

42 Fun Facts About Jackie Robinson Biography: Making History for Kids by Kids

When it comes to sports icons and civil rights heroes, Jackie Robinson's name shines brightly. Not only was he the first African-American to break the color barrier in Major League Baseball, but he also paved the way for endless possibilities for future generations. This article will delve into 42 fascinating facts about Jackie Robinson's biography, told by kids and for kids, ensuring that his incredible story remains alive for years to come.

A Brief to Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson, born on January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia, had a challenging start in life. Growing up in a racially segregated society, he learned the importance of resilience and determination early on. Despite facing adversity, Robinson thrived academically and athletically, excelling in multiple sports.

Robinson eventually pursued baseball in college and became a standout player. After serving in the military during World War II, he joined the Kansas City Monarchs, a professional Negro League team. His exceptional performance caught the attention of Branch Rickey, the president of the Brooklyn Dodgers, who recognized Robinson's potential to change the future of baseball.

42 Fun Facts About Jackie Robinson - A Biography By Kids For Kids (Making History Fun Ages 9 - 12 Book 1) by JuJu Sabra (Kindle Edition)

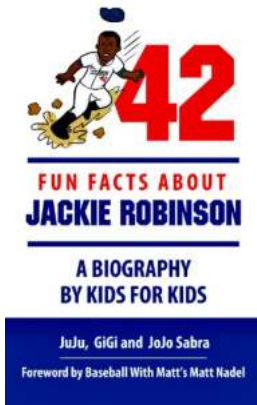
★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

X-Ray : Enabled



Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 40 pages
Lending	: Enabled
File size	: 1744 KB
Screen Reader	: Supported



On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier, becoming the first African-American player in Major League Baseball. Robinson's incredible talent, combined with his unwavering character and trailblazing spirit, forever changed the world of sports and paved the way for the future of racial equality.

1. The Journey to Equality

Jackie Robinson's entry into Major League Baseball marked a significant moment in the fight for racial equality. Breaking through the color barrier challenged long-held prejudices, inspiring others to question and eventually dismantle discriminatory practices.

2. Forty-Two: The Iconic Number

The number "42" held great significance for Jackie Robinson. It became his iconic jersey number, symbolizing his impact on the world of sports and civil rights. In 1997, Major League Baseball officially retired the number, making it the first-ever universally retired jersey number in any sport.

3. Major League Debut

April 15, 1947, will forever be etched in history as the day Jackie Robinson debuted in the major leagues. He played his first game for the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field, making an everlasting impact on baseball and society as a whole.

4. Rookie of the Year

In his debut season, Robinson's remarkable performance earned him the title of Rookie of the Year, becoming the first African-American player to receive this prestigious award. This achievement showcased his exceptional talent and solidified his place in baseball history.

5. Groundbreaking MVP

In 1949, just three years after his breakthrough, Jackie Robinson captured the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award, proving that race was not a deciding factor in recognizing talent. This momentous accolade further shattered the barriers of prejudice and discrimination.

6. Crossing Borders

Robinson's influence extended beyond the United States. He embarked on exhibition tours, playing games in various countries, including Japan, Mexico, and Cuba. His presence worldwide served as a reminder of the importance of equality for all, regardless of nationality.

7. Branch Rickey's Courageous Decision

Branch Rickey, the president of the Brooklyn Dodgers, deserves recognition for his vision and courage in signing Robinson. Rickey's conviction to break the color barrier changed the tides of history, encouraging progress in sports and society at large.

8. The First Steps Towards Integration

Following his groundbreaking entry into Major League Baseball, other sports and industries began to integrate slowly. Robinson's impact rippled into football, basketball, and more, leaving an indelible mark on the path to equality.

9. A Legacy of Activism

Jackie Robinson didn't settle for just achieving success on the field. He also remained actively involved in the civil rights movement, advocating for social justice and equal rights. Robinson's influence extended far beyond baseball, solidifying his role as a true hero for both young and old.

10. The Jackie Robinson Foundation

Established by Rachel Robinson, Jackie's wife, the Jackie Robinson Foundation focuses on providing educational and leadership opportunities for young individuals. This foundation ensures that Jackie Robinson's legacy lives on, inspiring future generations to make a difference.

11. The Little League World Series Connection

Since 1984, the Little League Baseball World Series has annually presented the "Jackie Robinson Little League Player of the Year Award." This accolade honors young players who exhibit exceptional skill, sportsmanship, and teamwork, echoing Robinson's values.

