

National Pastime in Black and White: The Negro Baseball Leagues, 1867 1955

Programming Guide



Satchel Paige, 1940s, gelatin silver print, 20 x 16 inches;
courtesy Larry Lester

ExhibitsUSA is generously supported by the Houston Endowment Inc., the Meadows Foundation, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Douglas County Bank/Ross and Marianna Beach, ConocoPhillips, Altria Group, Inc., the Don and Sybil Harrington Foundation, Hortense Oldfather, the Society of North American Goldsmiths, the William T. Kemper Foundation, Commerce Bank, trustee, DST Systems, Inc., Maureen and Robert Decherd, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the state arts agencies of Arkansas, Kansas, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas. Additional support for many current exhibitions has been provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Louis and Elizabeth Flarsheim Charitable Foundation, the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, the H&R Block Foundation, the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, the Cooper Foundation, and the Helen Jones Foundation.

***National Pastime in Black and White:
The Negro Baseball Leagues, 1867–1955***
Programming Guide
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Introduction

This programming guide has been developed to provide resources and activity ideas for education curators, docents, and teachers. We hope these materials will provide you with a number of useful tools that will make the exhibition a success for your organization and for your community. This copy is yours to keep. Each venue receives a copy, so please DO NOT pack this guide into the crates. Please contact ExhibitsUSA's Curator of Education, Beth Harris, at 800.473.3872 if you have questions or suggestions regarding the content of this guide. The programming guide is divided into three sections containing the following:

Overview

This section provides a brief description of the exhibition, a materials checklist, and information about how to contact ExhibitsUSA.

Reference Materials

This section provides copies of text materials that are displayed in the gallery along with information about topics related to the exhibition. It includes:

- Text panels
- Narrative labels
- Introductory readings
- Annotated bibliography, videography, and suggested Web sites

Programming Resources

This section provides ideas and activities for your museum's educational and programming needs. It includes the following resources:

- Speaker list
- Speaker resources
- Educational activities
- Programming suggestions
- Distributor contacts

Teacher/Docent Resources

This section provides resources, including lesson plans, for teachers whose classes will visit the exhibition. It also includes a slide show of selected artwork in the exhibition. This resource can be used by teachers, docents preparing to give tours, or for public programming. It includes:

- Slide show script
- Pre- and post-visit lesson plans
- Glossary
- Historical timeline
- Gallery activities

Exhibition Description

The National Pastime in Black and White: The Negro Baseball Leagues, 1867–1955 consists of eighty-one items, including documentary photographs and rare artifacts, and is curated by David Conrads, a freelance writer knowledgeable on the subject of the Negro Leagues.

For decades, baseball was the national pastime in the United States. As one of this country's central institutions, baseball has long mirrored the complex and generally painful issue of race in the United States. But baseball was actually a forerunner in the realm of race relations, as the integration of the major leagues predated all the early civil rights landmarks. The circumstances that led to the integration of the major leagues, and society as a whole, are hard to imagine separated from the proving ground of the Negro Leagues.

Despite racial segregation and discrimination that rapidly spread due to the Jim Crow laws and major league sports owners' "gentlemen's agreement," the Negro baseball leagues became a popular institution in itself that opened a door for hundreds of African American athletes. By the turn of the century, there were five known professional black teams, and more than sixty by 1910. Although racial bias kept blacks out of the cultural mainstream, it could not keep them from participating zealously in what rapidly became our national pastime.

Terms such as *Negro* are not used in a pejorative manner in the interpretative materials with the exhibition. In the context of the early twentieth century, they reflect the vernacular of the time. Today the terms *Negro Leagues* or *Negro baseball leagues* is used loosely. They refer to the organized leagues of all-black teams, which came into existence after the 1920. But the term is frequently used in connection with any black team, whether or not it was affiliated with one of the actual leagues. Often the term *black baseball* is used when discussing the broad culture of African Americans who were forced to play the game within the walls of segregation.

After decades of neglect, there has been a recent resurgence of interest in the Negro Leagues. *The National Pastime in Black and White: The Negro Baseball Leagues, 1867–1955* will appeal to baseball fans and museum visitors interested in this important chapter of American history

Educational Materials Checklist

Several support materials will be traveling with the exhibition. Should any of these materials be missing or fail to arrive, please call ExhibitsUSA's Curator of Education, Beth Harris, at 800.473.3872 and we will locate or replace the missing items as soon as possible. Please repack these items in the crates before you send the exhibition to the next venue.

Books: General Histories

Heaphy, Leslie A. *The Negro Leagues, 1869–1960*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2003.

Lester, Larry, and Joe Black. *Black Baseball's National Showcase: The East-West All Star Game, 1933–1953*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2002.

Riley, James A. *The Biographical Encyclopedia of the Negro Baseball Leagues*. New York: Carroll & Graf, 1994.

Books: Autobiographies and Biographies

Cottrell, Robert Charles. *The Best Pitcher in Baseball: The Life of Rube Foster, Negro League Giant*. New York: New York University Press, 2001.

O'Neil, Buck, et al. *I Was Right On Time: My Journey from the Negro Leagues to the Majors*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996.

Books: Oral Histories

Kelley, Brent. *Voices from the Negro Leagues: Conversations with 52 Baseball Standouts*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1998.

Books: Children (Ages 5–8)

Curtis, Gavin. *The Bat Boy & His Violin*. New York: Aladdin, 1998.

Golenbock, Peter. *Teammates*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1993.

Books: Children (Ages 9–12)

“Negro League Baseball.” *Footsteps: African American History* 2, no. 2 (March/April 2000).

Gutman, Dan. *Jackie and Me*. New York: Avon, 2001.

McKissack, Patricia, and Frederick McKissack. *Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues*. 2nd ed. New York: Scholastic, 1998.

Myers, Walter D. *Journal of Bidly Owens: The Negro Leagues*. New York: Scholastic, 2001.

Slote, Alfred. *Finding Buck McHenry*. New York: Harper Collins, 1991.

Books: Young Adult

Gilbert, Thomas W. *Baseball and the Color Line*. New York: Scholastic, 1995.

Riley, James A. *The Negro Leagues*. New York: Chelsea House, 1997.

Videos

There Was Always Sun Shining Someplace: Life in the Negro Baseball Leagues. 58 min. Refocus Films, 1984. Videocassette.

Baseball: The Fifth Inning, Shadow Ball (1930–1940). Directed by Ken Burns. 126 min. PBS Home Video, 1994. Videocassette.

How to Contact ExhibitsUSA

If you have any questions or comments, ExhibitsUSA is just a phone call away. You can reach us by telephone at 800.473.3872 or by e-mail at the addresses listed below. For questions about specific topics, consult the following list.

<u>If you have questions about...</u>	<u>Contact...</u>
Scheduling an exhibition, exhibition contracts, general questions, problems, or requests	Nicole Forster Marketing Coordinator nicole@eusa.org
Shipping, installation, or packing	Angelette Hart Registrar angelette@eusa.org
Educational materials, program resources, or financial support for education programs	Beth Harris Curator of Education beth@eusa.org
Proposing an exhibition	Jennifer Cahn, Ph.D. Curator of Exhibitions jennifer@eusa.org

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Text Panels

The National Pastime in Black and White: The Negro Baseball Leagues, 1867–1955

“Negro baseball was at once heroic and tawdry, a gladsome thing and a blot on America’s conscience.”

Robert Peterson, author
Only the Ball Was White

When Jackie Robinson stepped onto Ebbets Field on April 15, 1947, as a member of the Brooklyn Dodgers, two generations of apartheid in major league baseball ended. Not since the late 1880s had a player with any noticeable trace of African ancestry appeared with a major league team. Robinson’s historic debut set the stage for the slow but certain integration of all teams in organized baseball (as the network of major and minor leagues has long been called).

Baseball in black America did not succumb to the systematic suppression of African Americans during the long Jim Crow years of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Black players formed their own teams and eventually their own leagues. They played the game with as much vigor and skill as their white counterparts, though generally under incomparably worse conditions. They kept the game alive among players and spectators, and they paved the way for Robinson. In their heyday, the Negro baseball leagues were among the largest black-dominated business enterprises in the country.

Today the term *Negro Leagues* is used loosely. It refers to the organized leagues of all-black teams, which came into existence after 1920. But the term is frequently used in connection with any black team, whether or not it was affiliated with one of the actual leagues. Often the term *black baseball* is used when discussing the broad culture of African Americans who were forced to play the game within the walls of segregation.

“It’s our game—the American game,” poet Walt Whitman declared of baseball in 1846. For decades, baseball was truly the national pastime. As one of this country’s central institutions, baseball has long mirrored the complex and generally painful issue of race in the United States. But baseball was actually a forerunner in the realm of race relations, as the integration of the major leagues predated all the early Civil Rights landmarks. The circumstances that led up to the integration of the major leagues, and society as a whole, are hard to imagine separated from the proving ground of the Negro Leagues.

Black Baseball Before 1920: “The Gentlemen’s Agreement”

In 1867 the Philadelphia Pythians, an all-black team, applied to join the National Association of Base Ball Players, the sport’s governing body. The nominating committee, however, voted “unanimously. . . against the admission of any club which may be composed of one or more colored persons.”

With those words, a wall keeping blacks out of organized baseball was erected and the next thirty years were spent sealing up the cracks. Future leagues did not have a written regulation barring blacks from playing, but their “gentlemen’s agreement” proved to be as binding as any law. As late as the 1940s, the commissioner and others in organized baseball denied the existence of any prohibition against African Americans even as they worked vehemently to uphold the status quo.

Since the injunction applied only to black teams applying for admission to the league, a few individual black players managed to play on predominantly white teams in the early days of the game. But as the nineteenth century drew to a close, attitudes toward race relations hardened and the few black players in organized baseball found their situation more and more precarious. Threats of violence from white fans became increasingly common and, with added pressure from white teammates, the last black player was forced out of organized baseball in 1898.

African Americans had long realized that they would have to form their own teams if they wanted to play the game. In 1885, waiters at the Argyle Hotel, a resort in Babylon, New York, formed the first all-black salaried team. By the turn of the century there were five known professional black teams, and more than sixty by 1910. Although racial bias kept blacks out of the cultural mainstream, it could not keep them from participating zealously in what was rapidly becoming the national pastime.

1920s: The Formation of the First Negro Leagues

Attempts to form independent black baseball teams into viable leagues date to as early as the mid-1870s. By the first two decades of the twentieth century, black professional baseball teams proliferated across the country.

Rube Foster, former pitcher and owner of the Chicago American Giants, was one of those who believed fervently in the need to form all-black teams into leagues. Particularly in the East, black baseball was dominated financially by white booking agents who controlled access to ballparks. In addition to securing its independence, Foster believed that an organized league that emulated the white major leagues—with standard contracts, regulations, playing schedules, rules of conduct, and the like—would further the larger cause of integrating the major leagues.

Foster invited several owners of black teams in the Midwest, along with a few sportswriters from prominent black newspapers, to meet in Kansas City, Missouri, on February 13, 1920. The result was the formation of the Negro National League, which consisted of eight teams in its first season and became the first viable league of all-black baseball teams. The Eastern Colored League was formed in 1923 as a rival to the Negro National League.

The Negro National League represented an enormous step forward for black baseball, and Rube Foster was responsible for most of its success. He provided the leadership, business acumen, and much of the financial stability earlier leagues lacked. He frequently loaned money to players, invested in teams, and even sent a few of his own best players to other franchises in order to maintain a competitive balance among the teams. It is for good reason that Foster is often called the “Father of Black Baseball.”

1930s: The Depression and New Beginnings

African Americans felt the effects of a worsening economy even before the stock market crash of 1929. So, too, the fragile structure of the Negro Leagues was affected by the deteriorating economy several years prior to the onslaught of the Great Depression.

By 1929, poor attendance, scheduling problems, financial insecurity, shifting franchises, and other difficulties had taken a devastating toll on the Negro Leagues. Since the fate of the leagues rested on the economically oppressed black population, these problems were inherent in the enterprise. Rube Foster, the guiding light of black baseball, had been able to mitigate these problems to some extent by his business savvy, as well as the sheer force of his energy and will. When Foster was hospitalized for mental problems in 1926, the Negro National League began to weaken with the absence of one of its most devoted supporters. By the time he died in 1930, economic forces had overwhelmed the Negro National League, which disbanded after the 1930 season. The Eastern Colored League, always a more precarious organization, had dissolved two years before.

Some teams survived the Depression by going back to their roots as barnstorming teams, traveling the country and playing exhibition games anywhere they could. It wasn't long before all-black leagues began to form again. In 1933, six teams, led by Gus Greenlee of the Pittsburgh Crawfords, formed the Negro National League, a new league with an old name. That same year Greenlee inaugurated the East-West All-Star Game—which became an annual event—and the most popular and profitable venture in black baseball. In 1937, the Negro American League was formed, made up of teams from the Midwest, many of them former members of the first Negro National League. As the Depression wound down and the economy of the country began to revive, the seeds of black baseball's future prosperity were planted.

1940s: The Heyday of the Negro Leagues

Ironies abound in the history of black baseball. One of them is that the World War II years, so disruptive to almost every other facet of American life, proved to be a time of prosperity for the Negro Leagues. By the 1940s, the decades-long migration of blacks from the South had swelled the black populations of northern industrial cities, where most black baseball teams played. Due to the wartime economy, more African Americans were working than before and had more money to spend on leisure activities. A dramatic rise in attendance at Negro League games stabilized franchises and improved players' salaries. The East-West All-Star Game, black baseball's national showcase, drew as many as fifty thousand spectators to Chicago's Comiskey Park annually. The Negro World Series, which had not been played since 1927, was revived in 1942.

But the war effort also spurred integration and, ultimately, the demise of the Negro Leagues. Slowly, the pressure to end America's apartheid was building. As the population of African Americans in the North grew, so did their political clout. The war itself, waged to free Europe from Nazi aggression, underscored the contradiction between the lofty principles of American democracy and the nation's actual racial practices.

Pressure for baseball to end its "gentlemen's agreement" was also growing relentlessly. The black press, along with some influential white sportswriters, led the charge and stepped up the call to integrate organized baseball. The death in 1944 of commissioner Kennesaw Mountain Landis, a longtime defender of the racial status quo, removed a major obstacle on the road to integration. Jackie Robinson's signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1945 electrified the nation, proving to be the first tangible step toward the integration of organized baseball. It was also the first step in the eventual demise of the Negro Leagues.

1947–1955: After Jackie Robinson

After Jackie Robinson broke the color line in 1947, the Negro baseball leagues started a rapid decline. The eyes of the nation, including non-baseball fans, were on Robinson. Black baseball aficionados became Brooklyn Dodger fans. While black teams in the West fared slightly better, Negro league teams in the East were the first to feel the impact. By the end of the 1948 season, the entire Negro National League folded.

By the late 1940s, after some sixty years of segregation, it was no longer a novelty to see a black player on a major league field. Still, the complete integration of organized baseball was slow and uneven. As late as 1953, only six major league teams, mostly in the National League, fielded black players. When Robinson retired in 1957, three major league teams remained all-white. Not until 1959, twelve years after Robinson's historic debut, did all sixteen major league teams employ at least one black player.

As integration in organized baseball progressed, attendance at Negro league games declined, as did the quality of play on the field. Some teams survived, in part, by training young black players and selling them to major league organizations. Gradually the top African American athletes were signed directly by major league teams, bypassing the Negro Leagues altogether, further lowering the quality of play. The Negro American League was down to ten teams in 1950, and only four teams were left by 1953. By this time, the Negro American was a league in name only, and the very concept of all-black teams was becoming more and more obsolete every year. Few took notice in 1961 when the remaining team owners finally faced reality and quietly disbanded. The Indianapolis Clowns, the last vestige of segregated baseball, continued to play exhibition games into the early 1970s. But by the 1960s, the Negro Leagues and the hundreds of athletes who played in them had fallen into near total obscurity.

Stars of Black Baseball

As the Civil Rights movement progressed in the United States and African Americans made strides toward equality, the Negro baseball leagues became an anomaly. Even before the last remaining league disbanded in 1961, black baseball had become hopelessly passé. Few mourned its passing, and by the late 1960s the Negro baseball leagues had all but vanished from the collective consciousness of the nation.

After years of neglect, the Negro Leagues have been rediscovered. Robert Peterson published his landmark study on the subject, *Only the Ball Was White*, in 1970. Since then, scores of books and documentary films on every aspect of black baseball have been released. In 1970, the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, established a special committee to select deserving players from the Negro Leagues for induction. The following year, Satchel Paige became the first former Negro Leaguer inducted into the Hall of Fame. By 2003, the game's highest honor had been bestowed upon eighteen former Negro League players. In 1991, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum was established in Kansas City, Missouri. The curious result of this renaissance is that there is probably a greater awareness of black baseball today than there was when the Negro Leagues flourished in the first half of the twentieth century.

Thousands of African Americans played professional and semiprofessional baseball behind the color line. It is estimated that about 2,500 played in one of the several organized Negro Leagues. Hundreds of others played on independent clubs, many of them full-time, professional teams.

Space limitation does not allow a display of all of the great players of the Negro Leagues. This section, however, highlights the careers of a handful of the more notable stars of black baseball, including twelve of the eighteen Negro League-era players who have been inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Labels

Please see Registrar's packet for suggested display order.

Findlay, Ohio, ball club

c. 1894

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The independent team from Findlay, Ohio, included two black players on its otherwise all-white roster. As late as 1885, there were an estimated sixty African American players on minor league teams. Pictured here are Grant "Homerun" Johnson (middle row, far left) and Bud Fowler (middle row, far right), two of the great early black baseball players.

Keokuk, Iowa, ball club, Western League

1885

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Bud Fowler (top row, center; 1858–1913) is recognized as the first black professional baseball player. He began his career in 1878, one year after the first minor league was organized, and he played for numerous minor league teams until 1899. In the early days of the game, African American players were not barred from the predominantly white leagues. Despite his skills, Fowler never stayed with any one team very long, most likely due to increasingly hostile racial attitudes. He played for as many as three different teams in a single season.

Syracuse Stars

1889

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Moses Fleetwood Walker (top row, far right; 1857–1924) played catcher, outfield, and first base with several minor league teams during his career from 1883 to 1889. He became the first black player in the major leagues when he played in 1884 with the Toledo, Ohio, Blue Stockings of the American Association. He was generally accepted by his teammates and spectators, except in the South. Three years later, playing with the Newark, New Jersey, team of the International League, Walker and pitcher George Stovey formed the first black battery. Cap Anson, the superstar of the era, refused to play against them, setting the stage for the exclusion of African American players from organized baseball.

Page Fence Giants, Adrian, Michigan

1895

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

By 1890, the last African American players had been forced out of the white baseball leagues. In 1894 Bud Fowler, a highly skilled and versatile player, formed an all-black team sponsored by the Page Woven Wire Fence Company, of Adrian, Michigan. Grant “Homerun” Johnson (fourth from right) was the team captain, a star shortstop and power hitter in the deadball era. “Deadball era” describes a time early in the twentieth century when baseballs were made with a soft, rubber core and were hard to hit long distances. Homeruns hit over the outfield fence were rare during the deadball era. Pictured on the far left is second baseman Charlie Grant, one of the first great black ballplayers.

Page Woven Wire Fence Company train car

c. 1895

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Traveling through the Midwest in a custom-built Pullman railroad car, complete with porters and a cook, the Page Fence Giants were the prototype of the barnstorming black baseball team. The team would parade to the ballpark or ride bicycles while wearing firemen’s hats. In isolated, rural towns in the days before television, the arrival of a traveling team often represented the biggest entertainment event of the year.

St. Cloud, Minnesota, semipro ball club

c. 1903

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Pitcher George Wilson, shown here with the St. Cloud semipro team, played for ten years with the Page Fence Giants, the Chicago-based Columbia Giants, and the Chicago Union Giants.

