The Struggle for Civil Rights Module

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ATOS Text Level 8.9
The Struggle for Civil Rights

Section 1: Jackie Robinson: Breaking the Color Barrier

Student Materials
Before You Read

A. Discussion Questions

1. What was segregation like in the U.S.?
2. When was the Civil Rights Movement?
3. Name some heroes of the Civil Rights Movement. What did they do?
4. What civil rights and equity problems or solutions have you heard about recently?
5. What do you think “the color barrier” was? Why do you think that?

Guiding Questions: What did ordinary people learn from seeing Jackie Robinson break the color barrier? How did his actions affect the Civil Rights Movement?
B. Vocabulary Sort and Connections
Your instructor will give you a set of vocabulary words from this unit. First, set aside any words you don’t know. Then, sort the words you know into groups of connected words. There are many correct ways to group the words, and you can make as many groups as you want. Finally, explain to another student why you think those words are connected.
C. Pre-reading: First Sentences
You will read an article about Jackie Robinson. The first sentence from each paragraph in the article is below. Read each sentence and make predictions. Whether you’re right or wrong is not important. The important thing is to start thinking about the ideas in the text before you read it.

Answer at least one of these questions for each sentence:
   a. What questions might the paragraph answer?
   b. What details or examples might be in this paragraph?
   c. What other ideas does this sentence make you think about?

1. “Jackie Robinson was an early leader in the Civil Rights movement, and he continues to inspire today.”
2. “Robinson was always good at sports.”
3. “Even in the Army, black and white soldiers were separated.”
4. “Next, Jackie focused on baseball.”
5. “Meanwhile, the manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers Major League baseball team was looking for an African-American player to add to his team.”
6. “When Robinson joined the Dodgers in 1947, he was the first African-American to play Major League Baseball.”

7. “Robinson’s skill, courage, and determination helped integrate professional sports.”
Jackie Robinson: Breaking the Color Barrier

1) Jackie Robinson was an early leader in the Civil Rights Movement, and he continues to inspire today. He was born in 1919 in Cairo, Georgia. He and his four brothers and sisters were raised in California by a single mother. While Robinson was growing up, the United States had terrible problems with racism and segregation. For example, in many places, it was illegal for black and white people to eat in the same restaurants or drink from the same water fountain.

2) Robinson was always good at sports. He went to college at the University of California, Los Angeles. During college, he played baseball, basketball, football, and track. After college, Robinson was a soldier in the Army. He fought in World War II.

3) Even in the Army, black and white soldiers were separated. Robinson was arrested because the driver of an Army bus told him to move to the back, but he stayed in his seat. At that time, in many southern states, only white people could sit in the front of the bus. But, Robinson knew there was a new rule that segregation was not allowed on Army busses. In the end, he did not have to stay in jail for refusing to go to the back of the bus.

4) Next, Robinson focused on baseball. At that time, only white men could play in the Major League. In 1945, Robinson started to play for the Kansas City Monarchs. That team was in the Negro League, which was a league for people of color.

5) Meanwhile, the manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, a team in the Major League, was looking for an African-American player to add to his team. The manager’s name was Branch Rickey. He wanted to integrate baseball. He wanted black and white players to
play together in the Major League. Rickey chose Jackie Robinson as the first black member of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Rickey chose him for two reasons. One was his skill as a player. The other reason was Robinson’s focus on civil rights.

6) When Robinson joined the Dodgers in 1947, he was the first African-American to play Major League Baseball. While many people celebrated, many others were very angry. Racist people yelled terrible things at him during games, some of his teammates didn’t want to play with him, and his family got death threats. Despite all of these problems, Robinson stayed strong and focused on playing well. That year, the Dodgers won an important championship. In the same year, Robinson won a national award for being the best new player. During the rest of his baseball career, Robinson and his team won several championships. He was even voted the Most Valuable Player in the National League in 1949. Rickey said, "There was never a man in the game who could put mind and muscle together quicker than Jackie Robinson."

7) Robinson’s skill, courage, and determination helped integrate professional sports. By 1952, there were more than 150 black baseball players. In 1962, Robinson was elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame. He retired in 1957, but he continued to speak out and work for equal rights for African-Americans. Robinson said, “There’s not an American in this country free until every one of us is free.” Jackie Robinson was an amazing baseball player and civil rights activist, and his legacy lives on.

References
http://www.baseball-almanac.com/quotes/quojckr.shtml
http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/themes/sharecropping/
http://www.biography.com/people/branch-rickey-9458118#in-the-front-office
Read Closely

A. First Reading and Self-Evaluation
Read the text quickly the first time. Don’t write on it or stop for any new words. Push through to the end. Reading this way is a good strategy to get a main idea quickly.

After you read, think about how much you understand. Your instructor will give you an Evaluation Scale. At the top of your text, write your rating for Reading 1.

