second baseman**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** courage: having the strength to do something difficult or dangerous.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.