Royal Poinciana Winter League Club of Palm Beach, Florida

1909

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Many of the wealthiest white families in America, as well as hundreds of black workers, flocked to the Royal Poinciana and the Breakers hotels in Palm Beach, Florida, during the winter months. For the entertainment of its clientele, the two hotels fielded all-Black baseball teams from the ranks of their seasonal workers.

Philadelphia Giants

1906

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The Philadelphia Giants were arguably the best black baseball team in the early twentieth century. Founded by player-manager Sol White (top row, fourth from left) and Walter Schlichter (middle row, center), owner of the *Philadelphia Item* newspaper, the 1906 team also had the services of Grant “Homerun” Johnson and Charlie Grant (middle row, first and second from left, respectively), as well as Andrew “Rube” Foster (middle, second from right), a great pitcher who went on to become the single most important figure in black baseball.

All Nations team

c. 1912

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The All Nations team was formed in 1912 by J. L. Wilkinson, a white businessman and former ballplayer from Kansas City, Missouri, who also managed the team. The roster included players of diverse ethnic groups, including African Americans, Hawaiians, Japanese, Cubans, Indians, Filipinos, and Chinese. The All Nations traveled the Midwest in its own custom-made Pullman coach, accompanied by a group of wrestlers and a musical band, which provided entertainment before the games.

Rube Foster

c. 1920

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Andrew “Rube” Foster (1879–1930) is often called the Father of Black Baseball. A native of Texas, Foster began his baseball career as a teenager and became one of the dominant pitchers in black baseball in the early 1900s. He later became a playing manager, then owner and manager of the Chicago American Giants. An astute administrator and skilled field manager, Foster built the American Giants into a dynasty. His longtime goal and greatest achievement, however, was realized in 1920. That year he guided the formation of the Negro National League, the first viable league of all-black baseball teams. He served as president of the league until 1926, when he became mentally incapacitated. He died four years later in a state mental institution in Kankakee, Illinois. Foster was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1981 in recognition of his overall contribution to the game.

Rube Foster with the Chicago American Giants

1918

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Andrew “Rube” Foster is best remembered today as the owner and manager of the Chicago American Giants, and as the founder and guiding light of the Negro National League. Foster was also one of the great pitchers of the early twentieth century. He played for a number of different teams, including the Cuban X Giants, the Leland Giants, and his own Chicago American Giants. In 1905, while playing for the Philadelphia Giants, he went head-to-head in a post-season exhibition game against Rube Waddell, the great left-handed pitching star of the white Philadelphia Athletics. Foster won the game, 5–2, and acquired the nickname that stuck with him for the rest of his life.

J. L. Wilkinson

N.d.

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

James Leslie Wilkinson (1878–1964), a white businessman, was a prominent figure in black baseball for many years. He formed the All Nations, a mixed-race traveling team, in 1912. In 1920, he started the Kansas City Monarchs, charter member of the Negro National League and one of the most celebrated teams in black baseball. Wilkinson also pioneered night baseball when he hired a company in Omaha, Nebraska, to design and build a portable lighting system. To finance the deal, Wilkinson sold a partial interest in the Monarchs to Tom Baird, a white booking agent and business associate in Kansas City. Wilkinson sold Baird his remaining interest in the team in the late 1940s.

Ed Bolden

N.d.

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Though Ed Bolden (1882–1950) worked for most of his adult life in the post office in Philadelphia, he also owned two of the best-known Negro League teams in that city: the Philadelphia Stars and the Hilldale club of Darby, Pennsylvania. (Though often referred to as the Hilldale Giants, the team had no official nickname.) Bolden was also the driving force behind the formation of the Eastern Colored League. Organized in 1923, the ECL was made up of teams from the East Coast and was formed as a rival to Rube Foster’s Negro National League.

Indianapolis ABCs

1920

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The Indianapolis ABCs was started in 1913 and sponsored, briefly, by the American Brewing Company. The team was a charter member of the Negro National League, which was organized in 1920. This edition of the ABCs boasts many outstanding players, including Ben Taylor (top row, third from left); Biz Mackey (top row, second from right) one of the greatest catchers in black baseball; and Oscar Charleston (bottom row, second from left), the National Baseball Hall of Fame slugger, outfielder, and manager. C. I. Taylor (seated in the middle), brother of Ben Taylor, and Rube Foster were considered to be the two best managers of the era.

Kansas City Monarchs

1924

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Formed in 1920 by J. L. Wilkinson, the Kansas City Monarchs was one of the best-known and most successful black baseball teams. The Monarchs won fourteen league titles between 1920 and 1955, and made three appearances in the Negro World Series. In the late 1940s and 1950s, seventeen players went from the Monarchs to major league organizations, including Jackie Robinson, Satchel Paige, and Ernie Banks.

First Colored World Series, Kansas City Monarchs vs. Hilldale

1924

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

The first Colored World Series (later known as the Negro World Series) was played in 1924 between the championship teams from the rival Negro National League and the Eastern Colored League. Since few African American communities had the financial means to support a series of home games, the Negro World Series was generally played in several different cities. This photograph was taken during pregame ceremonies for game number five, played at Muehlebach Park in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 11. The fifth and sixth games of the series were also played in Kansas City. The Monarchs beat Hilldale in the seventh and deciding game, which was played in Chicago.

Detroit Stars

1923

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Many black semipro and league games featured other entertainment as an added attraction. This photograph, taken in Indianapolis before a game between the Indianapolis ABCs and the Detroit Stars, shows members of a wrestling team and a marching band who participated in the afternoon's events.

St. Louis Stars

1928

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Among the noteworthy members of the 1928 St. Louis Stars: "Candy Jim" Taylor (top row, far left), manager and brother of C. I. and Ben Taylor; George "Mule" Suttles (top row, fourth from right), a great power hitter; Willie Wells (top row, third from right), National Baseball Hall of Fame shortstop; and James "Cool Papa" Bell (seated, third from left), reputed to be the fastest man ever to play baseball.

Chicago American Giants

1927

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Portable lighting trucks of the Kansas City Monarchs

c. 1930

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The Kansas City Monarchs survived the Depression by traveling the hinterlands of the West and Midwest, from Texas to the Dakotas and into southern Canada, playing baseball at night. The portable lighting system was the brainchild of the Monarchs' owner, J. L. Wilkinson. At a cost of between fifty and one hundred thousand dollars, the scheme was a tremendous financial risk at the time, but proved to be the team's salvation. Wilkinson's invention did much to hasten the advent of night baseball in the major leagues.

Portable light truck, extended for operation

c. 1930

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The Kansas City Monarchs' lighting rig was transported in six flatbed trucks. The lights were mounted on telescoping poles. Each pole supported six floodlights, which were elevated to about fifty feet above the playing field. Electricity was provided by a 100-kilowatt generator, powered by a 250-horsepower motor the size of a car. The whole system took twelve men two hours to assemble and produced about 200,000 watts of illumination.

Night baseball

c. 1930

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Playing under the Monarchs' portable lighting system was far from ideal. The noise from the generator set up in center field made it hard to hear, and fly balls disappearing above the level of the lights were hard to catch. But in the early 1930s, night baseball was a startling innovation and many spectators flocked to the Monarchs' games just to see the lights. The first major league night game was not played until 1935.

New York Black Yankees

1934

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, the great tap dancer and entertainer, was also a great baseball fan and often performed before Negro League games. Robinson (who does not appear in this photograph) formed the New York Black Yankees in 1932 and was part-owner of the team for many years.

Detroit Cubs

1935

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The Detroit Cubs, formed in 1928, was one of the most popular semipro teams in that city during the 1930s. Like most semipro teams, they played games locally on weekends and barnstormed in the surrounding region when the players' work schedules allowed.

Pittsburgh Crawfords and team bus in front of Greenlee Field

1936

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The Pittsburgh Crawfords was one of the most celebrated teams in the history of baseball. When Gus Greenlee, a prominent businessman and numbers banker in the black community of Pittsburgh, acquired the Crawfords, he used his wealth to stock the team with top talent. Between 1932 and 1936, the Crawfords were arguably the best team in black baseball and one of the greatest baseball teams in history. The 1936 roster included five future members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, the most ever assembled on a single team. They were: playing manager Oscar Charleston (far left), Cool Papa Bell and Judy Johnson (eighth and ninth from right, respectively), Josh Gibson (fifth from right) and Satchel Paige (third from right). The team is pictured at the entrance to Greenlee Field. Built by Gus Greenlee in 1932, it was one of only two black-owned ballparks in the country.

House of David infield

1930s

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The House of David was a small religious colony founded in 1903 in Benton Harbor, Michigan. A tremendously enterprising group, the colony developed many successful business ventures and contributed greatly to the surrounding agricultural community. The House of David is best remembered for its baseball teams, which traveled the country and frequently played against black semipro and Negro League teams. In the late 1930s, the House of David went on barnstorming tours with the Kansas City Monarchs and Satchel Paige's All Stars. According to a tenet of their faith, members of the colony were not allowed to shave or cut their hair.

Homestead Grays

1931

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The Homestead Grays, based in a steel mill town outside of Pittsburgh, was one of the best-known and longest-lived black baseball teams. The Grays operated from 1912 until 1950 and dominated black baseball in the late 1930s and 1940s. Notable on the 1931 roster were owner Cumberland Posey (standing, far left); catcher Josh Gibson (standing, fourth from right); outfielder Oscar Charleston (standing, second from right); hitter extraordinaire Jud Wilson (kneeling, third from left); and pitcher-catcher Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe (kneeling, third from right).

Homestead Grays vs. Nashville Elite Giants at Greenlee Field

1933

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Neil Robinson at bat, East-West All-Star Game

1939

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The East-West All-Star Game was started in 1933, the same year as its major league counterpart, and was played annually at Comiskey Park in Chicago. Due to terrible economic conditions in the 1930s and political factors within the Negro Leagues, no Negro World Series was played between 1928 and 1941. As a result, the East-West Game was the premier event in black baseball and became for a time the single most important black sporting event in the country. By the mid-1940s, attendance at the game had grown to fifty thousand. Major league owners found it hard to ignore the huge crowds of black customers, as seen in this photograph, that filled the stadium year after year. The success of the East-West Game contributed significantly to the integration of the major leagues.

Negro League players with the Veracruz Blues, Mexican league

c. 1940

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Latin America—with its competitive salaries, high quality of play, legions of baseball fans, relaxed racial attitudes, and great weather—was a powerful magnet for African American ballplayers. Many supplemented their incomes by playing winter ball in Cuba, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, and other locales. The players in this photograph opted to jump their Negro League contracts and play with the Veracruz Blues in the Mexican League during the regular baseball season. The uniformed players here include Josh Gibson (second from left), who abandoned the Homestead Grays for the 1940 and 1941 seasons, and future National Baseball Hall of Famer Ray Dandridge (third from left), one of the greatest third basemen ever to play the game.

Double Duty Radcliffe tags out Josh Gibson

1944

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Ted “Double Duty” Radcliffe (1905–1983), a pitcher, catcher, and manager, was one of the most versatile and colorful players of the Negro League era. In 1934, while playing for the Pittsburgh Crawfords, he caught Satchel Paige in the first game of a doubleheader

at Yankee Stadium, then pitched and won the second game. Damon Runyon, the famed newspaper man, witnessed the spectacle and dubbed Radcliffe with one of the most enduring nicknames in black baseball.

Satchel Paige and Dizzy Dean

1942

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Satchel Paige faced many major league hitters, even before he himself went to the major leagues in 1948. All-star pitcher Dizzy Dean, who faced Satchel Paige in more than thirty barnstorming duels, was awed by Paige's abilities. Writing in his inimitable style for his column in a Chicago newspaper, Dean had this to say about Paige: "I know who's the best pitcher I've ever seen and it's old Satchel Paige, that lanky colored boy. . . . [M]y fastball looks like a change of pace alongside that little pistol bullet old Satchel shoots up to the plate."

Satchel Paige All-Stars

1946

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Satchel Paige, black baseball's biggest star and gate attraction, often assembled an all-star team to barnstorm against all-white major league teams in the off-season. By the 1940s, Bob Feller had replaced Dizzy Dean as the front man for the white team. These exhibition tours were enormously popular as well as lucrative. The black teams won often enough that baseball commissioner Kennesaw Mountain Landis banned the practice. Paige's 1946 team included pitcher and future National Baseball Hall of Famer Hilton Smith (far left) and Buck O'Neil (fourth from right). Satchel Paige is seen at right in the doorway of the airplane, with his valet.

Sportswriters Sam Lacy and Wendell Smith

1940s

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Sportswriters for the weekly black newspapers played an important role in segregated baseball. They not only kept their far-flung readership informed of the progress of black teams and players, but many also used their columns as a bully pulpit to rail against racial injustice in many forms. They were instrumental in maintaining pressure on organized baseball to open its doors to African American players and did much to hasten the end of baseball apartheid. Sam Lacy (far left) was a writer and editor for the *Baltimore Afro-American* for over fifty years. Wendell Smith (far right), one of the best-known black

sportswriters of his day, worked for several prominent papers. Dan Bankhead (middle), a star pitcher for several Negro Leagues teams, joined the Brooklyn Dodgers late in the 1947 season, becoming the first black pitcher in the major leagues.

Effa Manley at work in the office of the Newark Eagles

c. 1940

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Effa Manley (1900–1981) was the wife of Abe Manley, a colorful sportsman and numbers banker who owned the Newark, New Jersey, Eagles. Effa, a baseball fan with good business sense, served as the business manager of the team and became a high-profile force in black baseball. She took complete control of the Eagles after her husband's death in 1946. When the major leagues integrated and teams began signing players from the Negro Leagues, Effa Manley led the fight for just financial compensation.

“Save Negro Baseball”

1943

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

In 1943, to cut down on gasoline consumption during World War II, the Office of Defense Transportation (ODT) ordered all baseball teams to travel by rail. For the Negro Leagues, which were far flung in the West and had relied on buses since the 1920s, this represented a potentially devastating expense. Here, Chester Franklin (center), publisher of the *Kansas City Call*, a leading weekly black newspaper, flanked by Tom Baird (left) and J. L. Wilkinson, co-owners of the Kansas City Monarchs, look over petitions sent to national and local readers of the newspaper. The petition drive was successful and the ODT granted the Negro Leagues an exemption.

Kansas City Monarchs, with rookie Jackie Robinson

1945

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

In 1945, many of the Kansas City Monarchs' regulars were serving in the military and the team roster was filled out with new players. Among the new recruits was Jackie Robinson (kneeling, third from left), who had made a name for himself several years before as an All-American football player at the University of California, Los Angeles. Robinson had never played on a segregated team before joining the Monarchs. Two years later, he became the first black player in the modern major leagues and the most historically significant player in baseball history.

Newark Eagles

1946

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The Newark Eagles was one of the best teams in black baseball in the mid-1940s, before the integration of the major leagues. In 1946, the Eagles defeated the Kansas City Monarchs to win the Negro World Series. The championship team included future major leaguers Monte Irvin (top row, far left) and Larry Doby (top row, far right), and star pitcher Leon Day (bottom row, far right). All three players are now in the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Also on the team was Raleigh “Biz” Mackey (front row, third from right), one of the era’s great catchers and mentor to Roy Campanella, the major leagues’ first black catcher.

Memphis Red Sox, with Lionel Hampton

1948

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Lionel Hampton (front row center, holding bat), the bandleader, vibraphonist, and baseball fan, was a frequent spectator at Negro League games. He became an honorary member of the Kansas City Monarchs and occasionally coached at first base.

Birmingham Black Barons, with Willie Mays

1948

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The Birmingham, Alabama, Black Barons celebrate their victory over the Kansas City Monarchs in the opening game of the 1948 Negro American League playoff series. Seventeen-year-old rookie Willie Mays (see arrow) drove in the winning run in the eleventh inning. Mays played with the Black Barons until he was signed by the New York Giants during the 1950 season. The Negro baseball leagues went into quick decline after the color line was broken in 1947. Mays, along with Hank Aaron and Ernie Banks, was one of the last great African American baseball players to go to the majors by way of the Negro Leagues. As integration took hold, the best black players went straight to major league organizations, bypassing the Negro Leagues altogether.

Negro League umpires flanked by Buck O'Neil and Oscar Charleston

1949

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Buck O'Neil (far left), manager of the East team, and Oscar Charleston (far right), manager of the West, exchange lineup cards before the 1949 East-West All-Star Game. Many umpires who worked Negro Leagues games were former players. Frank Duncan (umpire on far right) was a longtime catcher and manager, mostly for the Kansas City Monarchs.

Toni Stone

1954

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Toni Stone (1931–) became the first woman to play in the Negro Leagues when she joined the Indianapolis Clowns in 1953. She moved to the Kansas City Monarchs the next year, when this photograph was taken, playing second base. A good all-around athlete, Stone was inducted into the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame in East Meadow, New York, in 1993.

King Tut, Oscar Charleston, and Connie Morgan

1954

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Clowning was always a part of black baseball, though a very small part, and was even a presence for a time in the major leagues. In an effort to boost their dwindling attendance, the Indianapolis Clowns enlisted the services of Toni Stone in 1953. The next year they signed nineteen-year-old Connie Morgan to play second base and serve as a gate attraction. Morgan was joined on the 1945 Clowns by pitcher Mamie "Peanut" Johnson, who played for one season. All three women acquitted themselves well on the field, but the quality of play in the Negro Leagues as a whole had diminished dramatically since the integration of the major leagues.

Meeting of Negro Leagues officials

1955

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

By 1955, integration in the major leagues was a well-established fact and the Negro Leagues were all but dead. Indeed, the Negro American League consisted of nothing more than four independent teams and was a league in name only. Nevertheless, a small handful of partisans clung to the belief that black baseball still had a purpose and could coexist with integrated organized baseball. This meeting of Negro League officials included (left to right): W. S. Martin, secretary and co-owner of the Memphis Red Sox; Ted Rasberry, vice president and owner of the Detroit Stars and Kansas City Monarchs; J. B. Martin, president and owner of the Chicago American Giants; and B. B. Martin, treasurer and co-owner of the Memphis Red Sox. The Martins were brothers, all of them medical professionals and members of a prominent Memphis family.

Buck O'Neil with the Chicago Cubs

1960s

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

When black baseball died, vast amounts of talent and knowledge died with it, as only a very small number of players and managers found a place in the integrated major leagues. John "Buck" O'Neil (1911–), longtime first baseman and, later, manager of the Kansas City Monarchs, was one of the few who stayed in baseball. O'Neil joined the Chicago Cubs as a scout in 1956 and spent some thirty years with that organization. In 1962, the Cubs made him the first African American coach in the major leagues. He has held a part-time scouting position with the Kansas City Royals since retiring from the Cubs in the late 1980s. He has been a tireless spokesman for the Negro Leagues in recent years, as a member of the Veterans Committee of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and chairman of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City.

Buck Leonard at his induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame

1972

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The Negro Leagues died with little fanfare and fell into near total obscurity until the early 1970s. In 1971, a special committee was formed to recommend former Negro League players for induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, the game's highest honor. Satchel Paige was the first inductee. Buck Leonard (second from right) was inducted the following year, along with (from left) catcher Yogi Berra and pitchers Lefty Gomez, Sandy Koufax, and Early Wynn. Josh Gibson was also inducted, posthumously, in 1972.

John Henry Lloyd

N.d.

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

John Henry Lloyd (1884–1965) was the greatest African American shortstop of his day and one of the best ballplayers of any race in the first two decades of the twentieth century. Except for Honus Wagner, the great Pittsburgh Pirates shortstop, Lloyd had no other rival at that position. In response to a question by radio announcer Graham McNamee, Babe Ruth stated that Lloyd was his choice as the greatest baseball player of all time.