B. Author’s Purpose or “What does the author want me to think about?”
Skim, or read the text quickly, to answer this question:

1. What is the author’s purpose?
   a. to persuade the reader that Jackie Robinson was the most important hero of the Civil Rights movement
   b. to entertain readers with descriptions of baseball championships
   c. to inform readers about Jackie Robinson’s life and how he worked for Civil Rights
   d. to compare the Brooklyn Dodgers to the Kansas City Monarchs

2. Why did you choose your answer? What made it the best choice? ________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

3. Why weren’t the other answers the best choice?
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
C. Analyze the Structure
Your instructor will give you a set of topic strips. Each strip of paper has the topic of one paragraph on it. Compare the topics to the paragraphs in the text. Put each topic in the correct place on the chart. After your instructor checks your answers, copy the topics into the chart to help you remember them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paragraph Number</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paragraph 1</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Paragraph 2</td>
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<td>Paragraph 3</td>
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<td>Paragraph 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paragraph 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paragraph 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragraph 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
D. Supporting Details

The main idea in a paragraph tells the reader the topic and purpose of that paragraph. The author then uses details. Details may persuade the reader that the main idea is true. Other details help the reader better understand the main idea. Details can be examples, facts, or explanations.

Read the main ideas and details below. Choose and circle the detail that best supports each main idea. Then explain your choice.

1. **Main idea**: Jackie Robinson had problems with racism early in his life, but he fought for what he believed in.

   - **Detail A**: When Robinson was young, it was illegal for black and white people to eat in the same restaurants.
   
   - **Detail B**: While in the army, Robinson was arrested because he would not sit in the back section of an Army bus.

   Why did you choose that detail? Why not the other one?

2. **Main idea**: Branch Rickey chose Robinson as the first African-American player because of Robinson’s skill and dedication to working for equality.

   - **Detail A**: Robinson ignored racist fans and teammates, concentrated on playing well, and won important awards in 1947.
   
   - **Detail B**: Branch Rickey wanted to integrate the Brooklyn Dodgers team.

   Why did you choose that detail? Why not the other one?

3. **Main idea**: Jackie Robinson opened the doors to professional sports for many African-American players.

   - **Detail A**: Robinson was elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.
   
   - **Detail B**: Five years after Robinson started playing for the Dodgers, there were more than 150 African-American players.

   Why did you choose that detail? Why not the other one?
E. Evaluate your understanding. Re-read the text, and then think about how much you understand. At the top of the text, rate your understanding for Reading 2 using the Evaluation Scale.

F. Sequencing with Words and Phrases
Key words in a text give information about when things happen and in which order, or sequence.

Re-read the text, find these linking words, and circle them in the text.

1. After
2. At that time
3. During
4. In the end
5. In the same ___ (year, month, etc.)
6. Meanwhile
7. Next
8. Until
9. While

G. Sequencing with Dates
A helpful way to understand sequence is to make a timeline. A timeline is a way to show when events happened. The earliest event goes on the left end of the timeline, and the most recent event goes on the right side. You will complete a timeline about Jackie Robinson. First, check the text for the answers to these questions.

1. What important event happened in 1919? ________________________________
2. What important event happened in 1945? ________________________________
3. What important event happened in 1947? ________________________________
4. What other important event happened in 1947? (Hint: Look for “in the same year...”)

5. What important event happened in 1949? ________________________________
6. What important event happened in 1957? ________________________________
7. What important event happened in 1962? ________________________________
Timeline: Jackie Robinson’s Story

H. Sequencing with a Timeline

Write the events from G. Sequencing with Dates on the timeline. Note that a vertical line means that a one-time event happened, while a horizontal bar shows how long something lasted.
I. Sequencing with Words
These sentences are about events in Robinson’s life. Check the timeline to choose the correct sequencing word and circle it.

1. Robinson was elected to the baseball hall of fame in the same year after he retired.

2. Robinson was chosen as the Most Valuable Player in the National League before after winning the award for being the best new player.

3. He played for the Dodgers since until 1957.

4. Robinson played for the Kansas City Monarchs before after going to the University of California.

5. During Until his time with the Dodgers, Robinson was voted Most Valuable Player of the National League.

6. He retired ten years before after joining the Brooklyn Dodgers.

J. Evaluate your understanding. Re-read the text, and then think about how much you understand. At the top of the text, rate your understanding for Reading 3 using the Evaluation Scale.
Show Your Understanding

1. What information in paragraph 2 allows the reader to infer that Jackie Robinson was black?
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. The word integrate is in paragraphs 5 and 7. What information in the text helps explain what integration means? What does it mean?
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________

3. Paragraph 4 says that Rickey, the manager of the Dodgers, chose Robinson both for his skill and for his focus on civil rights. What did Robinson do before Rickey hired him to show his skill in baseball? What did Robinson do before Rickey hired him to show his focus on civil rights?
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________