12. Inspiring More Biographies

Jackie Robinson's life story has inspired countless biographies for kids. These books shed light on his pioneering journey, allowing young readers to comprehend the significance of his achievements and the lasting impact they've had on society.

13. Role Model to Future Generations

Through his words and actions, Jackie Robinson continues to serve as a powerful role model for children worldwide. His remarkable life story inspires young minds to believe in themselves, chase their dreams, and fight for what is right.

14. Poet and Philosopher

Jackie Robinson possessed a poetic and philosophical soul. His speeches and writings often expressed deep thoughts and wisdom, resonating with people from all walks of life.

15. Legacy Beyond Baseball

Although Jackie Robinson is widely celebrated for his contributions to baseball, his impact extends far beyond the diamond. His work in breaking barriers and promoting equality shaped a nation and transformed the world.

16. First in the Hall of Fame

In 1962, Jackie Robinson was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, a fitting tribute to his extraordinary achievements both on and off the field. He became the first African-American player to receive this prestigious honor.

17. A Trailblazer Beyond Sports

Jackie Robinson's influence was not limited to sports alone. His courage and determination paved the way for countless African-American individuals to excel in various fields, breaking barriers and challenging societal norms.

18. A Lifelong Love for Football

Although baseball was Jackie Robinson's primary sport, he had an equally strong passion for football. In college, he was an exceptional football player, impressing

scouts with his speed, agility, and natural athleticism.

19. Groundbreaking Broadcaster

After retiring from baseball, Robinson embarked on a new journey as a sports broadcaster. He became the first African-American to work as a television analyst for Major League Baseball, further breaking down racial barriers in the media.

20. Entrepreneurial Ventures

Jackie Robinson didn't limit himself to sports and broadcasting. He also ventured into business, establishing the Jackie Robinson Construction Company in 1970. This entrepreneurial spirit reflects his drive to succeed in various aspects of life.

21. A Philanthropist at Heart

Throughout his life, Jackie Robinson engaged in numerous philanthropic endeavors. He consistently used his platform to improve the lives of others, particularly marginalized communities, leaving a lasting impact on society.

22. The Historic Movie: "42"

In 2013, the biographical film "42" hit the theaters, depicting Jackie Robinson's life and struggles. This movie introduced younger generations to Robinson's inspiring story, shining a spotlight on his incredible legacy.

23. Record-Breaking Stolen Bases

Jackie Robinson's incredible speed and technique earned him numerous stolen bases throughout his career. He holds the impressive record for stealing home base 19 times, showcasing his exceptional athleticism and strategic thinking on the field.

24. An Inspirational All-Star

In 1949, Jackie Robinson was selected to play in his first All-Star Game, marking a significant milestone. His inclusion shattered racial barriers, demonstrating that talent and merit should always prevail over prejudice.

25. The Jackie Robinson Parkway

In honor of his immense impact, the New York City Department of Transportation named a parkway after Jackie Robinson in 1997. The parkway serves as a reminder of his monumental achievements and contributions made to society.

26. The Presidential Medal of Freedom

In 1984, Jackie Robinson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, for his outstanding contributions to society. This recognition further solidified his place as an American hero.

27. Jackie Robinson Day

Every year on April 15th, Major League Baseball celebrates Jackie Robinson Day. The tradition began in 2004, with players across the league wearing his iconic number 42 as a tribute to his immeasurable impact on the sport.

28. A Life of Service

Jackie Robinson dedicated his life to serving others. He worked as a special advisor for civil rights to New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller, fought against racial discrimination, and strived to make the world a better place for everyone.

29. Barrier-Breaking Baseball Cards

Jackie Robinson's baseball cards hold immense historical value. They serve as a reminder of his legacy and the struggles he overcame, making them highly sought after collectibles amongst sports enthusiasts and historians alike.

30. Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year

In 1959, Jackie Robinson became the first African-American athlete to be named Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year. This prestigious accolade recognized his unrivaled impact on sports, society, and culture as a whole.

31. A Champion for Education

Jackie Robinson firmly believed in the power of education to break down barriers and create a brighter future for all. Throughout his life, he actively championed educational equality, emphasizing the importance of knowledge and learning.

32. The Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholars Program

Continuing his dedication to education, the Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholars Program provides robust financial support to underprivileged students, fostering their academic growth and helping them achieve their dreams.

33. Dual-Sport Athlete

Did you know that Jackie Robinson was not only an exceptional baseball and football player, but he also excelled in track and field? His athleticism knew no bounds, allowing him to shine in multiple sports.