Lloyd grew up in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and was discovered on the sandlots of Jacksonville, Florida, by the New York-based Cuban X Giants. He played for many teams, mostly in the East, during his 26-year career. In 1918, he became a successful playing manager. In his later years as a player, he was considered the elder statesman of black baseball and acquired the affectionate nickname of “Pop.” Lloyd was inducted posthumously into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1977.

Charlie Grant

c. 1910

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Charlie Grant (1874–1932) was one of the first great black baseball players. A second baseman, he played for some of the best independent teams, including the Cuban X Giants and the Philadelphia Giants, in the days before the formation of the first league of all-black teams. Grant was working as a bellboy at a resort hotel in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and playing on the hotel baseball team when he was spotted by John McGraw, the manager of the American League Baltimore Orioles. In 1901, McGraw concocted a plan to sign the light-skinned, straight-haired Grant to a contract with the all-white Orioles and pass him off as “Chief Tokahoma,” an American Indian. The plan was foiled, however, and Grant returned to play for the Chicago-based Columbia Giants. After his retirement from baseball, he worked as a janitor in an apartment building in his hometown of Cincinnati.

Willie Foster

1930s

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Willie Foster (1904–1978) was a left-handed pitcher and a star for ten years with the Chicago American Giants, a team owned and managed by his older halfbrother, Rube. He spent brief periods with other black teams, including the Memphis Red Sox, the

Birmingham Black Barons, the Kansas City Monarchs, and the Pittsburgh Crawfords. He played winter ball for one season each in Cuba and California. Foster attended Alcorn College in Mississippi until 1918, when he moved to Chicago to work in the stockyards and pursue his interest in baseball. He continued his education in the off-season during his playing career. In 1960, he was named dean of men and basketball coach at Alcorn State College, a position he held until shortly before his death. Foster was inducted posthumously into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996.

Bullet Joe Rogan

1924

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

One of black baseball's most versatile players, Wilbur "Bullet Joe" Rogan (1893–1967) excelled both as a pitcher and a hitter. His thirty-year career was spent entirely with teams in the Kansas City, Missouri, area. He began his career as a catcher, but eventually played every position on the field. Rogan earned his nickname from his overpowering fastball. That, coupled with an assortment of effective pitches, made him the ace of the Kansas City Monarchs' pitching staff for eighteen years. Three times during that period he led the team in home runs and stolen bases, and twice, as a pitcher, he led the league in wins. He also managed the team for many years. He retired as a player in 1938, worked as an umpire for the Negro American League until 1946, then went to work for the post office in Kansas City. Rogan was inducted posthumously into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1998.

Buck Leonard

1930s

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Power-hitting first baseman Walter "Buck" Leonard (1907–1997) played for seventeen years with the Homestead Grays, a perennial powerhouse in the Negro National League. For many of those years he teamed with legendary slugger Josh Gibson, and the two led the Grays to nine consecutive league championships, from 1937 to 1945. Leonard was also a superb fielder and a team leader. He began his career with semipro teams in his hometown of Rocky Mount, North Carolina. In the mid-1930s, when Leonard was in his prime, he and Gibson were approached by Clark Griffith, owner of the Washington Senators, about playing in the majors. Nothing came of the overture. At age forty-six, he played ten games in the minor leagues. After retiring from baseball, he worked as a truant officer in Rocky Mount and operated a real estate agency. Leonard was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1972.

Pepper Bassett

1940s

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Lloyd “Pepper” Bassett (1910–1981) joined the Pittsburgh Crawfords in 1937 as backup catcher to Josh Gibson. A native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Bassett started his baseball career with the New Orleans Crescent Stars in 1934. He played for many top teams during his seventeen-year career and spent nine years with the Birmingham, Alabama, Black Barons. In 1942, he joined the Ethiopian Clowns (later called the Cincinnati Clowns and the Cincinnati-Indianapolis Clowns). There he became a popular gate attraction and was known as the “rocking chair catcher” because he would catch part of the game in a rocking chair. He made four appearances in the East-West All-Star Game.

Judy Johnson

N.d.

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

A sure-handed fielder and consistent hitter, William Julius “Judy” Johnson (1899–1989) was considered the Negro Leagues’ top third baseman in the 1920s and 1930s. In his nineteen years as a player and manager, Johnson was affiliated with three of the greatest all-black teams in history: the Homestead Grays, the Pittsburgh Crawfords, and the Hilldale club, of Darby, Pennsylvania. He was tagged with the nickname “Judy” because of his resemblance to Negro League outfielder Judy Gans.

Johnson grew up playing football and baseball in the sandlots of Wilmington, Delaware. He played with several teams in the Philadelphia area before joining the Hilldale team in 1921. He returned to Wilmington after leaving baseball, where he worked for a can company and operated a general store with his brother. After the color line was broken, he worked as a scout for the Philadelphia Athletics and the Philadelphia Phillies. Johnson was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1975.

Satchel Paige

1940s

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

One of the most celebrated athletes in the history of American sports, Leroy “Satchel” Paige (c. 1906–1982) fashioned a legendary career by blending extraordinary pitching skills with a nimble wit, colorful personality, and an unsurpassed flair for showmanship. Paige began his career with the Chattanooga, Tennessee, Black Lookouts in 1926. He made his last appearance on a baseball diamond thirty-nine years later, approaching the age of sixty, when he pitched three innings for the Kansas City Athletics. He played for

innumerable teams in between, both as a regular player and as a one-night star, but he achieved his greatest fame with the Pittsburgh Crawfords and the Kansas City Monarchs. Black baseball's premier gate attraction, Paige drew huge crowds wherever he appeared and for several years earned more money than most major leaguers. In 1948, he became the oldest rookie in major league history when he signed with the Cleveland Indians. Paige was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1971, the first inductee from the Negro Leagues.

Josh Gibson

1930s

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Josh Gibson (1911–1947) was the unrivaled slugger of the Negro baseball leagues and one of the greatest hitters in baseball history. A good defensive catcher and popular personality, Gibson's achievements with the bat are legion. Often compared with Babe Ruth, Gibson hit home runs not only with great frequency, but to astonishing distances. Even at the end of his relatively short career, when years of drinking, hard living, and possible drug abuse had taken a toll on his once awesome physique, Gibson could still hit with impressive power. Gibson grew up in Pittsburgh and, except for several forays in Latin American countries, played his whole career with the two great Pittsburgh teams: the Crawfords and the Homestead Grays. Second in fame and popularity only to Satchel Paige, the two were teammates for several seasons with the Crawfords. Gibson suffered a fatal stroke at age thirty-five, after several years of declining health. He was inducted posthumously into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1972.

Hilton Smith

1940s

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Hilton Smith (1907–1983) was a mainstay of the Kansas City Monarchs' pitching staff from 1936 until 1948, a time when the Monarchs was one of the dominant teams in the Negro American League. Although he was one of the premier pitchers in the league, the quiet, workmanlike Smith was greatly overshadowed by his more flamboyant teammate and fellow pitcher Satchel Paige. Smith was said to have had the best curveball in black baseball. He won more than twenty games in each of his thirteen seasons with the Monarchs and went undefeated in league games in 1938 and 1941. He made seven consecutive appearances in the East-West All-Star Game. Smith was also a good hitter and often played in the outfield when he wasn't on the mound. He declined an offer to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers late in his career, believing he was too far past his prime. Smith was inducted posthumously into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2001.

Cool Papa Bell

1942

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Possibly the fastest man ever to play baseball, James “Cool Papa” Bell (1903–1991) fashioned an impressive career from his sterling fielding, solid hitting, and catchy nickname coupled with his phenomenal speed. He spent time with some of the greatest teams in the Negro Leagues, most notably the St. Louis Stars, the Homestead Grays, and the Pittsburgh Crawfords. Bell started his baseball career as a pitcher and earned his nickname when he calmly struck out Oscar Charleston, one of the game’s most feared hitters, in a crucial situation. He moved to the outfield after an arm injury early in his career. Following his playing career he worked as a part-time scout for the St. Louis Browns, then as a custodian and night security officer at the St. Louis City Hall. He was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1974.

Willie Wells

N.d.

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Willie Wells (1904–1989) was one of the best shortstops in the Negro Leagues in the 1930s and early 1940s. He played with many teams in his twenty-five-year career, most notably with the St. Louis Stars and the Newark, New Jersey, Eagles. He also played several winters in various Latin American countries, primarily Cuba. He spent four seasons in the Mexican League, where his sterling defensive work and hot bat earned him the affectionate nickname “El Diablo” (The Devil). Wells also pioneered the use of the batting helmet, after his aggressive style of play made him a frequent beanball target of the pitcher. He appeared in ten East-West All-Star Games and was a highly respected playing manager for several seasons toward the end of his career. Wells was inducted posthumously into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1997.

Smokey Joe Williams

N.d.

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The greatest black pitcher in the early decades of the twentieth century, Joe Williams (1886–1951) combined tremendous speed with exceptional control. A native of Texas, Williams was signed to the Chicago Leland Giants by Rube Foster in 1910. He spent thirteen years with the New York Lincoln Giants and eight with the Homestead Grays, with one-year stints with other teams, mostly in the East. Williams was renowned for his many strikeout feats. Legend has it that Hall of Fame outfielder Ross Youngs gave him the nickname “Smokey Joe” after Williams struck out twenty batters while pitching a no-

hit exhibition game against the New York Giants in 1917. Williams was inducted posthumously into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1999.

Quincy Troupe and Sam Jethroe

c. 1945

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

An all-star catcher and workhorse, Quincy Troupe (left; 1912–1993) played for about two dozen teams over a twenty-three-year career, including many winter league teams in Latin America. He played briefly in the major leagues in 1952 with the Cleveland Indians. In his seven seasons in black baseball, outfielder Sam Jethroe (1917–2001) established himself as the premier base stealer in the Negro American League. He played in organized baseball from 1948 to 1954, and was Rookie of the Year in 1950 with the Boston Braves. The two are shown with the Cleveland Buckeyes, where Troupe was the playing manager. In 1945, Troupe, Jethroe, and pitcher George Jefferson led the Buckeyes to a Negro American League pennant and swept the Homestead Grays to win the Negro World Series.

Uniform used by Saul Davis

c. 1920s

Cloth

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

Saul Davis (1901–1994) was born in Monticello, Arkansas. He joined the Houston Black Buffaloes in 1918 and played with them for five years. A mediocre hitter but a versatile infielder, Davis played second base, third base, and shortstop for a number of teams in the Negro National League, including the Birmingham Black Barons, the Memphis Red Sox, and the Chicago American Giants. His last few years in baseball were spent mostly with traveling independent teams, like the Colored House of David, Jack Johnson's All Stars (headed by the boxing champion), the Chicago Giants, and Gilkerson's Union Giants. Davis settled in the Dakotas after retiring from baseball.

Notice that this uniform, which probably dates from the 1920s, has no team insignia. Davis most likely wore this uniform while a member of any one of five all-black independent teams he is known to have played with during that decade.

Cap used by Saul H. Davis

c. 1920s

Cloth

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

Glove used by Saul H. Davis

c. 1920s

Leather

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

Glove used by Dave Malarcher

c. 1930s

Leather

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

Dave Malarcher (1894–1982) was one of the premier third basemen during his playing days, and he later became a top manager. He played for three years with the Indianapolis ABCs and spent nine seasons with the Chicago Americans Giants, where he honed his managerial skills under the tutelage of Rube Foster. Malarcher is credited with initiating the use of black umpires in Negro League games. His soft-spoken, cultured nature earned him the nickname “Gentleman Dave.” The youngest of ten children, Malarcher’s father was a farm laborer in Louisiana and his mother was a former slave. He graduated from the University of New Orleans (now Dillard University), where he was captain of the baseball team. After retiring from baseball, Malarcher established a real estate business in Chicago and became a published poet.

Glove used by Hilton Smith

c. 1940s

Leather

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

Bat used by Candy Jim Taylor

c. 1930s

Wood

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

James “Candy Jim” Taylor (1884–1948) spent his entire adult life in baseball. Playing for sixteen different teams over forty-five years, his career spanned virtually the entire black baseball era. Taylor began his career in 1904 as an infielder with the Birmingham, Alabama, Giants. He was a key player with the Indianapolis ABCs between 1914 and 1919, a team managed by his brother, C. I. Taylor. Candy Jim later became a very successful manager himself and led three Negro National League teams to pennants: the 1928 St. Louis Stars and the 1943 and 1944 Homestead Grays. In addition to C. I. Taylor, Candy Jim had two other brothers—Ben and “Steel Arm” Johnny—who enjoyed successful careers in black baseball.

Bat used by George Sweatt

c. 1930s

Wood

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

A strong hitter and versatile fielder, George Sweatt (1893–1983) played in the Negro National League for eight years with the Kansas City Monarchs, the Chicago American Giants, and the Chicago Giants. A graduate of Pittsburgh Normal College (now Pittsburg State University in Kansas), Sweatt worked as a teacher in his hometown of Humboldt, Kansas, and pitched for a semipro baseball team before he joined the Monarchs in 1921.

Catcher's mitt used by Pepper Bassett

Late 1930s to early 1940s

Leather

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

Catcher's mask used by Pepper Bassett

Late 1930s to early 1940s

Metal

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

Catcher's mitt used by Chico Renfroe

Late 1930s to early 1940s

Leather

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

Othello “Chico” Renfroe (1923–1991) played shortstop, second base, catcher, and outfielder for the Kansas City Monarchs, the Cleveland Buckeyes, and the Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro American League. After the 1946 season, he was a member of the Satchel Paige All-Star team that barnstormed across the country with the Bob Feller All-Stars. Renfroe played for several seasons in the California Winter League and the Mexican League. He later became a sportscaster and sports director for a radio station in Atlanta, sports editor for the *Atlanta Daily World*, and a scout for the Montreal Royals.

Catcher's mask used by Chico Renfroe

Late 1930s to early 1940s

Metal

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

Cap used by Toni Stone

c. 1950s

Cloth

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

Indianapolis Clowns vs. Twilight League All-Stars

1950's

Ink on paper

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

Negro American League scorecard

1953

Ink on paper

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

Homestead Grays pennant

N.d.

Ink on cloth

Courtesy Larry Lester

Philadelphia Stars pennant

N.d.

Ink on cloth

Courtesy Larry Lester

Organized as an independent team by Ed Bolden in 1933, the Philadelphia Stars were affiliated for a time with both the Negro National League and the Negro American League. The Stars beat the Chicago American Giants in 1934 to win the Negro National League pennant. The team disbanded after the 1950 season.

Glass from Crawford Grille

c. 1930s

Glass

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

Owned by businessman, numbers banker, and sports entrepreneur Gus Greenlee, the Crawford Grille was the center of fashionable black society in Pittsburgh for many years. The nightclub hosted blues and jazz musicians and was a popular hangout for black ballplayers. For a time between 1931 and 1938, when Greenlee owned the celebrated Pittsburgh Crawfords, the Crawford Grille served as the unofficial office of the Negro

National League. Just days before Greenlee died in 1952, the Grille burned to the ground, replaced soon after by a parking lot.

Stadium seat, Comiskey Park

1910

Wood and metal

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

As the permanent location of the annual East-West All-Star Game, the premier event in black baseball, Comiskey Park in Chicago was one of the most important sites in the history of segregated baseball. Comiskey Park also was used often by the Chicago American Giants.

East West Baseball Classic, Official Souvenir Program

1992 reproduction of 1945 original

Paper

Private collection

Bob Feller's All-Stars, Souvenir Program

1992 reproduction of 1946 original

Paper

Private collection

Negro Baseball, 1946 Yearbook

1992 reproduction of 1946 original

Paper

Private collection

Jackie Robinson's signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers' organization after the 1945 season electrified the nation. He spent the 1946 season with the Montreal Royals, the Dodgers' top farm team, and was the talk of black baseball. The photographs at the top and bottom of the inside page of the *1946 Yearbook* show the packed stands at Roosevelt Stadium in Jersey City, New Jersey, where Robinson made his minor league debut. This marked the beginning of the end for the Negro baseball leagues.

Exhibition Checklist

Checklist summary: 81 items

All photographs are modern gelatin silver prints

Dimensions given in inches, height preceding width preceding depth

All photographs courtesy Larry Lester unless otherwise noted

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Findlay, Ohio, ball club
c. 1894
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1</p> <p>2. Keokuk, Iowa, ball club, Western League
1885
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1</p> <p>3. Syracuse Stars
1889
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1</p> <p>4. Page Fence Giants, Adrian, Michigan
1895
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1</p> <p>5. Page Woven Wire Fence Company train car
c. 1895
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1</p> <p>6. St. Cloud, Minnesota, semipro ball club
c. 1903
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1</p> <p>7. Royal Poinciana Winter League Club of Palm Beach, Florida
1909
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1</p> <p>8. Philadelphia Giants
1906
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1</p> | <p>9. All Nations team
c. 1912
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1</p> <p>10. Rube Foster
c. 1920
20 x 16
Framed dimensions: 24 1/4 x 20 1/4 x 1</p> <p>11. Rube Foster with the Chicago American Giants
1918
14 x 11
Framed dimensions: 18 1/4 x 15 1/4 x 1</p> <p>12. J. L. Wilkinson
N.d.
14 x 11
Framed dimensions: 18 1/4 x 15 1/4 x 1</p> <p>13. Ed Bolden
N.d.
20 x 16
Framed dimensions: 24 1/4 x 20 1/4 x 1</p> <p>14. Indianapolis ABCs
1920
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1</p> <p>15. Kansas City Monarchs
1924
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1</p> <p>16. First Colored World Series, Kansas City Monarchs vs. Hilldale
1924
7 x 37
Framed dimensions: 12 1/4 x 41 1/4 x 1
Courtesy Wayne Stivers</p> |
|--|---|

17. **Detroit Stars**
1923
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1
18. **St. Louis Stars**
1928
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1
19. **Chicago American Giants**
1927
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1
20. **Portable lighting trucks of the Kansas City Monarchs**
c. 1930
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1
21. **Portable light truck, extended for operation**
c. 1930
14 x 11
Framed dimensions: 18 1/4 x 15 1/4 x 1
22. **Night baseball**
c. 1930
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1
23. **New York Black Yankees**
1933
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1
24. **Detroit Cubs**
1935
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1
25. **Pittsburgh Crawfords and team bus in front of Greenlee Field**
1936
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1
26. **House of David infield**
1930s
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1
27. **Homestead Grays**
1931
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1
28. **Homestead Grays vs. Nashville Elite Giants at Greenlee Field**
1933
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1
29. **Neil Robinson at bat, East-West All-Star Game**
1939
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1
30. **Negro League players with the Veracruz Blues, Mexican League**
c. 1940
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1
31. **Double Duty Radcliffe tags out Josh Gibson**
1944
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1
32. **Satchel Paige and Dizzy Dean**
1942
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1
33. **Satchel Paige All-Stars**
1946
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1
34. **Sportswriters Sam Lacy and Wendell Smith**
1940s
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1

35. **Effa Manley at work in the office of the Newark Eagles**
1936
20 x 16
Framed dimensions: 24 1/4 x 20 1/4 x 1
36. **“ Save Negro Baseball”**
1948
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1
37. **Kansas City Monarchs, with rookie Jackie Robinson**
1945
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1
38. **Newark Eagles**
1946
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1
39. **Memphis Red Sox, with Lionel Hampton**
1948
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1
40. **Birmingham Black Barons, with Willie Mays**
1948
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1
41. **Negro League umpires flanked by Buck O'Neil and Oscar Charleston**
1949
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1
42. **Toni Stone**
1954
14 x 11
Framed dimensions: 18 1/4 x 15 1/4 x 1
43. **King Tut, Oscar Charleston, and Connie Morgan**
1954
20 x 16
Framed dimensions: 24 1/4 x 20 1/4 x 1
44. **Meeting of Negro League officials**
1955
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1
45. **Buck O'Neil with the Chicago Cubs**
1960s
20 x 16
Framed dimensions: 24 1/4 x 20 1/4 x 1
46. **Buck Leonard at his induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame**
1972
16 x 20
Framed dimensions: 20 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1
47. **John Henry Lloyd**
N.d.
20 x 16
Framed dimensions: 24 1/4 x 20 1/4 x 1
48. **Charlie Grant**
c. 1910
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1
49. **Willie Foster**
1930s
11 x 14
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1
50. **Bullet Joe Rogan**
1924
14 x 11
Framed dimensions: 18 1/4 x 15 1/4 x 1
51. **Buck Leonard**
1930s
14 x 11
Framed dimensions: 18 1/4 x 15 1/4 x 1
52. **Pepper Bassett**
1940s
14 x 11
Framed dimensions: 18 1/4 x 15 1/4 x 1
53. **Judy Johnson**
N.d.
14 x 11
Framed dimensions: 18 1/4 x 15 1/4 x 1

