

## Jackie Robinson

Read about Jackie Robinson and then answer the questions below.

Jackie Robinson was the first African American to play baseball in the major leagues. He played as an infielder and outfielder for the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1947 through 1956.

Jack Roosevelt Robinson was born on January 31, 1919, in Georgia. He was a star athlete in football, basketball, track, and baseball in college. From 1942 to 1945 he served in the U.S. Army. After leaving the Army Robinson played baseball for a team that belonged to the Negro American League. At that time only white players were allowed in the major leagues.

The president of the Brooklyn Dodgers was interested in making big-league baseball open to Black players. He knew that the first African American brought into the majors would have to be very special. When Branch Rickey met Robinson, he knew he had found the right person. Robinson first played for the Dodgers in 1947. At the end of the season he was chosen as the best new player in baseball.

Although Robinson played well, things were not always easy. Players and people in the crowd often shouted hateful things at him. Pitchers sometimes threw the ball at him on purpose. But Robinson refused to quit.

Robinson helped the Dodgers win six National League pennants and one World Series title. He retired from baseball in 1957. In 1997 Major League Baseball honored Robinson by retiring his number 42 jersey. No other major league player can wear that number.

(From: <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Jackie-Robinson/390085>)

1. What sports did Jackie Robinson play in college? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Why did Jackie Robinson play for a team in the Negro League after he left the Army?

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3. What type of person was Branch Rickey looking for as the first African-American player in the big leagues? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. How did people react to Jackie Robinson when he played in the big leagues? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How many National League pennants did Jackie Robinson help the Dodgers win? \_\_\_\_\_

6. How many World Series did Jackie Robinson help the Dodgers win? \_\_\_\_\_