34. The Namesake Stadium

In 1972, the city of Daytona Beach, Florida, named its newly built stadium in honor of Jackie Robinson. The stadium serves as a reminder of his profound influence and contributions to the world of sports.

35. Breaking Barriers Awards

The Breaking Barriers program, founded by Major League Baseball and Scholastic, annually presents the Breaking Barriers Awards in honor of Jackie

Robinson's life and legacy. These awards celebrate students who have overcome obstacles and made a positive impact.

36. A Second Career: Business Executive

After retiring as a player, Jackie Robinson worked as a business executive for Chock Full o'Nuts, a leading coffee company. This role allowed him to continue breaking barriers in the corporate world, proving his abilities beyond the realm of sports.

37. Tribute on Postage Stamps

Jackie Robinson's immense impact is forever immortalized on postage stamps. Both the United States Postal Service and the Canadian Post Office released stamps honoring Robinson, symbolizing his enduring legacy.

38. A Cultural Icon

Jackie Robinson's cultural impact cannot be understated. His influence transcended sports, resonating with individuals from all walks of life and continuing to inspire generations to tackle adversity head-on.

39. Legacy in Journalism

Although Jackie Robinson worked primarily as a sports broadcaster, his influence extended to the field of journalism as well. He actively supported and encouraged African-American journalists, helping them pursue careers in the media industry.

40. The Jackie Robinson Rotunda

Located in Citi Field, the home of the New York Mets, the Jackie Robinson Rotunda serves as a museum and tribute to his life and legacy. This grand entrance highlights his contributions to both baseball and civil rights.

41. The Power of Perseverance

Jackie Robinson's story speaks volumes about the power of perseverance. Despite facing countless challenges and hardships, he persisted, making a lasting impact on sports and society, and reminding us all to never give up.

42. Forever Remembered and Honored

As time goes on, Jackie Robinson's legacy remains as relevant and important as ever. His groundbreaking achievements, unwavering character, and dedication to equality make him an enduring symbol of hope and inspiration for generations to come.

In , Jackie Robinson's biography is an extraordinary testament to the power of breaking barriers and fighting for equality. These 42 fun facts, shared by kids for kids, shed light on the life and legacy of a true American hero. From his historic debut in Major League Baseball to his ongoing advocacy for civil rights, Jackie Robinson's impact continues to shape history and empower future generations to make a difference.



**A BIOGRAPHY
BY KIDS FOR KIDS**

Juju, Gigi and JoJo Sabra

Foreword by Baseball With Matt's Matt Nadel

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Want To Learn More About Jackie Robinson?

#1 Amazon Bestseller

Inspired by '42' the movie, three girls decided to research the life of Jackie Robinson and offer 42 Fun Facts for all kids to enjoy! Target age group: 9 - 12 years old.

So, What's the Big Deal about Jackie Robinson? Wasn't he just a baseball player?

- PROBLEM: '42' the movie only showcases the first year Jackie Robinson played in major league baseball as their first African American ballplayer.
- Is there more to Jackie Robinson, then just a ballplayer? A civil rights activist? A husband? A writer?
- Kids find history typically hard to learn because they often have to memorize facts, dates, and events that have no relevance to them!

A Biography Written By Kids For Kids

Researching the life of Jackie Robinson taught the Sabra sisters that baseball history is interesting, fun and meaningful to their life!

- Jackie Robinson WAS a legend on AND off the field, and the details are shared in this concise 32-page book.

- Learn more about the personal side of Jackie Robinson, from birth to 2013 (far beyond his own death).
- Find out more about the Civil Rights Movement from the eyes of Jackie Robinson; so dates, historical events and U.S. presidents of that era won't be hard to forget!
- Foreword written by Baseball With Matt's Matt Nadel, MLB.com's youngest Pro Blogger.

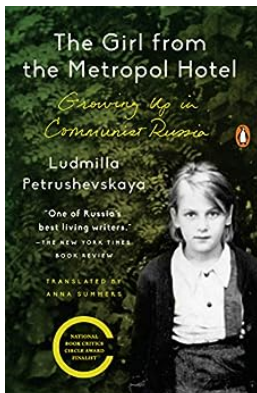
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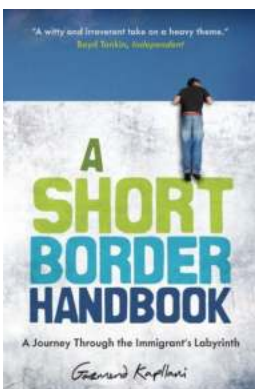
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