54. **Satchel Paige**
1940s
20 x 16
Framed dimensions: 24 1/4 x 20 1/4 x 1
55. **Josh Gibson**
1930s
20 x 16
Framed dimensions: 24 1/4 x 20 1/4 x 1
56. **Hilton Smith**
1940s
14 x 11
Framed dimensions: 18 1/4 x 15 1/4 x 1
57. **Cool Papa Bell**
1942
20 x 16
Framed dimensions: 24 1/4 x 20 1/4 x 1
58. **Willie Wells**
N.d.
14 x 11
Framed dimensions: 18 1/4 x 15 1/4 x 1
59. **Smokey Joe Williams**
N.d.
14 x 11
Framed dimensions: 18 1/4 x 15 1/4 x 1
60. **Quincy Troupe and Sam Jethroe**
c. 1945
20 x 16
Framed dimensions: 24 1/4 x 20 1/4 x 1
61. **Uniform used by Saul Davis**
c. 1920s
Cloth
Jersey: 28 1/2 x 36 3/4
Pants: 29 x 25
Courtesy Wayne Stivers
62. **Cap used by Saul Davis**
c. 1920s
4 x 8 x 8 1/2
Courtesy Wayne Stivers
63. **Glove used by Saul Davis**
c. 1920s
Leather
9 1/4 x 9 x 1 1/2
Courtesy Wayne Stivers
64. **Glove used by Dave Malarcher**
c. 1930s
Leather
9 1/2 x 10 x 2
Courtesy Wayne Stivers
65. **Glove used by Hilton Smith**
c. 1940s
Leather
9 x 10 3/4 x 2 1/8
Courtesy Wayne Stivers
66. **Bat used by Candy Jim Taylor**
c. 1930s
Wood
32 3/8 x 4 1/4 x 4 1/4
Courtesy Wayne Stivers
67. **Bat used by George Sweatt**
c. 1930s
Wood
34 3/4 x 4 1/4 x 4 1/4
Courtesy Wayne Stivers
68. **Catcher's mitt used by Pepper Bassett**
Late 1930s to early 1940s
Leather
12 x 11 1/2 x 2 1/2
Courtesy Wayne Stivers
69. **Catcher's mask used by Pepper Bassett**
Late 1930s to early 1940s
Metal
12 x 9 1/4 x 4 1/2
Courtesy Wayne Stivers
70. **Catcher's mitt used by Chico Renfroe**
Late 1930s to early 1940s
Leather
10 x 11 x 2 1/2
Courtesy Wayne Stivers

71. **Catcher's mask used by Chico Renfroe**
Late 1930s to early 1940s
Metal
10 x 11 x 4 3/4
Courtesy Wayne Stivers
72. **Cap used by Toni Stone**
c. 1950s
Cloth
4 x 8 x 10
Courtesy Wayne Stivers
73. **Indianapolis Clowns vs. Twilight League All-Stars**
1950s
Ink on paper
17 9/16 x 11 1/4
Framed dimensions: 24 1/4 x 20 1/4 x 1
Courtesy Wayne Stivers
74. **Negro American League scorecard**
1953
Ink on paper
8 1/2 x 11
Framed dimensions: 15 1/4 x 18 1/4 x 1
Courtesy Wayne Stivers
75. **Homestead Grays pennant**
N.d.
Ink on cloth
7 1/2 x 27 1/2
Courtesy Larry Lester
76. **Philadelphia Stars pennant**
N.d.
Ink on cloth
7 1/2 x 29
Courtesy Larry Lester
77. **Glass from Crawford Grille**
c. 1930s
Glass
4 7/8 x 2 1/2 x 2 1/2
Courtesy Wayne Stivers
78. **Stadium seat, Comiskey Park**
1910
Wood and metal
32 x 22 x 18
Courtesy Wayne Stivers
79. **East-West Baseball Classic, Official Souvenir Program**
1992 reproduction of 1945 original
Paper
11 x 8 1/2 x 1/4
Private collection
80. **Bob Feller's All-Stars, Souvenir Program**
1992 reproduction of 1946 original
Paper
11 x 8 1/2 x 1/4
Private collection
81. **Negro Baseball, 1946 Yearbook**
1992 reproduction of 1946 original
Paper
11 x 8 1/2 x 1/4
Private collection
- Wall Panels**
- P1. ExhibitsUSA Credit Panel
Framed dimensions: 24 x 20 x 1 1/4
- P2. *The National Pastime in Black and White* Introduction Panel
Framed dimensions: 24 x 20 x 1 1/4
- P3. *Black Baseball Before 1920* Panel
Framed dimensions: 24 x 20 x 1 1/4
- P4. *1920s: The Formation of the First Negro Leagues* Panel
Framed dimensions: 24 x 20 x 1 1/4
- P5. *1930s: The Depression and New Beginnings* Panel
Framed dimensions: 24 x 20 x 1 1/4
- P6. *1940s: The Heyday of the Negro Leagues* Panel
Framed dimensions: 24 x 20 x 1 1/4
- P7. *1947-1955: After Jackie Robinson* Panel
Framed dimensions: 24 x 20 x 1 1/4
- P8. *Stars of Black Baseball* Panel
Framed dimensions: 24 x 20 x 1 1/4

Educational Materials Checklist

Several support materials will be traveling with the exhibition. Should any of these materials be missing or fail to arrive, please call ExhibitsUSA's Curator of Education, Beth Harris, at 800.473.3872 and we will locate or replace the missing items as soon as possible. Please repack these items in the crates before you send the exhibition to the next venue.

Books: General Histories

Heaphy, Leslie A. *The Negro Leagues, 1869–1960*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2003.

Lester, Larry, and Joe Black. *Black Baseball's National Showcase: The East-West All Star Game, 1933–1953*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2002.

Riley, James A. *The Biographical Encyclopedia of the Negro Baseball Leagues*. New York: Carroll & Graf, 1994.

Books: Autobiographies and Biographies

Cottrell, Robert Charles. *The Best Pitcher in Baseball: The Life of Rube Foster, Negro League Giant*. New York: New York University Press, 2001.

O'Neil, Buck, et al. *I Was Right On Time: My Journey from the Negro Leagues to the Majors*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996.

Books: Oral Histories

Kelley, Brent. *Voices from the Negro Leagues: Conversations with 52 Baseball Standouts*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1998.

Books: Children (Ages 5–8)

Curtis, Gavin. *The Bat Boy & His Violin*. New York: Aladdin, 1998.

Golenbock, Peter. *Teammates*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1993. **Books: Children**

Books: Children (Ages 9–12)

Gutman, Dan. *Jackie and Me*. New York: Avon, 2001.

McKissack, Patricia, and Frederick McKissack. *Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues*. 2nd ed. New York: Scholastic, 1998.

Myers, Walter D. *Journal of Biddy Owens: The Negro Leagues*. New York: Scholastic, 2001.

“Negro League Baseball.” *Footsteps: African American History* 2, no. 2 (March/April 2000).

Slote, Alfred. *Finding Buck McHenry*. New York: Harper Collins, 1991.

Books: Young Adult

Gilbert, Thomas W. *Baseball and the Color Line*. New York: Scholastic, 1995.

Riley, James A. *The Negro Leagues*. New York: Chelsea House, 1997.

Videos

There Was Always Sun Shining Someplace: Life in the Negro Baseball Leagues. 58 min.
Refocus Films, 1984. Videocassette.

Baseball: The Fifth Inning, Shadow Ball (1930–1940). Directed by Ken Burns. 126 min.
PBS Home Video, 1994. Videocassette.

Tour Schedule

September 01, 2003–October 20, 2003

Augusta Museum of History
Augusta, Georgia

November 10, 2003–January 07, 2004

Lafayette Natural History Museum
Lafayette, Louisiana

January 28, 2004–March 16, 2004

Georgia Sports Hall of Fame
Macon, Georgia

April 06, 2004–August 11, 2004

Southwest Michigan College Museum
Dowagiac, Michigan

September 01, 2004–January 07, 2005

The Lincoln Museum
Fort Wayne, Indiana

January 28, 2005–March 16, 2005

Tulsa Community College Southeast Campus
Tulsa, Oklahoma

June 16, 2005–August 11, 2005

The Morris Museum
Morristown, New Jersey

September 01, 2005–October 20, 2005

Sheldon Art Galleries
St. Louis, Missouri

January 28, 2006–March 16, 2006

Historic Arkansas Museum
Little Rock, Arkansas

April 06, 2006–May 25, 2006

City of Dayton–Dayton Cultural Center
Dayton, Ohio

Introductory Readings

Alexander, Charles C. "Shadowball." in *Breaking the Slump: Baseball in the Depression Era*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2002.

This chapter explores the decades of Negro Leagues baseball. Charles Alexander's book looks at the 1930s Depression era and how professional baseball remained the "king" of American sports.

Conrads, David. "Sacrifice Play: The Negro Leagues Baseball Remembered." *The World & I* (February 1996): 185–195.

David Conrads's article provides a good overview of Negro Leagues baseball, including quotes from Buck O'Neil.

James, Bill. "The Negro Leagues." in *The New Bill James Historical Baseball Abstract*. New York: The Free Press, 2001.

This chapter gives a good overview and precise information on the Negro Leagues, including how and where the game was played, statistics, and brief biographies of player's positions. This revised edition of Bill James's bestseller features enriched histories, updated rankings, and revised assessments.

Rader, Benjamin G. "Baseball's Great Experiment." in *Baseball: A History of America's Game*, 2nd ed. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1992.

The chapter selected from this book explores the early days of baseball in American history. Benjamin Rader's second edition book expands his scope to include baseball in the 1990s and its commercialization.

White, G. Edward. "The Negro Leagues." in *Creating The National Pastime: Baseball Transforms Itself, 1903–1953*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996.

The chapter selected from this book explores the rise of the Negro Leagues at a time when baseball was transformed into an organized profession. G. Edward White takes a critical look at how business decisions, inspired by self-interests and nostalgia for the game, transformed baseball into a professional sport and a national pastime. The author also deconstructs popular myths on the origins of the game and its progression into an "idyllic game."

Bibliography

Partially annotated list. An entry marked with an (*) identifies it as an educational material traveling with the exhibition.

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Books: Other Leagues and Team Histories	50
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Books: Oral Histories.....	54
Books: Jackie Robinson.....	55
Books: Children (5–8)	56
Books: Children (9–12)	57
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Articles

Ardell, Jean Hastings. "Mamie 'Peanut' Johnson: The Last Female Voice of the Negro Leagues." *NINE: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture* 10, no. 1 (2001): 181–192.

*Conrads, David. "Sacrifice Play: The Negro Baseball Leagues Remembered." *The World & I* (February 1996): 185–195.

David Conrads's article provides a good overview of Negro Leagues baseball, including quotes from Buck O'Neil.

Gerlach, Larry R. "Baseball's Other 'Great Experiment': Eddie Klep and the Integration of the Negro Leagues." *Journal of Sport History* 25, no. 3 (1998): 453–482.

Lomax, Michael E. "Black Entrepreneurship in the National Pastime: The Rise of Semiprofessional Baseball in Black Chicago." *Journal of Sport History* 25, no. 1 (1998): 43–65.

Nathan, Daniel A. "Bearing Witness to Blackball: Buck O'Neil, the Negro Leagues, and the Politics of the Past." *Journal of American Studies*, no. 3 (2001): 453–469.

Rogosin, Donn, and Leslie Heaphy. "Invisible Men, Life in Baseball's Negro Leagues." *The International Journal of the History of Sport* 13, no. 3 (1996): 462–464.

Books: General Histories of Baseball and the Negro Baseball Leagues

Alexander, Charles C. "Shadowball." in *Breaking the Slump: Baseball in the Depression Era*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2002.

Charles Alexander's book explores the 1930s Depression era and how professional baseball remained the "king" of American sports.

Dixon, Phil, and Patrick J. Hannigan. *The Negro Baseball Leagues: A Photographic History*. Mattituck, NY: Amereon House, 1992.

This book is a well-written chronological history of black baseball, including six hundred photographs, many of which are published for the first time.

Gardner, Robert, and Dennis Shortelle. *The Forgotten Players: The Story of Black Baseball in America*. New York: Walker & Co., 1993.

This book traces the history and evolution of the Negro Leagues and the experiences of black players from the late nineteenth through the early twentieth century.

*Heaphy, Leslie A. *The Negro Leagues, 1869–1960*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2003.

The author explores the background and origins of the first Negro League through its heyday and, ultimately, its demise. The book also contains information on life as a ball player off the field and the baseball scene south of the Mexican border.

*James, Bill. “The Negro Leagues.” in *The New Bill James Historical Baseball Abstract*. New York: The Free Press, 2001.

This revised edition of Bill James’s bestseller features enriched histories, updated rankings, and revised assessments.

Kelley, Brent P. *“I Will Never Forget”: Interviews With 39 Former Negro League Players*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2003.

Although not widely available, this book reflects on the history of black baseball with interviews by former Negro League players.

Peterson, Robert. *Only the Ball Was White: A History of Legendary Black Players and All-Black Professional Teams*. Reprint, New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.

This groundbreaking work is still one of the best histories of black baseball. It single-handedly sparked the revival of interest in the then-forgotten Negro Leagues when it was first published in 1970, and it was instrumental in causing the National Baseball Hall of Fame to begin inducting former Negro League players.

*Rader, Benjamin G. “Baseball’s Great Experiment” from *Baseball: A History of America’s Game*, 2nd ed. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1992.

Benjamin Rader’s second edition book expands his scope to include baseball in the 1990s and its commercialization.

Retort, Robert D. *Pictorial Negro League Legends Album*. New Castle, PA: Retort Enterprises, 1992.

A collection of vintage photographs and statistical biographies of living Negro League players is featured in this book. Also included are many the Negro League players elected into the National Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, New York.

Ribowsky, Mark. *A Complete History of the Negro Leagues: 1884 to 1955*. Secaucus, NJ: Birch Lane Press, 1995.

This books covers similar ground as other histories written about the Negro Leagues, but from a unique, and occasionally contentious, perspective.

Rogosin, Donn. *Invisible Men: Life in Baseball's Negro Leagues*. Reprint, New York: Kodansha International, 1995.

This book is a good general history of black baseball, but slightly more topical in its approach to the subject.

*Tygiel, Jules. "Unreconciled Strivings: Baseball in Jim Crow America." in *Pastime: Baseball as History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Jules Tygiel's book reflects on the rise of baseball in the 1850s and 1860s, including the invention of baseball statistics and its shifting geography.

*White, G. Edward. "The Negro Leagues." in *Creating The National Pastime: Baseball Transforms Itself, 1903–1953*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996.

In this book, G. Edward White takes a critical look at how business decisions, inspired by self-interests and nostalgia for the game, transformed baseball into the national pastime and a professional sport. The author also deconstructs popular myths on the origins of the game and its progression into an "idyllic game."

White, Sol, and Jerry Malloy. *Sol White's History of Colored Base Ball, With Other Documents on the Early Black Game, 1886–1936*. Reprint, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995.

First published in 1907, Sol White's book provides a unique and indispensable glimpse into the world of segregated baseball in the early days, thirteen years before the

formation of the first viable league of all-black teams. This reprint augments White's short book with other early documents.

Books: Other League Histories

Bak, Richard. *Turkey Stearnes and the Detroit Stars: The Negro Leagues in Detroit, 1919–1933*. Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 1994.

The author of this book documents the extraordinary history of Detroit's first and foremost black professional baseball team, the Detroit Stars. The greatest Star of them all was Norman "Turkey" Stearnes, the brilliant longball-hitting center fielder. Stearnes established virtually all of the team's individual and career records during his nine seasons with Detroit. Through interviews with fans, players and their relatives, and sportswriters, author Richard Bak successfully captures the intrigue and drama of the city's parallel sports worlds—one black, one white.

Bruce, Janet. *The Kansas City Monarchs: Champions of Black Baseball*. Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1985.

This book provides a good history of one of the great Negro League teams and a realistic look at the social history of black Kansas City, in which the team thrived.

Clark, Dick, and Larry Lester, eds. *The Negro Leagues Book*. Cleveland, OH: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994.

This book is a useful compendium of information on the Negro Leagues that is based on two of the field's most prolific, imaginative, and best-known scholars. Included is a complete register of all the players: 3,400 names with positions and teams dating from before the turn of the twentieth century to the 1950s, annual rosters, in-depth histories, and more than seventy-five original photographs.

Debono, Paul. *The Indianapolis ABCs: History of a Premier Team in the Negro Leagues*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1997.

This book traces the history of The Indianapolis ABCs as charter members of the Negro National League and one of the longest-lived teams in black baseball. Winners of the World Championship in 1916, the team was one of black baseball's most competitive. This author draws from contemporary newspaper accounts, extensive research, and player interviews to recount the rise of the ABCs and of the Negro Leagues. Team rosters, player statistics, and biographies are included.

Lanctot, Neil. *Fair Dealing and Clean Playing: The Hilldale Club and the Development of Black Professional Baseball, 1910–1932*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1994.

This book explores the development of the black Hilldale Club of Philadelphia, within the context of the Negro League.

*Lester, Larry. *Black Baseball's National Showcase: The East-West All-Star Game, 1933–1953*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2002.

The authors of this book highlight black baseball's leading event, the East-West All-Star Game, which was held over a period of two decades. The book contains a chapter on Gus Greenlee, the visionary owner of the Pittsburgh Crawfords, who helped to establish this national showcase that featured stars from Satchel Paige to Jackie Robinson. Also included are year-by-year commentaries and excerpts from the black press and statistics.

Reisler, Jim. *Black Writers/Black Baseball: An Anthology of Articles from Black Sportswriters Who Covered the Negro Leagues*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1994.

This unique book spotlights the work of some of the best black sportswriters, who contributed greatly to the end of segregation in major league baseball.

Rielly, Edward. *Baseball and American Culture: Across the Diamond*. New York: Haworth Press, 2003.

This book looks at the history and culture of baseball in America, including a chapter on the dynamics and ethnic exclusion of Germans, Irishmen, and African Americans during the late nineteenth century.

*Riley, James A. *The Biographical Encyclopedia of the Negro Baseball Leagues*. New York: Carroll & Graf, 1994.

This is the first and only book that documents the careers of about four thousand black baseball players, whose careers spanned from the 1870s through the 1950s.

Biographies and Autobiographies

Brashler, William. *Josh Gibson*. Reprint, Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2000.

In this book, the author traces the career of the great baseball hitter known as "the black Babe Ruth." Brashler recounts Josh Gibson's life from the sandlots and semi-pro teams of Pittsburgh through his debut with the Homestead Grays in 1930, and to his untimely death in 1947 at the age of thirty-five.

*Cottrell, Robert Charles. *The Best Pitcher in Baseball: The Life of Rube Foster, Negro League Giant*. New York: New York University Press, 2001.

This book explores the career of Rube Foster, a world-class pitcher, formidable manager, and brilliant administrator. This is one of the best books on Foster, the first scholarly account of his life. Foster died in 1930 and was posthumously inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1981.

