

# The Man Who Changed Baseball



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Reading Level: Approximately Beginning of Second  
Grade (Running text ONLY)

Topic: Jackie Robinson

Genre: Nonfiction

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Awards (7)  
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## GLOSSARY

**African American**- a way to describe Americans whose relatives may have come from Africa.

**awards**- rewards or prizes

**sports**- different games such as baseball, football, and soccer.

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## GROWING UP

Jackie Robinson was born in Georgia in 1919. He had four brothers and sisters. In school he played many sports. He was very good, and later played baseball for his job.



*Jackie ran track in college and high school.*

## A GREAT MAN

He was a great player and won many awards for baseball.

### *A Timeline of Jackie Robinson's Life*

Jackie Robinson is born in Cairo, Georgia in 1919.

Jackie goes to college at UCLA (1939).

Jackie plays for the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro Leagues (1945).

Jackie joins the Brooklyn Dodgers and helps break the color barrier (1947).

# THE MAN WITH THE COURAGE TO NOT FIGHT BACK

But Jackie said that he would not fight back. He would be kind to

others. He

played the

game the best

he could

and showed

everyone he

belonged

there.

Robinson's Homeruns While Playing for the Dodgers	
Year	Number of Homeruns
1947	12
1948	12
1949	16
1950	14
1951	19
1952	19
1953	12
1954	15
1955	8
1956	10

# SEGREGATION

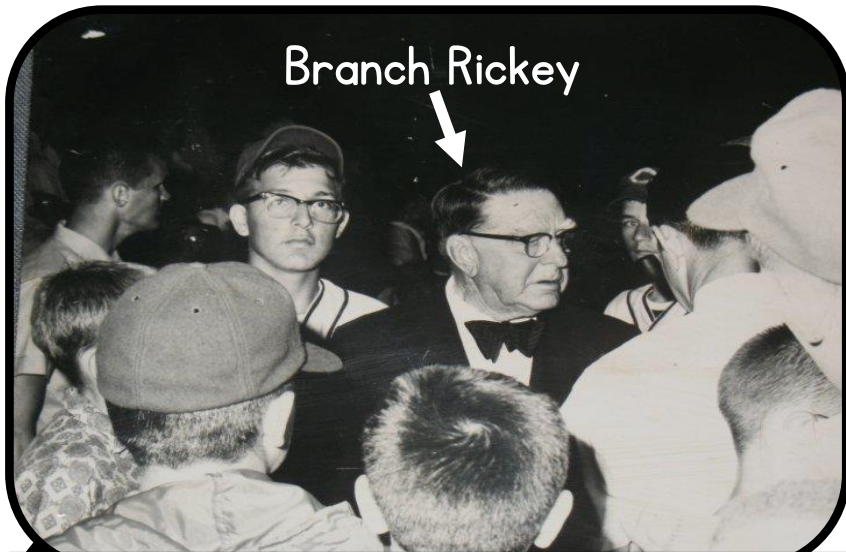
A long time ago, white people and African Americans were kept apart. They had different buses, schools, and even baseball games!



*Even water fountains were segregated.*

## THE MEN WHO CHANGED BASEBALL

One man wanted to change that. He did not think it was right. He wanted whites and African Americans to play in the same



*Branch Rickey was the general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers when he signed Jackie Robinson to play.*

baseball

game! So, he

asked Jackie

to play

baseball for

him. Jackie said yes. It was very

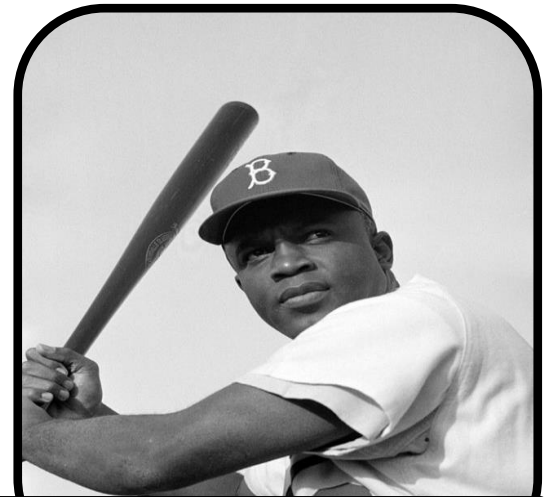
hard for Jackie to be the first

African American player in

baseball. People were not nice to

him. They threw things at Jackie

and called him names.



*Jackie Robinson was number 42.*