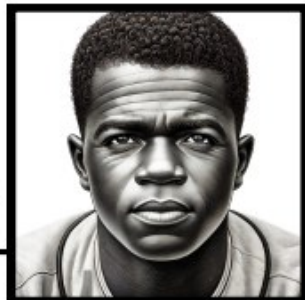


Name: _____

Date: _____

JACKIE ROBINSON

Read the biography of Jackie Robinson and answer the comprehension questions using the passage for reference.



Jackie Robinson was born on January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia, and grew up in Pasadena, California. As the youngest of five children, he faced the challenges of racism and segregation but found his passion and talent in sports. Robinson excelled at UCLA, where he became the first student to earn varsity letters in four sports: baseball, basketball, football, and track. His incredible athleticism set the stage for his historic impact on American sports.

During World War II, Robinson served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. While stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, he refused to move to the back of a segregated bus, leading to his court-martial. He was ultimately acquitted and received an honorable discharge, a testament to his courage and commitment to justice.

In 1947, Robinson broke Major League Baseball's color barrier by joining the Brooklyn Dodgers. Facing relentless racism from fans, opponents, and even teammates, Robinson responded with resilience and extraordinary talent. Over his ten-year career, he played in six consecutive All-Star Games from 1949 to 1954, won the National League Most Valuable Player (MVP) award in 1949, and helped the Dodgers win the World Series in 1955.

After retiring from baseball in 1957, Robinson continued breaking barriers. He became the first African American vice president of a major American corporation, Chock full o'Nuts, and played a significant role in the civil rights movement. Robinson also co-founded the Freedom National Bank in Harlem to support African-American communities and businesses.

Jackie Robinson died on October 24, 1972. MLB began celebrating Jackie Robinson Day on April 15 in 2004. Since 2009, all players, coaches, and managers have worn number 42 for the celebration. The day honors his courage in breaking baseball's color barrier. His life reminds us of the power of perseverance and the importance of fighting for equality.

Name: _____

Date: _____

- 1 How did Jackie Robinson demonstrate his commitment to justice while serving in the U.S. Army?

- 2 What challenges did Jackie face when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers, and how did he overcome them?

- 3 Why is Jackie Robinson Day celebrated, and how does Major League Baseball honor his legacy?