Irvin, Monte, and James A. Riley. *Nice Guys Finish First: The Autobiography of Monte Irvin*. Carroll & Graf, 1996.

This autobiography is by one of the biggest star of the Negro Leagues in the late 1930s and 1940s. Before World War II, Irvin was the Negro League owner's choice to be the player to break the color line. This role later fell to Jackie Robinson, while Irvin was serving in the Army. Irvin became the first black player with the New York Giants in 1949 and was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1973.

Leonard, Buck, and James A. Riley. *Buck Leonard: The Black Lou Gehrig: The Hall of Famer's Story in His Own Words*. New York: Carroll & Graf, 1995.

While including information on Buck Leonard's private life, this autobiography focuses more on the games played and on other players. It is a chronological account of the Homestead Grays, the teams they went up against, and the things that happened to them on the road as a member of the team. Buck Leonard vividly portrays his memories of a bygone era.

*O'Neil, Buck, et al. *I Was Right On Time: My Journey from The Negro Leagues to the Majors*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996.

Buck O'Neil was a mainstay of the Kansas City Monarchs and played when the Negro Leagues were in their prime. He went on to spend thirty years with the Chicago Cubs, mostly as a scout, and became the first African American coach in the major leagues.

Paige, Leroy "Satchel", and David Lipman. *Maybe I'll Pitch Forever: A Great Baseball Player Tells the Hilarious Story Behind the Legend*. Reprint, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1993.

In this autobiography, Satchel Paige tells his life story in his own words. Like most celebrity autobiographies, this is not an entirely reliable book—but a worthwhile primary source nonetheless.

Ribowsky, Mark. *Don't Look Back: Satchel Paige in the Shadows of Black Baseball*. Reprint, New York: Da Capo, 2000.

This is a biography of the best-known player from the Negro League era and one of the most storied American athletes of all time.

———. *The Power and the Darkness: The Life of Josh Gibson in the Shadows of the Game*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996.

This is a biography of the legendary slugger Josh Gibson, who many consider to be the greatest all-around player in the Negro Leagues and one of the greatest hitters of his era.

Robinson, Frazier "Slow", and Paul Bauer. *Catching Dreams: My Life in the Negro Baseball Leagues*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1999.

While not one of the great stars of black baseball, Robinson played for some great teams, caught many games for the legendary Satchel Paige, and has put his recollections together into a very enjoyable memoir.

Zang, David W. *Fleet Walker's Divided Heart: The Life of Baseball's First Black Major Leaguer*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995.

This book explores the life of Moses Fleetwood Walker, the first African American to play baseball on a major league team before the Jim Crow laws of the late nineteenth century. His life demonstrates both the devastation of racism and the role of baseball as a symbol of the nation. Being part white, Walker experienced discrimination from white teammates and opponents despite his athletic skills and accomplishments as an author, inventor, civil rights activist, and entrepreneur.

Books: Oral Histories

Holway, John B. *Black Diamonds: Life in the Negro Leagues from the Men Who Lived It*. New York: Stadium Books, 1991.

———. *Blackball Stars: Negro League Pioneers*. Westport, CT: Meckler Books, 1988.

The author of this book writes about the pioneers of the Negro Leagues, featuring short biographies of twenty-five of its most outstanding players.

———. *Voices from the Great Black Baseball Leagues*. Rev. ed. New York: De Capo Press, 1998.

In this book, the author explores invaluable interviews conducted with eighteen former Negro League figures, almost all of whom are now long deceased, such as Cool Papa Bell, Buck Leonard, Willie Wells, and Mrs. Effa Manley.

Kelley, Brent. *The Negro Leagues Revisited: Conversations with 66 More Baseball Heroes*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2000.

Following up on his 1998 publication, the author interviews another sixty-six people who played from the 1920s, when the Negro National League was formed, to the 1950s. He includes rare photographs and available statistics, and he notes that many of these stories are all that remain of the era.

*———. *Voices from the Negro Leagues: Conversations with 52 Baseball Standouts*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1998.

This book enlightens the reader about many African American ballplayers, both stars and journeymen, who have largely been forgotten. These fifty-two players reminisce about the Negro Leagues, from the great teams and players to the conditions they faced in the South under Jim Crow laws.

Books: Jackie Robinson

Because of the large number of books written about Jackie Robinson, this section contains a selection of these publications for adult readers.

Rampersad, Arnold. *Jackie Robinson: A Biography*. New York: Ballantine, 1998.

This author's biography of Jackie Robinson offers an intimate look at one of the most well-known American figures in history. Drawing heavily on never-before-seen personal documents, Rampersad gives readers glimpses of this complex man and his compelling story, from his birth in Georgia to his stardom in baseball and his work in the Civil Rights movement.

Robinson, Jackie, and Alfred Duckett. *I Never Had It Made: An Autobiography*. Reprint. New York: Harper Collins, 2003.

Originally published in 1972, the year Robinson died, this autobiography recalls his early years and influences at the University of California-Los Angeles, his time in the Army during World War II, and the challenges he faced during the Jim Crow era. Robinson further recalls his frustrations, on and off the field, with the Negro Leagues and that famous day when he became Branch Rickey's "noble experiment" by integrating baseball. This edition includes a new introduction by Hank Aaron.

Simon, Scott. *Jackie Robinson and the Integration of Baseball*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2002.

In this book, renowned broadcaster Scott Simon brings his passion for baseball and civil rights to this crucial moment in history when racial segregation was morally questioned in the United States. The author captures the drama of Robinson's first year in baseball, tracing his journey from Rookie of the Year, the award that now bears Robinson's name.

Tygiel, Jules. *Baseball's Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy*. Expanded edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Re-released on the fiftieth anniversary of Jackie Robinson's historical entrance into major league baseball, the author offers a new afterword in which he addresses the mythology surrounding Robinson's achievement. Additionally, Tygiel explores Robinson's effect on baseball and other sports and the enduring legacy that he left for African Americans and American society.

———. *Extra Bases: Reflections on Jackie Robinson, Race and Baseball History*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2002.

Written from a scholarly perspective, Jules Tygiel focuses on the broader cultural scene that surrounds the game of baseball, and how developments in the game reflect American society and the ways in which our nation has changed over time. Tygiel examines the history of blacks in baseball, and he analyzes what baseball history has to offer—how it should be written, the intersection of television and baseball, and a reflection on the current state of the game.

———, ed. *The Jackie Robinson Reader: Perspectives on an American Hero*. New York: Dutton, 1997.

Published in conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary of Robinson's first appearance as a Brooklyn Dodger, this book contains a series of essays written by the baseball player's contemporaries, reflecting on his life and career.

Books: Children (Ages 5–8)

*Curtis, Gavin. *The Bat Boy & His Violin*. New York: Aladdin, 1998.

Winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, this children's book takes an interesting look at the Negro baseball leagues during the 1940s with a sincere story of a young boy's love of the violin and his father's struggle in coaching "the worst team" in the league.

Frost, Helen. *Let's Meet Jackie Robinson*. Philadelphia: Chelsea Clubhouse Books, 2004.

To be released in 2004, this book is written in simple text with photographs that introduce the life of Jackie Robinson, the great African American athlete who broke the color barrier in major league baseball during the 1940s.

*Golenbock, Peter. *Teammates*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1993.

This book describes the racial prejudice experienced by Jackie Robinson when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first black player in major league baseball. It also details the acceptance and support he received from his white teammate Pee Wee Reese.

Shorto, Russell. *Jackie Robinson and Breaking the Color Barrier*. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 1991.

This biography tells the story of Jackie Robinson, who broke the color barrier in major league baseball when he became the first black ball player for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

Books: Children (Ages 9–12)

Abernathy, Clarence, and Wendel Field. *Josh Gibson: Dare to Dream*. Indianapolis: A & H Fine Arts, 2000.

This book is a biography of Josh Gibson, considered to be the greatest hitter in the history of the Negro Leagues.

Brashler, William. *The Story of Negro League Baseball*. New York: Ticknor & Fields, 1994.

The author of this book traces the history of black baseball from approximately 1890 to 1947, from the ban on blacks in major league baseball through the creation of the Negro Leagues and their ultimate demise. The book is also illustrated with historical photos.

Cooper, Michael L. *Playing America's Game: The Story of Negro League Baseball*. New York: Lodestar Books, 1993.

This book is a photo essay that presents the history of the Negro baseball leagues, a separate organization of baseball in the first half of the twentieth century featuring those kept from playing in the major leagues due to their race.

Davidson, Margaret. *Story of Jackie Robinson: Bravest Man in Baseball*. Milwaukee, WI: Gareth Stevens, 1996.

This book examines the life of Jackie Robinson, a talented black athlete who broke the color barrier in major league baseball by joining the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

De Marco, Tony. *Jackie Robinson*. Chanhassen, MN: Child's World, 2002.

This book is a biography of Jackie Robinson's distinguished baseball career. The book is part of a series highlighting individuals' achievements, demonstrating qualities for young readers. The series also thoughtfully documents the extreme pressures of

segregation and prejudice, while emphasizing the positive efforts and successes of each person.

Fremon, David K. *The Negro Baseball Leagues*. Toronto, Canada: Macmillan International, 1994.

This book looks at the remarkable achievements by baseball players of the Negro Leagues despite enduring hostile conditions.

Gardner, Robert, and Dennis Shortelle. *Forgotten Players: The Story of Black Baseball in America*. New York: Walker & Co., 1993.

This book traces the history of the Negro Leagues that evolved due to segregation in professional baseball, and the experiences of black players from the late nineteenth through the early twentieth century.

*Gutman, Dan. *Jackie and Me*. New York: Avon, 2001.

In this book, the author takes a unique look at the social experiences of blacks in mid-twentieth-century America. The book's character, Joe Stoshack, travels back in time with the help of old baseball cards to meet Jackie Robinson, one of the greatest black players in the major leagues. In the process, Joe unexpectedly changes race, forever changing his view of history and his definition of courage.

Humphrey, Kathryn Long. *Satchel Paige*. New York: Watts, 1988.

This book surveys the life and career of the Negro Leagues' pitching phenomenon and the first Negro Leagues baseball player to be inducted in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

*McKissack, Patricia, and Frederick McKissack. *Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues*. 2nd ed. New York: Scholastic, 1998.

Winner of the Coretta Scott King Honor Book in 1995, this book traces the history of baseball in the Negro Leagues and its great heroes including, Monte Irwin, Buck Leonard, and Cool Papa Bell. This book is also appropriate for middle school readers.

*Myers, Walter D. *Journal of Bidley Owens: The Negro Leagues*. New York: Scholastic,

2001.

This fictional account of teenager Biddy Owens's 1948 journal about working for the Birmingham Black Barons explores the games and the players, racism the team faced from New Orleans to Chicago, and his family's resistance to him becoming a professional baseball player. It includes a historical note about the evolution of the Negro Leagues.

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. *Mayfield Crossing*. New York: Puffin Books, 2002.

This fictional story addresses the realities of discrimination and prejudices and how baseball was able to bring people together.

*Slote, Alfred. *Finding Buck McHenry*. 2nd ed. New York: Harper Collins, 1993.

This novel for young readers follows eleven-year-old Jason, who discovers that the janitor of an elementary school in Michigan is a former star pitcher of the Negro Leagues. Ultimately, young Jason helps the former baseball player to coach a Little League team.

Stolz, Mary. *Coco Grimes*. New York: Harper Collins, 1994.

This book is a fictional account of eleven-year-old Thomas, who talks his grandfather into driving them across Florida to meet the legendary black baseball player of the Birmingham Black Barons and the Kansas City Monarchs who can remember everything about the baseball greats of the Negro Leagues.

Woodworth, Deborah. *Determination: The Story of Jackie Robinson*. Chanhassen, MN: Child's World, 1998.

The author focuses on the role of determination in the success of Jackie Robinson, who broke the race barrier by joining the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

Books: Young Adult

*Gilbert, Thomas W. *Baseball and the Color Line*. New York: Scholastic, 1995.

This book is part of a series that covers various aspects of black history and the black experience, from ancient civilizations to today's African American social and political movements. In this book, the development of segregation in professional baseball and the various attempts to break the color line, culminating in Jackie Robinson's joining

the Brooklyn Dodgers, is recounted. Included is a chronology, a bibliography, and an index.

Hine, Darlene Clark. *The Path to Equality: From the Schottsboro Case to the Breaking of Baseball's Color Barrier, 1931–1947*. New York: Chelsea House, 1995.

The author of this book depicts the 1930s and 1940s, one of the most important eras in the context of African American history. Not since U.S. slavery ended in 1865 did the destiny of America's blacks change so radically and so fast.

*McKissack, Patricia, and Frederick McKissack. *Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues*. 2nd ed. New York: Scholastic, 1998.

Winner of the Coretta Scott King Honor Book in 1995, this book traces the history of baseball in the Negro Leagues and its great heroes, including Monte Irwin, Buck Leonard, and Cool Papa Bell. This book is also appropriate for middle school readers.

*Riley, James A. *The Negro Leagues*. New York: Chelsea House, 1997.

This book presents the history of black baseball leagues that flourished during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, showcasing the talents of such superstars as Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, Cool Papa Bell, and Buck Leonard.

Shirley, David. *Satchel Paige: Baseball Great*. New York: Chelsea House, 1993.

In this book, the author describes the life and times of the National Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher who gained widespread recognition in the Negro Leagues before becoming the first black pitcher in the American League.

Videography

Annotated list. Materials accompanying the exhibition are marked with an asterisk (*).

Across Indiana. 30 min. Indianapolis, Indiana WFYI, 1996. Videocassette.

Aired on station WFYI in Indianapolis, this video looks at the home of the Indianapolis ABCs, who won the Colored World Championship in 1916. The narrator also looks at their contributions to the Negro National League.

An Evening with Buck O'Neil and His Memories of the Negro Baseball League. 57 min. The Center, 1999. Videocassette.

Produced in conjunction with the Festival of the Arts in Sport in Colorado Springs, Colorado, this video features a presentation and question/answer session with John "Buck" O'Neil, legendary player for the Kansas City Monarchs and chairman of the board of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Baseball*. Nine-volume set. Total running time: 1134 min. PBS Home Video, 1994. Includes: *First Inning. Our Game: The 1840s–1900*; *Second Inning. Something Like a War: 1900–1910*; *Third Inning. The Faith of Fifty Million People: 1910–1920*; *Fourth Inning. A National Heirloom: 1920–1930*; *Fifth Inning. Shadow Ball: 1930–1940*; *Sixth Inning. The National Pastime: 1940–1950*; *Seventh Inning. The Capital of Baseball: 1950–1960*; *Eighth Inning. A Whole New Ballgame: 1960–1970*; and *Ninth Inning. Home: 1970–Present*. Videocassettes.

Produced by Ken Burns and narrated by John Chancellor, this extensive video compilation covers the entire history of baseball in the United States, including the period of the Negro Leagues and its greatest stars and history makers. The *Fifth Inning. Shadow Ball: 1930–1940* videocassette accompanies the exhibition.

Baseball, Black & White. MPI Home Video, 1994. Videocassette.

Originally broadcast on September 26, 1994, as an episode of the television program *Nightline*, Ted Koppel interviews Ken Burns and Buck O'Neil about African Americans in baseball and the Negro Leagues.

The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings. 111 min. Universal Home Video, 1976. Videocassette.

Starring Richard Pryor, Billy Dee Williams, and James Earl Jones, this lighthearted comedy follows the adventures of a black baseball team that barnstorms around the country after it breaks away from the Negro National League. Based on the novel of the same name.

Birmingham's Black Barons. Two-volume set. Total running time: 106 min. Birmingham Cable, Division of Time Warner Cable, 1996. Videocassette.

This documentary video looks at the history of the Birmingham's Black Barons, the first film ever produced about this lesser known team. Included are oral histories of a team that was the focal point of an entire community's social activities for nearly a half-century.

Black Diamonds, Blues City: Story of the Memphis Red Sox. 57 min. University of Memphis, 1996. Videocassette.

This documentary tells the story of the Negro Leagues, focusing mostly on the Memphis Red Sox's relationship with the power politics, race relations, and Blues culture of the mid-century in the South. The Memphis Red Sox was one of the premiere teams in the Negro Leagues.

The Boys in the Field. 57 min. UNC Center for Public Television, 1980. Videocassette.

This documentary film discusses the history and current status of African Americans in professional baseball through interviews with black and white players, managers, and owners. Topics include: the Negro Leagues; the accomplishments of Jackie Robinson, Hank Aaron, and Frank Robinson; the scouting system; and advancement opportunities.

The Court Martial of Jackie Robinson. 94 min. Turner Home Entertainment. 1990. Videocassette.

This dramatization depicts how Jackie Robinson was court-martialed for refusing to move to a seat in the back of an Army bus.

Don't Look Back: The Story of Leroy "Satchel" Paige. 96 min. Warner Home Video, 1981. Videocassette.

Starring Lou Gossett, this film depicts the life and pitching career of Satchel Paige, and how he finally gets his chance to play in the major leagues dominated by white baseball players.

Fences. 120 min. Connecticut Repertory Theater, 2001. Videocassette.

Written by August Wilson at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, this historical drama depicts the life of Troy Maxson, former baseball player with the Negro Leagues. Now a garbage collector, Maxson feels that his life has been hemmed in by others. As the story unfolds, however, he is forced to confront his own role in the building of fences in his life.

The History of Great Black Baseball Players. 45 min. Fries Home Video, 1990. Videocassette.

In this documentary video, Ernie Banks narrates the history of African Americans in baseball. The video covers the infancy of the Negro National League in 1920 through its heyday in the 1930s and 1940s. It also covers the appearance of the first black player in the major leagues up to the emergence of today's superstars. Included are interviews with Hank Aaron, Lou Brock, Whitey Herzog, Monte Irvin, and Ozzie Smith.

Jackie Robinson. 50 min. A&E Home Video, 1999. Videocassette.

In this documentary, Peter Graves reviews the life of Jackie Robinson, the American hero whose accomplishments personified a new definition of the phrase "All-Star."

The Kansas City Monarchs: Ain't Seen Nothing Like it Since. 90 min. Kansas City, Missouri, KCPT Public Television, 1994. Videocassette

This documentary video looks at the history of the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Leagues, a team that sent more black players to the major leagues than any other team. Discussed are Leroy "Satchel" Paige and Jackie Robinson, as well as other notable African American players.

Kings on the Hill: Baseball's Forgotten Men. 60 min. Pittsburgh Home Video, 1993. Videocassette.

In this video, the history of the Negro Leagues is discussed as well as the great players of the time. Emphasis is placed on the Pennsylvania teams, the Homestead Grays and the Pittsburg Crawfords.

Life of a Young Ball Player. 18 min. Erie Art Museum, 1994. Videocassette.

In this short documentary video, baseball player Willie Grace is interviewed about his early years in the Negro Leagues.

A Life in the Negro Leagues. 11 min. Missouri Historical Society, 1995. Videocassette.

Narrated by actor Don Johnson, this short documentary video briefly covers the history of the Negro Leagues and is narrated by Don Johnson.

The Negro Leagues and the African American Baseball Experience. 78 min. Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles, 1994. Videocassette.

In this video, storyteller Leslie Perry presents a story for elementary school children about the Negro Leagues. It is followed by a question-and-answer period with Perry, authors John Holway and Phil Dixon, and Negro League players Sammie Haynes and Merle Porter.

Only the Ball Was White. 30 min. Educational Video Network, 1992. Videocassette.

Narrator Paul Winfield recounts a number of unrecognized athletes, as well as some better-known players, such as Jackie Robinson and Roy Campanella, who were hired by the major leagues. The video also traces the history of the Negro Leagues through photographs, film footage, and interviews with the ball players. Discussions are also included on the era when major leagues in the United States refused to hire black athletes.

