

Who Was Jackie Robinson?

by ReadWorks

Jackie Robinson was a baseball player. He was African American. He lived long ago.

As he grew up, some people were mean to him. They did not like Jackie because they did not like the color of his skin. They treated him unfairly.

Some Americans thought it was okay to treat a person unfairly if you didn't like the way he or she looked. That made Jackie angry.

He decided to show he was as good as anyone else. He worked hard to become a good baseball player. He became a *great* baseball player. He played for a major-league team. He was the first African American to do that. Because of his hard work, Jackie was a hero to many people.



Phot Credit: Bob Sandberg - Library of Congress

hero he · ro

Definition

noun

1. a person who has courage and who is a model for others.

People said the firefighter was a hero after he saved someone from the burning building.

2. the main male character of a book or movie.

The hero wins against his enemy at the end of the movie.

Spanish cognate

héroe: The Spanish word *héroe* means hero.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Most fantasy novels end with a spectacular battle between the **hero** and the "bad guy." Of course, the winner is always the hero.
2. Over and over again, giving children cowpox helped keep them safe from smallpox. Dr. Jenner became a world **hero**. Fewer and fewer people got smallpox, and now no one gets it.
3. Only 17 girls around the world were able to compete at such a high level. Lucy still wanted to be among them. Her **heroine** was a girl named Carlita Meroni. A beautiful Floridian surfer with blonde hair and amazing surf style, Carlita had qualified for the Pro Tour at age 19.
4. Every issue of the magazine includes a long interview with Chung and another artist. Chung asks the artist all about their lives. "Who are your **heroes**?" he asks. "How do you find the time to paint?" "Being an artist myself, I'm curious to hear what other artists say about the job," Chung says. "Talking with other artists can be as much fun as making art."
5. "Ms. Belfast just ran up, dove in, and swam over to Kami," said Ann. "It was awesome!" In a moment, both Kami and Ms. Belfast were sitting on the side of the pond, and sirens in the distance got louder. An ambulance showed up, and a rescue crew took it from there, wrapping Kami in a blanket. "I really want to thank Ms. Belfast!" Kami said, in a thankyou note her mom brought to the school the next day. It seems Mars Hill has a **hero**.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What sport did Jackie Robinson play?



baseball



football

2. What did many people not like about Jackie?



how he played baseball



the color of his skin

3. How did Jackie feel when people treated him unfairly?



angry



happy

4. Jackie Robinson was the first African American to do what?



*play for a minor-league
team*



*play for a major-league
team*

5. Why was Jackie a hero to many people?

6. What did you learn from "Who Was Jackie Robinson?"

7. Draw a picture of Jackie working hard to become a great baseball player.