Reaching the Finish Line. 32 min. Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 1999. Videocassette.

This video evaluates the societal contributions of Joe Louis, Jesse Owens, Jackie Robinson, Toni Stone, Willie O'Ree, and Arthur Ashe—sports icons who broke the color barrier in professional sports, paving the way for later Civil Rights victories.

Safe at Home. 57 min. Atlanta, Georgia, WPBA-TV, 1993. Videocassette.

This documentary video tells the story of the Negro Leagues and the men who were barred from the major leagues because of the color line. Included is vintage photographs, film clips, and interviews. Much of the video focuses on the Negro Southern League and its importance to the black community.

Soul of the Game. 97 min. HBO Pictures, 1996. Videocassette.

This film drama depicts the final year of baseball's Negro Leagues and the events leading up to the integration of the major leagues in 1945. The film explores the talent and ambition of two of the Negro League's star players, Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson.

**There Was Always Sun Shining Somewhere: Life in the Negro Baseball Leagues*. 58 min. Refocus Films, 1984. Videocassette.

This video chronicles the history of the black baseball leagues and Jackie Robinson's pioneering role in integrating professional baseball. The video also contains rare historical footage and interviews with black baseball greats.

Yesterday's Negro League Baseball. 36 min. Best Pictures Video, 2000. Videocassette.

This video presents a history of the Negro Leagues and biographies of some of its most notable players.

Web Sites

There are numerous Web sites with information about Negro Leagues baseball and African American history. A selection of these sites are listed here.

Afro-American Almanac

www.toptags.com/aama/

The AFRO-American Almanac[®] is an on-line presentation of the African in America. It provides a historical perspective of a nation, its people, and its cultural evolution: from the beginning of the slave trade, through the Civil Rights movement, to the present. There are links to folktales, biographies, and historical events and documents.

American Association for State and Local History

www.aaslh.org

This site provides useful links to national and state resources and to national historical societies. This information can be used for the research project described in the post-visit lesson plan.

Blackbaseball.com

www.blackbaseball.com

Blackbaseball.com is produced by TK Publishers and WebMatters New Media. TK Publishers is a company responsible for many of the first books published on the Negro Leagues in the 1980s. WebMatters New Media is a Web development and consulting firm that has designed Web sites for numerous national and international companies, firms, ministries, and organizations. Content for this Web site is provided and edited by James Riley, a foremost authority on the history of the Negro baseball leagues. Riley is also Director of Research at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri. The site contains articles and news on the Negro Leagues and the history of black baseball, as well as information about the various teams. There are also links for museums, resources, and a bibliography of books.

Black Film Center Archive

www.indiana.edu/~bfca/index.html

Located at the University of Indiana, this site is a good reference to the film department's collection, which contains over eight hundred historic and contemporary Hollywood and independent films on and by African Americans.

Kansas State University

www.coe.ksu.edu/nlbm/

Developed by the College of Education at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas, this site covers the social, economic, and political environment during the period of the Negro baseball leagues. Subject areas include life as a black ballplayer, the fans and the game, the role of the media, segregation to integration, and family and community. Also, there are links to other resources and a timeline from the early days of black baseball through the 1950s, when the Negro baseball leagues disbanded.

Out of the Shadows

www.outoftheshadows.net

This site is maintained by the Negro Leagues Researchers and Authors Group that conducts comprehensive studies for the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and Major League Baseball. It is a good site for information on the history of black baseball, and its players, bibliographies, theses and dissertations, biographies, and a list of umpires.

Major League Baseball

www.mlb.com

This is the official site for Major League Baseball. There is information about the Negro Leagues located on the history link, including the legacies of the Negro Leagues, feature articles, team histories, and audio and video clips. The latter is interesting, but the files take a long time to download.

National Baseball Hall of Fame

www.baseballhalloffame.org

Located in Cooperstown, New York, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is a not-for-profit educational institution dedicated to fostering an appreciation of the historical development of the game and its impact on our culture. It collects, preserves, exhibits, and interprets its collections for a global audience, and it honors those who have made outstanding contributions to our national pastime. This Web site has a host of resources that can be used in the classroom.

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum

www.nlbm.com

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is the world's only museum dedicated to preserving the history of the Negro Leagues. The museum opened in Kansas City,

Missouri, in January of 1991 and was originally located in the Historic Lincoln Building in the 18th and Vine Historic District. It is now housed in the 18th and Vine complex, where the American Jazz Museum is also located. The museum has been the subject of several television, radio, and print media feature stories. Their Web site offers education links, and information on general history, research, and current exhibitions.

Negro Leagues Baseball

www.negroleaguesbaseball.com

This is a good site for discussion groups, archived articles, recent news, team profiles, books, and videos about the Negro Leagues.

Sports Illustrated

www.cnn.com/features/1997/blackbaseball/frame.html

Maintained by CNN, this site offers a timeline of black baseball.

Teachers First.Com

www.teachersfirst.com/ushistory/afro-am.htm

This is a great resource for teachers developing lesson plans on the African American experience. The site contains a variety of lesson plans that are grade appropriate and an African American reading list developed by the the New York Public Library.

The Encyclopedia Britannica

www.search.eb.com/blackhistory/timeline.html

The site offers a good timeline of black history in the United States, including accomplishments and advancements made by African Americans.

The Virtual Jim Crow Museum

www.ferris.edu/news/jimcrow/

The museum's mission is to promote racial tolerance by helping people understand the historical and contemporary expressions of intolerance. The site provides historical information on racial discrimination and visual images of stereotypes.

They Played Baseball

www.theyplayedbaseball.com

This is an appealing site devoted to the legacy of the Negro Leagues players, both men and women, with feature articles.

Umpires of the Negro Leagues

www.home.earthlink.net/~johnmur/

This site offers a comprehensive list of umpires from the Negro Leagues, as well as primary sources from newspaper articles written during the early decades of the league.

United States Library of Congress

www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/jrhtml/jr1900s.html

A good site for primary resources, this site contains a timeline of events between the 1860s and 1970s, images of publications, newspaper articles, and player cards.

Speaker List

One of the best ways to enhance the exhibition and to engage the community is to host a program with a speaker. This can include the curator of the exhibition, the exhibition's lenders, experts on the history of black baseball in America, or surviving Negro baseball leagues players. It is also recommended that venues contact individuals in their communities or at their local college or university who have similar knowledge or expertise. Please contact the individuals listed below directly regarding fees, transportation, housing, and availability.

David Conrads

Exhibition curator
8108 Fontana Street
Shawnee Mission, KS 66208–5057
913.901.0205
dconrads@sbcglobal.net
Fee: Contact for lecture fee and expenses

David Conrads is a freelance writer and editor who resides in the greater metropolitan area of Kansas City, Missouri. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Northwestern University in 1977 and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Columbia University in 1982. Conrads writes for numerous national, regional, and local publications. He has devoted much of his research and writings to the history of the Negro Leagues, and is the co-author of *I Was Right on Time: My Journey From the Negro Leagues to the Majors*.

Phil Dixon

7904 Spring Valley Road
Belton, MO 64012
816.322.8125
816.322.8492 (fax)
913.656.0434 (voicemail)
Fee: Contact for lecture fee and expenses

Phil Dixon is an author, baseball researcher, and expert on the history of the Negro Leagues. His publications include *The Negro Baseball Leagues, 1867–1955: A Photographic History*; *The Negro Leagues and the African American Baseball Experience*; and recently, *The Monarchs 1920–1938: Featuring Wilber “Bullet” Rogan, the Greatest Ballplayer in Cooperstown*. Dixon gives a variety of public presentations, including formal lectures and informal gallery talks for K–12 schools, colleges, and

museums. His best days to conduct a program are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and some weekends.

Lawrence Hogan, Ph.D.

Professor of History
Union County College
History Department
1033 Springfield Avenue
Cranford, NJ 07016
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Fee: Contact for lecture fee and expenses

Dr. Hogan is Senior Professor of History at Union County College in Cranford, New Jersey. He is knowledgeable on the subject of the Negro Leagues and African American history, and he has served as a consultant and resource for several exhibits, including the permanent exhibit on the history of black baseball at the National Baseball Hall of Fame entitled *Pride and Passion*. He is also a regular speaker for the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. His lectures include “Before You Can Say ‘Jackie Robinson’: Black Baseball in America and New Jersey in the Era of the Color Line”; “Recapturing a New Jersey Legacy: John Henry ‘Pop’ Lloyd and the Communal Legacy of Negro Leagues Baseball”; and “The House That Ruth Built, and Pop Opened! Negro Leagues Baseball at Yankee Stadium.” For a complete description of these lectures, you can visit the New Jersey Council for the Humanities at www.njch.org.

Larry Lester

Exhibition lender and advisor
Contact: Stacey Smith
P.O. Box 380146
Kansas City, MO 64138
816.554.8493
sseventplanner@sprintmail.com
Fee: \$2,000, but negotiable

Larry Lester is the cofounder and former director of research at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri. Lester is considered to be one of the country’s leading authorities on the Negro Leagues. He has served as a consultant for and contributed to a number of research projects, firms, and museum exhibits related to black baseball. He was guest curator of an exhibit of the largest private collection of Negro Leagues memorabilia held at the African Museum in Dallas, Texas. He now serves as co-chairman of the Negro Leagues Committee for the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) in Cleveland, Ohio. Lester is the coauthor of many books on black baseball, including *Black Baseball in Pittsburgh*, *The Negro Leagues Book*, and *Black Baseball’s National Showcase: The East-West All-Star Game, 1933–1953*, the latter

winning the Sporting News-SABR Research Award in 2003. Through his company, NoirTech Research, Inc., Lester campaigns annually for the induction of worthy Negro League players into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. He is the lender of most of the photographs on display in the exhibition. Lester gives lectures and talks on the Negro Leagues within the context of the culture and the economic, social, and political environment of this period in America.

Byron Motley

Yabba Biri Productions, Inc.
6223 Poppy Peak Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90042
323.257.0824
YABBABIRI Prods@aol.com
www.ByronMotley.com
Fee: see descriptions below

Byron Motley is an entertainer and speaker who combines performance with storytelling, delivering lectures and performances that are historical, educational, and entertaining. He holds a Master of Arts in Music from the University of Southern California, presenting programs that are culturally diverse and that chronicle African American history. Inspired by his father, Bob Motley, former umpire in the Negro Leagues, Byron Motley brings a personal connection to his work. Motley offers two different programs:

“Hitmakers, Heroes & Homeruns: A Musical Celebration of Jazz & Negro League Baseball”

This one-man musical performance features performer Byron Motley telling stories about Negro League players and how they intertwine with those of some of our greatest jazz musicians. During this segregated period in American history, they traveled the same roads, stayed in the same hotels, ate at the same restaurants, and were inspired by each other's professions. This performance demonstrates that for the African American community, the Negro Leagues and the music of that period were important social, cultural, and economic developments for all Americans.

Fee: \$5,500 (Includes pianist/video technician)

Audience: All ages - Music lovers and baseball fans alike

“Black Baseball: A History of the Negro Leagues”

Based on the upcoming television documentary “Oh, How They Lived—Stories of the Negro Leagues,” this speaking event features keynote speaker and filmmaker Byron Motley discussing stories about the history and legacy of the Negro Leagues. Byron has a personal interest in Negro Leagues history. His father, Bob Motley, umpired in the Negro Leagues for many years and holds the distinction of being the Negro Leagues’ only living umpire. Bob Motley is available to join Byron for this lecture, which provides an evening of stories, film clips, memories and history.

Fee: \$3,500

Audience: All ages

John “Buck” O’Neil

Contact: Barbara Samuels
Negro Leagues Baseball Museum
1616 E. 18th Street
Kansas City, MO 64108–1610
816.221.1920

Fee: Contact Ms. Samuels for lecture fee and expenses

Buck O’Neil is one of the most prominent and well-known baseball players of the Negro Leagues. His career has spanned 70 years in baseball, including as chairman of the board of the Negro Leagues Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, and member of the Baseball Hall of Fame’s Veterans Committee in Cooperstown, New York. Born in Carrabelle, Florida, O’Neil’s exposure to baseball came from his father, who played for local teams. After playing for several black baseball teams between 1934 and 1937, O’Neil joined the Kansas City Monarchs in 1938, where he remained until 1955 as a player and then manager. Throughout his career, O’Neil also played in winter leagues and on barnstorming teams. Although denied a chance to play in the major leagues, O’Neil joined the Chicago Cubs as a scout in 1956, and he became the first black coach in major-league history for the Cubs in 1962. Mr. O’Neil’s schedule is very busy, so please contact Barbara Samuels for availability as early as possible.

Wayne Stivers

Exhibition lender
1153 Bergen Parkway
Suite M205
Evergreen, CO 80439
303.674.3718
wstivers2@aol.com

Fee: Contact for lecture fee and expenses

Wayne Stivers is owner of Mister Sports Collectibles in Evergreen, Colorado, which houses one of the most extensive collections of Negro League memorabilia, including bats, gloves, players’ equipment, and programs. Stivers has researched the Negro Leagues for the past twenty-five years and has contributed to several books on black baseball. He is also a member of the Negro League Committee for the Society for American Baseball Research. At the present, Stivers is working with the Negro Leagues Researchers & Authors Group researching the Negro Leagues for the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. He has experience with classroom visits, during which he conducts an informal short talk about the Negro Leagues followed by a question-and-answer period. Mr. Stivers travels frequently, so please contact him several months before planning a proposed program.

Speaker Resources

An effective program can be built around a local scholar, art historian, or artist. The following organizations may be able to help you locate those experts who would be willing to be involved in an event at your museum. Contact the national organizations to determine if there are members in your area.

State arts and humanities councils often have traveling speakers who may meet your needs or be able to refer others in your state to speak at your museum. Locate your state and local arts or humanities council at the following Web sites:

- A list of state arts councils can be found at www.arts.endow.gov or call the National Endowment for the Arts at 202.682.5400.
- A list of state humanities councils can be found at www.neh.gov/whoweare/statecouncils.html or call the National Endowment for the Humanities at 800.NEH.1121.
- A list of local arts organizations, by state, can be found at www.neh.gov/whoweare/statecouncils.html or contact Dinah Walls, Locals Specialist, at 202.682.5429, or e-mail her at wallsd@arts.endow.gov.

Educational Activities

Storytime

Ages 5+

Traveling with the exhibition are materials that can be used in museum programming or with other subjects, such as literature, for visiting school groups.

Suggested Materials:

- *The Bat Boy & His Violin* by Gavin Curtis
- *Teammates* by Peter Golenbock
- coloring template of Jackie Robinson (located in the programming guide)
- color crayons

Directions:

1. For very young children, conducting a reading session in the gallery space will introduce students to the Negro Leagues and to Jackie Robinson. Ask them if they have been to a ballgame, professional or semiprofessional. Read either book and let them look at the photographs and objects in the exhibition.
 - *The Bat Boy & His Violin* by Gavin Curtis
 - *Teammates* by Peter Golenbock
2. Following the reading session, young children can use the crayons to color a template of Jackie Robinson.

Name Scramble

Ages 9+

Most people today recognize the names of the great players from the Negro Leagues: Jackie Robinson, Buck O'Neil, and Satchel Paige. There are hundreds of players who played in the Negro Leagues and made significant contributions to the game.

In this activity, students will unscramble the names below and answer the questions next to each name. Answers can be found in the exhibition labels and also listed at the end of the activity. See gallery activity template enclosed in the programming guide.

Questions

1. dub wrlefo He is considered the first what?
When did he begin playing baseball?
2. esmos tfelowdoe kwarel He became the first what?
What team in the American Association League did he play for?
3. buer rstofe He is considered the father of what?
What league did he help form?
4. lj niksilniw What teams did he organize?
What did he pioneer that changed the time of day the game was played?
5. edt cdfeiladr What was his nickname?
6. ams caly He was not a player, but a what?
7. itno ntose She was the first _____ to play in the Negro Leagues.
What team did she play for?
8. raliceh natrg He is considered what?
How did he almost become the first black player to cross the color line in baseball?
9. buriwl goanr What was his nickname?
How did he get it?
10. lilewi elslw What was his nickname?
What piece of equipment did he invent?

11. honj renyh dlyol What position did he play?
What great white baseball player considered him the
greatest player of all time?
12. dlyol epeprp setatsb What was his nickname?
How did he get this name?
13. olitnh tmihs What was he considered to have?

Answers

1. Bud Fowler Recognized as the first black professional baseball player.
He began playing in 1878.
2. Moses Fleetwood Walker He was the first black player to play in the major leagues
before the league became segregated.
He played for the Toledo, Ohio, Blue Stockings.
3. Rube Foster Considered the Father of Black Baseball.
He helped form the Negro National League in 1920.
4. J.L. Wilkinson He started the Kansas City Monarchs and he formed the All
Nations team, an ethnically diverse group of players.
He also pioneered night baseball.
5. Ted Radcliffe His nickname was “Double Duty.”
6. Sam Lacy A sportswriter and editor for the *Baltimore Afro-American*, a
black sports magazine.
7. Toni Stone The first woman to play in the Negro Leagues.
The Indianapolis Clowns in 1953.
8. Charlie Grant Considered one of the first great black baseball players.
He attempted, with the help of John McGraw, to play in the
major leagues by passing himself as a Native American.
No.
9. Wilbur Rogan “Bullet Joe”
Pitching his fastball.
10. Willie Wells “El Diablo”
He invented the use of the batting helmet.

He was frequently hit by pitchers because of his strong defensive work.

11. John Henry Lloyd Shortstop.
Babe Ruth.
12. Lloyd “Pepper” Bassett The “rocking chair catcher”
13. Hilton Smith Considered to have the best curveball in black baseball.

Design a Team Logo

Ages 10+

Even though teams that played in the Negro Leagues had their own names, many did not have designed logos for their uniforms. Often the team name—along with the player’s number—appeared on their uniforms. Most teams in the major leagues also did not have team logos back in the early days of baseball. In this activity, the students will choose a team from the Negro Leagues and design a team logo.

Suggested Materials

- 8 x 11-inch cardstock (for final design)
- plain paper
- pencils
- colored pencils
- paints
- colored markers
- ruler

Directions

1. Have the students first tour the exhibition. With a piece of paper and pencil, have the students write down team names as they read the labels.
2. Following the tour, ask the students to report on the team names. Have them think about present-day team names in baseball. Answer the following questions:
 - How are the names different?
 - How are they similar?
 - What does a team name do for the image of the team?
 - What does it do for the fans?
3. Have students divide into working pairs. Have them choose a team name to design a logo. Some suggestions:
 - Toledo Blue Stockings (American Association, major league team)
 - Philadelphia Giants (early black team)
 - All Nations Team (an ethnically diverse team)
 - Chicago American Giants (Negro National League team and Negro American)
 - The Indianapolis ABCs (Negro National League team)
 - Kansas City Monarchs (Negro National League and Negro American)
 - Detroit Cubs (semipro team)
 - Homestead Grays (Negro National League)
 - Newark Eagles (Negro National League)

- Birmingham Black Barons (Negro National League and Negro American)
4. Have the working pairs consider the team name. Answer the following questions:
 - What is the first thing you think of when hear the team name?
 - What images, or icons, do you think of?
 - What colors would you choose?
 5. Have students first sketch their design on a plain piece of paper. They may have several designs. If so, have them choose a final one.
 6. Have them draw their design with a pencil on the cardstock. To create a frame or border around the logo, have them first use a ruler to measure a one-inch frame.
 7. Have the students use a variety of materials: colored pencils, colored pens, or paint.
 8. Have the students display their logos either in a small gallery or hallway space in the museum, or in their classrooms.

Distributor Contacts

Art Education

Crystal Productions
Box 2159
Glenview, IL 60025-6159
Phone: 1.800.255.8629
www.crystalproductions.com

Davis Art Education Materials
50 Portland Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Phone: 1.800.533.2847
www.davis-art.com

Art Supplies: General

Binney and Smith, Inc.
For Crayola® products, call 1.800.CRAYOLA
For InkTank products, call 1.866.INKTANK
For Silly Putty®, Portfolio Series, and all other Binney & Smith products, call
1.800.272.9652
www.binney-smith.com

Dick Blick Art Materials
P.O. Box 1267
Galesburg, IL 61402-1267
Phone: 1.800.828.4548
Fax: 1.800.621.8293
Product Info .1.800.933.2542
www.dickblick.com

Sax Arts and Crafts
2725 S. Moorland Road
New Berlin, WI 53151
Phone: 1.800.558.6696
Fax: 1.800.328.4729
www.saxarts.com

Utrecht Art Supplies Online Store
Phone: 1.800.223.9132
www.utrechtart.com

Film Distributors

Bullfrog Films
P.O. Box 149
Oley, PA 19547
800.543.3764
www.bullfrogfilms.com

The Cinema Guild
130 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10016
800.723.5522
www.cinemaguild.com

Kino International
333 W. 39th St., Ste. 503
New York, NY 10018
800.562.3330
www.kino.com

Women Make Movies
462 Broadway Suite 500WS
New York, NY 10013
212.925.0606
www.wmm.com

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Thank you.

Slide Show Script

Introduction

The National Pastime in Black and White: The Negro Baseball Leagues, 1867–1955 consists of eighty-one items, including documentary photographs and rare artifacts. It is curated by David Conrads, a freelance writer knowledgeable on the subject of the Negro Leagues.

Baseball has been the national pastime in the United States for decades. As one of this country's central institutions, baseball has long mirrored the complex and generally painful issue of race in the United States. But baseball was actually a forerunner in the realm of race relations, as the integration of the major leagues predated all the early Civil Rights landmarks. The circumstances that led to the integration of the major leagues, and society as a whole, are hard to imagine separated from the proving ground of the Negro Leagues.

Despite racial segregation and discrimination that rapidly spread due to the Jim Crow laws and major league sports owners' "gentlemen's agreement," the Negro Leagues became a popular institution that opened a door for hundreds of African American athletes. By the turn of the century, there were five known professional black teams, and more than sixty by 1910. Although racial bias kept blacks out of the cultural mainstream, it could not keep them from participating zealously in what rapidly became the national pastime.

Slide #1

Keokuk, Iowa, ball club, Western League

1885

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Bud Fowler (top row, center) is recognized as the first black professional baseball player. He began his career in 1878, one year after the first minor league was organized, and he played for numerous minor league teams until 1899. In the early days of the game, African American players were not barred from the predominately white leagues. Despite his skills, Fowler never stayed with any one team very long, most likely due to increasingly hostile racial attitudes. He played for as many as three different teams in a single season.

Slide#2

Pittsburgh Crawfords and team bus in front of Greenlee Field

1936

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The Pittsburgh Crawfords was one of the most celebrated teams in the history of baseball. When Gus Greenlee, a prominent businessman and numbers banker in the black community of Pittsburgh, acquired the Crawfords, he used his wealth to stock the team with top talent. Between 1932 and 1936, the Crawfords were arguably the best team in black baseball and one of the greatest baseball teams in history. The 1936 roster included five future members of the National Baseball of Fame, the most ever assembled on a single team. They were: playing manager Oscar Charleston (far left), Cool Papa Bell and Judy Johnson (eighth and ninth from right, respectively), Josh Gibson (fifth from right) and Satchel Paige (third from right). The team is pictured at the entrance to Greenlee Field. Built by Gus Greenlee in 1932, it was one of only two black-owned ballparks in the country.

Slide #3

Neil Robinson at bat, East-West All-Star Game

1939

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The East-West All-Star Game was started in 1933, the same year as its major league counterpart, and was played annually at Comiskey Park in Chicago. Due to terrible economic conditions in the 1930s and political factors within the Negro Leagues, no Negro World Series was played between 1928 and 1941. As a result, the East-West Game was the premier event in black baseball and became for a time the single most important black sporting event in the country. By the mid-1940s, attendance at the game had grown to fifty thousand. Major league owners found it hard to ignore the huge crowds of black customers, as seen in this photograph, that filled the stadium year after year. The success of the East-West Game contributed significantly to the integration of the major leagues.

Slide #4

Sportswriters Sam Lacy and Wendell Smith

1940s

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Sportswriters for the weekly black newspapers played an important role in segregated baseball. They not only kept their far-flung readership informed of the progress of black teams and players, but many also used their columns as a bully pulpit to rail against racial injustice in many forms. They were instrumental in maintaining pressure on organized baseball to open its doors to African American players and did much to hasten the end of baseball apartheid. Sam Lacy (far left) was a writer and editor for the *Baltimore Afro-American* for over fifty years. Wendell Smith (far right), one of the best-known black sportswriters of his day, worked for several prominent papers. Dan Bankhead (middle), a

star pitcher for several Negro Leagues teams, joined the Brooklyn Dodgers late in the 1947 season, becoming the first black pitcher in the major leagues.

Slide #5

Pepper Bassett

1940s

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Lloyd “Pepper” Bassett (1910–1981) joined the Pittsburgh Crawfords in 1937 as backup catcher to Josh Gibson. A native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Bassett started his baseball career with the New Orleans Crescent Stars in 1934. He played for many top teams during his seventeen-year career and spent nine years with the Birmingham, Alabama, Black Barons. In 1942, he joined the Ethiopian Clowns (later called the Cincinnati Clowns and the Cincinnati-Indianapolis Clowns). There he became a popular gate attraction and was known as the “rocking chair catcher” because he would catch part of the game in a rocking chair. He made four appearances in the East-West All-Star Game.

Slide#6

Catcher's mask used by Pepper Bassett

Late 1930s to early 1940s

Metal

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

Slide #7

Kansas City Monarchs, with rookie Jackie Robinson

1945

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

In 1945, many of the Kansas City Monarchs’ regulars were serving in the military and the team roster was filled out with new players. Among the new recruits was Jackie Robinson (kneeling, third from left), who had made a name for himself several years before as an All-American football player at the University of California, Los Angeles. Robinson had never played on a segregated team before joining the Monarchs. Two years later, he became the first black player in the modern major leagues and the most historically significant player in baseball history.

Slide#8

Satchel Paige All-Stars

1946

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Satchel Paige, black baseball's biggest star and gate attraction, often assembled an all-star team to barnstorm against all-white major league teams in the off-season. By the 1940s, Bob Feller had replaced Dizzy Dean as the front man for the white team. These exhibition tours were enormously popular as well as lucrative. The black teams won often enough that baseball commissioner Kennesaw Mountain Landis banned the practice. Paige's 1946 team included pitcher and future National Baseball Hall of Famer Hilton Smith (far left) and Buck O'Neil (fourth from right). Satchel Paige is seen at right in the doorway of the airplane, with his valet.

Slide#9

Newark Eagles

1946

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

The Newark Eagles was one of the best teams in black baseball in the mid-1940s, before the integration of the major leagues. In 1946, the Eagles defeated the Kansas City Monarchs to win the Negro World Series. The championship team included future major leaguers Monte Irvin (top row, far left) and Larry Doby (top row, far right), and star pitcher Leon Day (bottom row, far right). All three players are now in the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Also on the team was Raleigh "Biz" Mackey (front row, third from right), one of the era's great catchers and mentor to Roy Campanella, the major leagues' first black catcher.

Slide#10

Indianapolis Clowns vs. Twilight League All-Stars

1950's

Ink on paper

Courtesy Wayne Stivers

This poster from the 1950s demonstrates how some teams provided entertainment to boast dwindling audience attendance. Clowning was entertainment in its day in the Negro Baseball Leagues. It was a means to draw in audiences, but was also a small part of the era. Much of the clowning took place either before the game, between innings, or after the game. It is often perceived that clowning was part of game and only reinforced stereotypes of black baseball players, but it did not take place during competition.

Slide#11

Toni Stone

1954

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

Toni Stone became the first woman to play in the Negro Leagues when she joined the Indianapolis Clowns in 1953. She moved to the Kansas City Monarchs the next year, when this photograph was taken, playing second base. A good all-around athlete, Stone was inducted into the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame in East Meadow, New York, in 1993.

Slide#12

Buck O'Neil with the Chicago Cubs

1960s

Gelatin silver print

Courtesy Larry Lester

When black baseball died, vast amounts of talent and knowledge died with it, as only a very small number of players and managers found a place in the integrated major leagues. John "Buck" O'Neil, longtime first baseman and, later, manager of the Kansas City Monarchs, was one of the few who stayed in baseball. O'Neil joined the Chicago Cubs as a scout in 1956 and spent some thirty years with that organization. In 1962, the Cubs made him the first African American coach in the major leagues. He has held a part-time scouting position with the Kansas City Royals since retiring from the Cubs in the late 1980s. He has been a tireless spokesman for the Negro Leagues in recent years, as a member of the Veterans Committee of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and chairman of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City.

Lesson Plans

The pre- and post-visit lesson plans are designed as introductory learning activities for teachers interested in taking their students to see *The National Pastime in Black and White: The Negro Baseball Leagues, 1867–1955*. These lesson plans can be adapted to many age groups, but they are primarily designed for middle school and higher school groups. In advance of the exhibition's arrival at your museum, send program announcements to schools inviting them to set up a tour. Provide teachers with the slides and slide show script, the exhibition catalogue, introductory readings, or other information that comes with this programming guide. Educators can also access this information through the ExhibitsUSA Web site at www.exhibitsusa.org.

Pre-Visit Lesson Plan

Lesson #1: Team Jeopardy: Jim Crow Laws

Overview

In this lesson plan, students will learn about the history of the Reconstruction and the Jim Crow era to gain a better understanding of the latter's impact on the rise of segregation in the United States during the early twentieth century. Students will:

- learn how to conduct research to gain knowledge and understanding;
- gain a better understanding of the culture and environment in which the Negro Leagues thrived; and
- understand how segregation in American sports is still echoed in parts of society today.

Assessment Guides:

- *Young children:* Through basic research and readings, elementary students will demonstrate recently acquired knowledge by creating a class timeline of the Negro Leagues.
- *Middle and High School:* Through basic research and readings, middle school students will demonstrate recently acquired knowledge by designing a Jeopardy game and competing in team Jeopardy.

Background Information

After the end of the Civil War, President Andrew Johnson announced his Reconstruction Plan in 1865. Johnson's national goals were to complete the abolition of slavery, repudiate Confederate war debts, and nullify ordinances of secession.

The Reconstruction period was also initiated to heal the country and unify the population. Small independent movements that treated African Americans with equality began to develop independent of state and federal laws. Even though whites and blacks did not interact as equals, they began to ride together on railway cars, eat in the same restaurants, share public facilities, and become a part of the urban labor force.

The period is marked by struggles between political parties about how Reconstruction should proceed and between the president and Congress over who should direct it.

The Jim Crow laws refer to the systematic practice of segregating and suppressing African Americans following the end of the Civil War. These laws allowed for private businesses and individuals to enforce "separate but equal" practices. African Americans had to eat at separate restaurants, ride separate buses, and generally use separate public facilities during the period of Reconstruction (between 1865–1896).

Jim Crow laws are named after a minstrel show character that became a tradition in 1843. Originally billed as the “Virginia Minstrels,” a group of four white men applied black cork to their faces and performed a song-and-dance act in New York. One performer, Thomas Dartmouth “Daddy” Rice, became a successful performer who often sang and performed an African American folksong that ended with the chorus, “Eb’ry time I weel about, I jump Jim Crow.”

Following Reconstruction, large African American urban communities began to emerge and the labor force began to shift towards African Americans. “White” control over urban communities proved to be more difficult than earlier control over rural communities. Concurrently, there was a rising belief that non-whites were inherently inferior to whites. Support and rationalization for this belief was sought through religion and science. The U.S. Supreme Court was inclined to agree with the white-supremacist judgement; in 1883 it began to strike down the foundations of post-Civil War Reconstruction and declared the Civil Rights Act of 1875 unconstitutional. In 1896, the U.S. Supreme Court legitimized the principle of “separate but equal” in its ruling *Plessy v. Ferguson*. Eventually, southern state legislatures began to pass laws that led to a racial caste system in the American South and allowed for the white majority to regain control over the African American population.

Materials

Elementary School

- on-line access to the following Web sites:
 - Major League Baseball at www.mlb.com
 - Kansas State University at www.coe.edu/nlbn
 - The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum at www.nlbn.com
- *Teammates* by Gavin Curtis
- *Jackie and Me* by Dan Gutman
- *Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues* by Patricia and Fredrick McKissack
- paper
- colored paper
- crayons
- scissors
- glue

Middle or High School

- on-line access to the following Web sites:
 - Major League Baseball at www.mlb.com
 - Kansas State University at www.coe.edu/nlbn
 - The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum at www.nlbn.com
 - Out of the Shadows at www.outoftheshadows.net
 - The Encyclopedia Britannica at www.search.eb.com/blackhistory/timeline.html
 - The Virtual Jim Crow Museum at www.ferris.edu/news/jimcrow/

- wide-angle markers
- blank paper
- note cards

Elementary Students Pre-Visit Lesson Plan

Part I: Introduction

Directions

- *Step One:*

Have the students answer the following questions:

- What are the Negro Leagues?
- What does the word Negro mean?
- Is it a word we use today?
- What is the appropriate term to identify a person who is black?

Explain to the students that in the context of the early twentieth century, the word Negro was culturally acceptable in identifying African Americans. In our time, it is appropriate to use the term African American. Talk with students briefly about segregation and how, following the Civil War, African Americans and whites were segregated in society, including baseball.

- *Step Two:*

Depending on the age group, read to the students one of the books listed in the materials section.

- *Step Three:*

Have the students compare major league baseball, and other sports today, with the Negro baseball leagues. Have the students answer the following questions:

- How are they different?
- How are they the same?
- Do we have racial segregation in sports today?
- Do we have racial segregation in society today?
- Can you describe where racial segregation still occurs? Have students explain.

Part II: On-line Research

There are many different on-line resources for students to learn about the Negro Leagues. Any Google or Yahoo search will produce a variety of different sites for all ages. The sites listed in the materials sections provide a good start and a general direction in discovering information about this era in the United States.

Directions

- *Step One:*
Divide the students into working groups. Assign each team a topic: players, team names, geography, early twentieth-century American culture, and important events. Have students research their topics on-line. If online services are not available, then have students use the school library or local community library.
- *Step Two:*
Have each team write a short report about their topic, and have them select what they think is important information from their findings.
- *Step Three:*
Have each team create their portion of the timeline. This can be a lengthy creative process, or a simple timeline drawn on the class chalkboard.
- *Step Four:*
After the timeline is created, have each team give a class report on their findings.

Middle or High School Pre-Visit Plan

Part I: Research

Directions

- *Step One:*
Divide students into working groups and assign each team a topic to research: baseball history, the Negro Leagues, black baseball events, black baseball players, Reconstruction, Jim Crow laws, and racial/segregation issues in baseball.
 - *Step Two:*
Have each team design a set of questions, based on their research, in Jeopardy style: answer first, then stated question. Have students think about questions that range from less difficult to more difficult. Using a wide magic marker, have the students write each answer on a single sheet of blank paper. Use the notecard to write out the corresponding answers.
 - *Step Three:*
Have the teams submit their answers/questions in order of less difficult to more difficult to the teacher. On a blank wall, arrange a Jeopardy grid with the topics listed at the top and questions listed below. If playing multiple games, layer the questions from less difficult to more difficult. Assign a point value to each category, and choose one or two questions from each game as a daily double.
- Step Four:*
Mix up the working groups and divide them into two competing teams. Point values can be used as assessment and evaluation. Points can also equate to a letter grade or extra credit points.

Post-Visit Lesson Plan

Lesson #1: Oral Histories

Overview

Much of knowledge today of the Negro Leagues comes from a variety of sources: printed materials, photographs, data that was compiled at the time, and oral histories from the players, owners, and other important people at that time. A wealth of information can be obtained from individuals who actually lived during that era, including a parent, grandparent, or older relative. In this lesson, students will:

- investigate the impact of the Negro Leagues on prior generations through “oral history”;
- investigate the sports culture in the United States during the early and mid-twentieth century;
- understand how individuals’ values impact history;
- understand the differences between primary and secondary resources; and
- learn how to develop questions about topics of personal interest.

Assessment Guides

- *Young children:* Through basic research, reading, and interviews, elementary students will demonstrate recently acquired knowledge and a personal perspective of the Negro Leagues.
- *Middle school:* Through basic research, reading, and interviews, middle school students will demonstrate recently acquired knowledge and a personal perspective of the Negro Leagues.
- *High school:* Through basic research, reading, and interviews, high school students will demonstrate recently acquired knowledge and a personal perspective of the Negro Leagues.

Materials

- on-line access to the following Web sites:
 - Major League Baseball at www.mlb.org
 - The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum at www.nlbm.com
 - They Played Baseball at www.theyplayedbaseball.com
 - The National Baseball Hall of Fame at www.baseballhalloffame.org
- *There Was Always Sun Shining Someplace* videocassette
- *Voices From the Negro Leagues: Conversations with 52 Baseball Standouts* by Brent Kelley
- paper
- pencil
- interview questionnaire template located in the programming guide
- audiocassette recorder (optional)
- video cassette recorder (optional)

Part I: Introduction

Directions

- *Step One:*

Ask students where they get information about history. Have them answer the following questions:

- Where do filmmakers get their information?
- Where do textbook writers get their information?
- How do you know when the information is accurate?

Discuss with the students the differences between primary and secondary resources.

- What is a primary resource?
- What is a secondary resource?

A primary resource can include actual documents made at a specific time in history, such as birth records, diaries, interviews, recorded personal statements, or handwritten notes, to name a few. A secondary resource is information found in a textbook, newspaper article, etc., that compiles a range of general information taken over a period of time, or from a newspaper article, an Internet Web site, or a written essay. Ask students how they know if a secondary source contains accurate information.

- *Step Two:*

- Have the students watch the videocassette *There Was Always Sun Shining Somewhere*. Also, assign each student a section of oral history recorded in *Voices From the Negro Leagues: Conversations with 52 Baseball Standouts* by Brent Kelley. The National Baseball Hall of Fame Web site also has a section of primary resources. Have students answer the following questions:

- Are these secondary or primary resources? Please explain why.
- How is this information different from information found in a history or social studies textbook? Please explain why.
- What is a primary resource in the *The National Pastime in Black and White: The Negro Baseball Leagues, 1867–1955* exhibition?
- What was a secondary resource in the exhibition?

Part II: Oral Historians

Directions

- *Step One:*

Explain to students that they will become oral historians by conducting interviews with individuals old enough to remember the Negro Leagues era. This can be a parent, grandparent, older relative, or family friend. An optional extension of this activity is to plan a field trip and visit a retirement community to conduct the interviews. In developing their interview questionnaires, have the students consider what information they want to obtain.

- What is the individual's name?

- What is their age?
- Did they ever attend a Negro Leagues baseball game?
- Do they remember players' names?
- What year did they attend the game or games?
- Who did they attend the game with?
- What are some of their favorite recollections?
- What are some of their least favorite recollections?

Students can develop their own questionnaire, or use the template enclosed in the programming guide.

- *Step Two:*

After students complete their interviews, have them report their information to the class. Have them consider if they learned any new information and answer the following questions:

- How has this information impacted your understanding of history?
- Has it changed your views? Please explain why.
- Why is it important to obtain primary resources?

- *Step Three:*

There are other options on how to present the students' oral histories depending on the resources and time available.

Option one: If students decided to use audiocassette recorders and/or video recorders, the class as a whole can create a documentary film. The class should be divided according responsibilities such as an editor, scriptwriter, film editor, director, etc.

Option two: Have the students use their information for a creative writing project.

Glossary

American Association

The American Association formed in 1881 with teams that were expelled from the National League of Professional Base Ball Clubs. The association would later merge with the National League in 1891. Moses Fleetwood Walker became the first Black player in the major leagues when he played with the Toledo Blue Stockings of the American Association in 1884.

Archive

To archive means to collect and save historical objects, documents, papers, or records. Archival libraries are accessible to the public and are a great resource when researching the history of your state.

Artifact

An artifact is an object created by a human being that has a particular purpose. Artifacts are also the remains found from a particular period of time. Some of the objects in the installation can be considered artifacts since their construction and design reflect the period in which they were made.

Barnstorming

Barnstorming became a means for Negro league teams to survive financially. Black baseball teams would travel throughout the United States and Canada to play a variety of opponents: amateur, semipro, and professional. Barnstorming also allowed for Negro League exposure in small towns and a chance for local baseball stars to play against the greats, such as Satchel Paige, Cool Papa Bell, or Buck O'Neil.

Baseball

Originally called Base Ball, the term is dated to 1744. With variations and references to a game played with a ball and a bat, the game of baseball organized in the mid-19th century with rules and amateur baseball teams. By 1858, clubs had organized in New York City and Philadelphia, and by 1859, clubs organized and formed in Lowell, Massachusetts; Allegheny, Pennsylvania; and Hartford, Connecticut. An 1865 convention confirmed the rules of baseball and the status of amateur teams. The Cincinnati Red Stockings became the first professionally organized team in 1869.

Civil Rights

Civil rights are the personal and property rights recognized by governments and guaranteed by constitutions and laws. The end of slavery marked a new chapter in the development of civil rights in the United States. After the end of the Civil War, a number of constitutional amendments were proposed. Three were eventually ratified by the states that were designed to protect newly freed blacks and other victims of discrimination. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery and involuntary servitude. The 14th Amendment extended American citizenship to all those persons born or naturalized in the United

States. This amendment contained far-reaching provisions forbidding any state to “deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law” or to deny any person “equal protection of the laws.” The 15th Amendment extended the right of suffrage to African Americans.

Civil War

Civil war is a war that occurs between opposing groups of citizens from the same country. The United States had a civil war between 1861 and 1865, where states in the South fought to secede from the Union. Southern states wanted the right to create their own laws without the interference of the federal government. The right to practice slavery was a significant issue in the Civil War.

Clowning

Clowning was a popular form of entertainment in the Negro Leagues. It was a means to draw in audiences, but it was also a small part of the era. Much of the clowning took place either before the game, between innings, or after the game. It is often perceived that clowning was part of game and only reinforced stereotypes of black baseball players, but it did not take place during competition.

Color Line

Color line is a figurative term that non-whites could not cross, and it was used to express segregation. No real line existed, but it was practiced in American society and was part of the culture in the early twentieth century. In baseball, the “gentlemen’s agreement” between club owners prevented black players from being hired by white teams.

Culture

Culture refers to a collective group of individuals’ skills, arts, and way of life in a given period of time. For example: The culture of a group of people living in a particular city in 1910 will be different from a group of people living in the same city in 2010.

Deadball Era

The deadball era describes a time in the early twentieth century when baseballs were made with a soft, rubber core and were hard to hit long distances. Homeruns hit over the outfield fence were rare during the deadball era.

Depression

Following the stock market crash in 1929, the country’s economic foundation dropped and most of the country suffered financial hardships for nearly a decade; people lost their jobs, industry slowed, and farmers suffered the backlash of poor agricultural practices demonstrated by the dust bowls that developed over their fields.

Discrimination

Discrimination is the unjust treatment of an individual based on race, sex, social class, or religion.

East-West All-Star Game

The East-West All-Star was started in 1933, the same year as its major league counterpart, and was played annually at Comiskey Park in Chicago. Since there was not Negro World Series played between 1928 and 1941, the East-West game became the premiere event in black baseball and, for a time, the single most important black sporting event in the country. The success of the East-West game, and the enormous crowds of black customers it attracted, contributed significantly to the integration of the major leagues.

Eastern Colored League

The Eastern Colored League was formed in 1923 and included the Philadelphia Hilldale Club, the Royal Giants, the Bacharach Giants, the Lincoln Giants, the Cuban Stars, and the Baltimore Black Sox.

Ethnicity

Ethnicity pertains to a group of people that are distinguished by their custom, language, or race, or by their religious or cultural traditions.

Jackie Robinson

After playing one season for the Kansas City Monarchs, Jackie Robinson was signed in the winter of 1945 to play with the Brooklyn Dodgers, becoming the first black player to break the color line.

Jim Crow Laws

The Jim Crow laws refer to the systematic practice of segregating and suppressing African Americans following the end of the Civil War. These laws allowed for private businesses and individuals to enforce “separate but equal” practices. African Americans had to eat at separate restaurants, ride separate buses, and generally use separate public facilities during the period of Reconstruction (between 1865–1896).

Jim Crow laws are named after a minstrel show character that became a tradition in 1843. Originally billed as the “Virginia Minstrels,” a group of four white men applied black cork to their faces and performed a song-and-dance act in New York. One performer, Thomas Dartmouth “Daddy” Rice became a successful performer who often performed an African American folksong that ended with the chorus, “Eb’ry time I weel about, I jump Jim Crow.”

Following Reconstruction, large African American urban communities began to emerge and the labor force began to shift towards African Americans. “White” control over urban communities proved to be more difficult than earlier control over rural communities. Concurrently, there was a rising belief that non-whites were inherently inferior to whites. Support and rationalization for this belief was sought through religion and science. The U.S. Supreme Court was inclined to agree with the white-supremacist judgement, and in 1883 it began to strike down the foundations of post-Civil War Reconstruction by declaring the Civil Rights Act of 1875 unconstitutional. In 1896, the U.S. Supreme Court legitimized the principle of “separate but equal” in its ruling *Plessy v. Ferguson*.

Eventually, southern state legislatures began to pass laws that led to a racial caste system in the American South, allowing the white majority to regain control over the African American population, and to create two separate societies—one black, the other white.

Integration

Integration is the act of bringing people of different racial or ethnic groups into unrestricted and equal association, as in society or an organization.

International Women's Sports Hall of Fame

The International Women's Sports Hall of Fame was established in 1980 by the Women's Sports Foundation. The organization honors women athletes who helped forge new territory for today's athletes, as well as recent heroines of sport.

National Baseball Hall of Fame

Located in Cooperstown, New York, The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is a not-for-profit educational institution dedicated to fostering an appreciation of the historical development of the game and its impact on our culture by collecting, preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting its collections for a global audience, as well as honoring those who have made outstanding contributions to our national pastime.

Negro National League

The Negro National League, the first successful league of all-black baseball teams, was organized in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1920, under the leadership of Rube Foster. The league consisted of the Chicago American Giants, the Chicago Giants, the Dayton Marcos, the Detroit Stars, the Indianapolis ABCs, the Kansas City Monarchs, the St. Louis Giants, and the Cuban Stars.

Negro Baseball Colored League

The National Baseball Colored League formed in 1887 with teams in Baltimore, Boston, Cincinnati, Louisville, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Washington. The league was recognized as an official minor league and protected under baseball's National Agreement, but it disbanded thirteen games into its inaugural season.

Negro World Series

The first Colored World Series (later known as the Negro World Series) was played in 1924 between the championship teams from the rival Negro National League and the Eastern Colored League. No Negro World Series was played between 1928 and 1941. The series resumed in 1942 and continued through the 1948 season, with the championship teams from the Negro National and Negro American leagues playing each other at the end of the season.

Night Baseball

The concept of playing baseball games at night was pioneered in 1930 in the Negro Leagues when J.L. Wilkinson, owner of the Kansas City Monarch, had a portable lighting system custom built for his team. The Monarchs survived the Great Depression by

traveling the countryside playing games under the lights, which were a big attraction in themselves. The first major league night game was not played until 1935.

Race Riots

Race riots occurred throughout the United States in the early decades of the twentieth century. It is believed that race riots were fueled by tensions created by the Jim Crow laws.

Reconstruction

Initiated by President Andrew Johnson following the end of the Civil War, the Reconstruction period also was initiated to heal the country and unify the population. Small independent movements that treated African Americans with equality began to develop independent of state and federal laws. Even though whites and blacks did not interact as equals, they began to ride together on railway cars, eat in the same restaurants, share public facilities, and become a part of the urban work labor force. The era is marked by struggles between political parties about how Reconstruction should proceed and between the president and Congress over who should direct it.

Segregation

Segregation is the policy or practice of separating people of different races, classes, or ethnic groups, as in schools, housing, and public or commercial facilities, especially as a form of discrimination.

Stereotype

Stereotype often refers to a fixed perception or conception about any given person, place, or thing.

Historical Time Line

Timetable of Laws During the Post-Civil War and Negro Baseball Leagues Era in American History

The excerpts of state and federal laws enacted after the Civil War are taken from *The Timetable of African-American History: A Chronology of the Most Important People and Events in African-American History*.

The timeline of black baseball events is adapted from the Sports Illustrated Web site on black baseball at www.cnn.com/features/1997/blackbaseball/timeline.html.

1860s

Amateur black baseball clubs spring up around the Northeast and Midwest. Players for the Mutuals of Washington, D.C., include the sons of black activist Frederick Douglass.

1861

Six months before the Civil War begins, two black teams play in Brooklyn, New York.

The Civil War begins on April 12 when the Confederate army attacks Fort Sumter.

Slaves under the Union army's control are freed by the Confiscation Act.

Slaves are allowed to enlist as authorized by the secretary of the Navy.

The U.S. Congress provides that slaveholders may receive a patent if a slave under the ownership invents anything. Slaves are required to take an oath that they actually invented the device.

1862

The U.S. Congress bans slavery in the District of Columbia.

The U.S. Congress passes the Enlistment Act that allows free African Americans to enlist in the army, but for the half the pay white soldiers receive.

President Abraham Lincoln recommends a plan for gradual compensated emancipation.

1863

The Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect on January 1, except for thirteen parishes in Louisiana, forty-eight counties in West Virginia, seven counties in eastern Virginia, and all of the border states. The Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in the states that were in rebellion against the Union.

Several acts are passed allowing the recruitment of African American soldiers.

1864

The U.S. Congress passes a bill granting African American soldiers equal pay, arms, equipment, and medical services.

The Fugitive Slave Laws are repealed.

1865

The Civil War ends with the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

President Andrew Johnson announces his Reconstruction Plan: complete abolition of slavery, repudiate Confederate war debts, and nullify ordinances of secession.

Reconstruction was initiated to heal the country and unify the population, and there were movements independent of state and federal laws that treated African Americans with equality.

The first Civil Rights Act that declares U.S. citizenship to free African Americans and nullifies black codes is passed, overriding President Johnson's veto.

The U.S. Congress passes the Southern Homestead Act, opening public lands in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Florida to all settlers regardless of their race.

Several white supremacy groups in the South begin a campaign of terror against white Republicans and African Americans to force the return of "white rule."

1867

The first Reconstruction Act passes in Congress: the former Confederate army is divided into five military districts; all states are required to ratify the Civil War Amendments; new voting rights are established for male citizens regardless of "race, color, or previous condition" in the rebel states; and African Americans are allowed a majority vote in Southern states.

The first legal voting by an African American occurs in New Orleans, Louisiana.

A Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, law forbids segregation in public conveniences.

1868

The US Congress passes the 14th Amendment, which grants African Americans full citizenship and equal civil rights.

1870

A series of Enforcement Acts are passed to control the Ku Klux Klan and guarantee civil and political rights to African Americans in the federal courts.

1873

In the Slaughterhouse Cases, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that the “due process” clause of the 14th Amendment grants protection of national, not state citizenship, rights.

An important clause concerning the integration of education is removed from the Civil Rights Act.

1875

The Civil Rights Act of 1875 expands to give African Americans the right to equal treatment in inns, public conveniences, and public amusement places, and prohibits the exclusion of African Americans from jury duty.

1876

The U.S. Supreme Court declares that the 14th Amendment provides African Americans with equal protection under the law, but it does not recognize the rights of a citizen against another in *United States v. Cruikshank*.

1878

Pitcher Bud Fowler becomes the first black player to cross the minor league color barrier, winning two games and losing one for the Lynn, Massachusetts, Live Oaks of the International Association.

1881

Moses Fleetwood Walker and his brother, Welday, join Oberlin College’s first varsity baseball team.

1881

A Tennessee law that requires racial segregation in railroad cars spreads as a model to other Southern states. The law also becomes the precedent for what will become known as the Jim Crow laws.

1883

Catcher Fleet Walker signs with the Toledo Blue Stockings of the Northwestern League. The team join the American Association, which was considered a major league. Fleet played in 42 games in 1884 and Welday Walker played in six games. Until 1847, the Walker brothers were the only players to play in the major leagues.

1883

The U.S. Supreme Court rules that the Civil Rights Act of 1875 is unconstitutional. The ruling stated that state governments were prohibited from discriminating against people of race, but it did not restrict private organizations or individuals from doing so. Railroads, hotels, theaters, and other public businesses could practice segregation.

Over the next several years, states begin to repeal laws that ban interracial marriage.

1885

The first all black professional team composed of employees of the Argyle Hotel is organized in Babylon, New York. The team was later bought by a Trenton businessman and named the Cuban Giants.

1886

Second baseman Frank Grant becomes one of several players to play on all-white minor league teams in the 1880s. The Southern League of Colored Base Ballists becomes the first Negro League, only to have survived less than one season. Teams are subsequently established in Memphis, Jacksonville, Savannah, Atlanta, Charlestons, and New Orleans.

1887

The National Baseball Colored League is formed with teams in Baltimore, Boston, Cincinnati, Louisville, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Washington. The league is recognized as an official minor league and protected under baseball's National Agreement, but it folds thirteen games into its inaugural season.

1890

In *Re Green*, the U.S. Supreme Court confers control of elections to state officials, which weakens federal protection for Southern African American voters. The court further allows states to segregate facilities.

1895

Bud Fowler forms the independent Page Fence Giants in Aidrian, Michigan. The team travels the countryside in a custom-made railroad car, playing all one hundred thirty games on the road.

1896

The U.S. Supreme Court in *Plessy v. Ferguson* rules that "separate but equal" facilities are constitutional.

1898

The Acme Colored Giants of Celoron, New York, disband, being the last black team to play in an otherwise all-white league.

1899

Outfielder Bill Galloway is the last black player to play in minor league baseball until 1946.

1900

Five black professional teams exist: the Genuine Cuban Giants, the Cuban X Giants, the Norfolk Red Stockings, the Chicago Unions, and the Columbia Giants. By 1910, more than sixty professional teams were touring the country.

1902

Baltimore Orioles manager John McGraw attempts to circumvent the color barrier by changing infielder Charlie Grants's name to Charlie Tokohama, trying to pass him as an Cherokee Native American. Even though Grant practices with the team, he is ultimately released when the plan is exposed.

1907

The U.S. Supreme Court rules that railroads may racially segregate passengers that travel between states, even in states where segregation is illegal.

1912

The All Nations team, a racially mixed touring squad, is formed by owner J. L. Wilkinson.

1915

A South Carolina law prohibits factory owners from allowing blacks and whites to work in the same room and to use the same entrance, stairs, rest rooms, drinking cups, and water buckets.

1920

Organized by Rube Foster in Kansas City, Missouri, owners organize the first successful professional league, the eight-team Negro National League: the Chicago American Giants, the Chicago Giants, the Dayton Marcos, the Detroit Stars, the Indianapolis ABCs, the Kansas City Monarchs, the St. Louis Giants, and the Cuban Stars.

1922

An anti-lynching bill to make mob murder a federal offense passes in the U.S. House of Representatives but fails in the U.S. Senate.

1923

The Eastern Colored League is formed and includes the Philadelphia Hilldale club, the Royal Giants, the Bacharach Giants, the Lincoln Giants, the Cuban Stars (East), and the Baltimore Black Sox.

1924

The first Negro World Series occurs between the Kansas City Monarchs and Hilldale. The Monarchs defeat Hilldale.

1924

The U.S. Immigration Act limits the number of persons of African descent from entering the U.S., instead favoring persons from Western Europe.

Segregation laws and "separate but equal" practices begin to be challenged by the NAACP, black newspaper owners, and lawyers over the next several decades.

1928

The Eastern League folds.

1930

Kansas City Monarchs owner J. L. Wilkinson buys a portable lighting system and the team becomes the first to play night baseball.

1931

Pittsburgh Crawfords owner Gus Greenlee builds a new stadium for \$100,000, an enormous sum at the height of the Depression.

1932

The eight-team East-West League is formed, but it folds in June. By the end of the year, the Negro National League also collapses after twelve seasons.

1933

The second Negro National League is formed by Gus Greenlee: the Pittsburgh Crawfords, the Homestead Grays, the Indianapolis ABCs, the Detroit Stars, and the Columbus Blue Birds. Greenlee also stages the first East-West Game in Chicago.

1937

The Negro American League is formed with teams in Chicago, Kansas City, Detroit, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Birmingham, and Memphis.

1941

President Franklin D. Roosevelt issues an executive order that bans racial and religious discrimination in defense industries and government training programs. He appoints the Fair Employment Practices Committee to monitor discrimination against African Americans in defense plants.

1942

The Negro World Series is played for the first time since it was discontinued in 1927. The Kansas City Monarchs defeat the Homestead Grays in four games. The Monarchs' Satchel Paige has now become a living legend.

1943

The East-West Game attracts 51,723 fans to Comiskey Park. Between 1938 and 1948, the series outdrew the major league All-Star Game seven times.

1944

The U.S. Supreme Court rules that African Americans cannot be denied the right to vote in primary elections.

1945

Jackie Robinson signs a \$600 a month contract on October 23 to play for the Dodgers' Triple A team, the Montreal Royals. Before the end of the 1946 season, the Dodgers

would sign four more Negro League players: Roy Campanella, Don Newcombe, John Wright, and Roy Partlow.

1946

The U.S. Supreme Court bans segregation in interstate bus travel.

1947

Jackie Robinson wins the Rookie of the Year award. Between 1947 and 1953, six of the seven National League Rookies of the Year are former Negro League players.

1948

Black teams begin to fold with low attendance and players moving to the major leagues.

1948

The U.S. Supreme Court declares that courts cannot enforce segregated housing covenants. The court also rules that state laws prohibiting interracial marriages is unconstitutional.

President Harry S. Truman issues Executive Order 9980 and Executive Order 9981, creating a Fair Employment Board to eliminate racial discrimination in federal employment. He also creates a Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services.

1949

The Negro National League folds and is absorbed into the Negro American League.

1953

The U.S. Supreme Court bans segregation in restaurants in Washington D.C..

1955

The U.S. Supreme Court bans segregation of recreational facilities.

1957

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the first civil rights act since 1875. It elevates the civil rights section of the Department of Justice to the status of a division, and it creates the US Commission on Civil Rights.

1960

President Eisenhower signs the Civil Rights Act of 1960 that acknowledges the federal government's responsibility in matters of civil rights and reverses its customary "hands-off" policy.

1962

President John F. Kennedy prohibits racial discrimination in federally funded housing.

1963

The Negro American League dissolves.

1963

The U.S. Supreme Court upholds the rights to public demonstration, allowing African Americans and other individuals to continue public protests for civil rights.

1964

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 passes, which gives the U.S. Attorney General additional powers to protect citizens against discrimination and segregation. The act forbids discrimination in most public places, and it establishes the Equal Opportunity Commission.

Gallery Guides

There is one family gallery guide and activity for *The National Pastime in Black and White: The Negro Baseball Leagues, 1867–1955* exhibition. The gallery guide is inquiry-based, designed to help visitors think about the culture and environment during the Negro Leagues. They are not designed as a substitute for a docent-led tour or other educational activities.