4. In the beginning of paragraph 5, the author gives examples of racist reactions to Robinson. Which sentence in that paragraph shows the author changing from challenges to successes? Hint: After that sentence, the rest of the paragraph is about positive things.
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________

5. Rickey said that Robinson could “put mind and muscle together” better than anyone. What are three pieces of evidence from the text that support Rickey’s claim that Robinson’s mental and physical strength were excellent?
___________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________

6. Paragraph 7 has a quote that Jackie Robinson said: “There’s not an American in this country free until every one of us is free.” What does free mean in this sentence? What problems is Robinson talking about? How did these problems affect everyone? Use evidence from the text to support your answers.
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Rock the Test
Use the text to find the best answer for each question.

1. In paragraph 1, the author lists the fact that blacks and whites couldn’t eat in the same restaurants as an example of
   a. civil rights
   b. segregation
   c. Jackie Robinson’s challenges
   d. breaking the color barrier

2. What evidence does the author give to support the claim that Robinson was good at sports?
   a. The Dodgers won an important championship in 1947.
   b. By 1952, there were more than 150 black baseball players.
   c. During college, he played baseball, basketball, football, and track.
   d. In 1945, Robinson played for the Kansas City Monarchs.

3. Put the following events from the text in order. Copy the events into the correct box on the next page. The box on top is the first event that happened.

Robinson’s family received death threats.

Robinson was added to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

There were no black players in Major League baseball.

There were 150 black baseball players in the major leagues.

Rickey chose Robinson to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers.
4. Based on the information in the text, which adjective best describes Ricky Branch?
   a. courageous
   b. lazy
   c. enthusiastic
   d. unpredictable

5. Which of these statements best explains the title “Jackie Robinson: Breaking the Color Barrier?”
   a. After joining the Dodgers, Robinson’s family received death threats.
   b. Robinson was arrested for refusing to sit in the back of a bus.
   c. Robinson and the Dodgers won several championships.
   d. Robinson was the first African-American to play Major League Baseball in 1947, and five years later there were more than 150 African American players in the Major Leagues.
6. Which statements from the text best support the author’s claim that Jackie Robinson was skilled, courageous, and determined?

   a. Some of his teammates didn’t want to play with him, and his family got death threats. Despite all these problems, Robinson stayed strong and focused on playing well...Robinson won a national award for being the best new player.

   b. In 1962 Robinson was elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

   c. Jackie Robinson was an amazing baseball player and civil rights activist, and his legacy lives on.

   d. Robinson was arrested because the driver of an Army bus told him to move to the back, but he stayed in his seat... But, Robinson new there was a new rule that segregation was not allowed on Army busses.
The Struggle for Civil Rights

Section 1: Jackie Robinson: Breaking the Color Barrier

Instructor Notes
**B. Vocabulary Sort and Connections**  
**Directions**  
Copy and cut the vocabulary cards *on the next page*. Circulate and ask students why they grouped particular words together. Some surprising connections may come to light. If there is an error in understanding, try to keep explanations short. Avoid defining new words and instead emphasize that students will learn more through the process of reading.

Depending on the level and size of your class, pairing students or having them work in small groups might be helpful.

**C. Pre-reading: First Sentences**  
**Suggested Activity**  
Before beginning the activity, share the title with the students and ask them to make predictions about what they'll read.

**C. Pre-reading: First Sentences**  
**Instructor Notes**  
The First Sentences activity can be challenging for students, especially at first. Asking students to circle key words in the first sentences may help. Encourage them to play with ideas. Students who are struggling could make a few predictions, rather than complete all of the items.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>championship</th>
<th>legacy</th>
<th>focus/focused</th>
<th>determination</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>teammates</td>
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<td>national award</td>
<td>World War II</td>
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<td>courage</td>
<td>not allowed to</td>
<td>people of color</td>
<td>Major League Baseball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>integrate</td>
<td>the color barrier</td>
<td>Civil Rights Movement</td>
<td>continues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inspire</td>
<td>racism</td>
<td>segregation</td>
<td>illegal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Read Closely Answer Key**

**B. Author’s Purpose**

1. What is the author’s purpose?
   - b. to persuade the reader that Jackie Robinson was the most important hero of the Civil Rights movement
   - c. to entertain readers with descriptions of baseball championships
   - d. **to inform readers about Jackie Robinson’s life and how he worked for Civil Rights**
   - e. d. to compare the Brooklyn Dodgers to the Kansas City Monarchs

**C. Analyze the Structure Directions**

Copy, cut, and shuffle the strips.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Robinson’s childhood and racism in the U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robinson went to college and joined the Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robinson’s Army experience and civil rights activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start of his professional baseball career</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch Rickey’s goal to integrate professional baseball and why he chose Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robinson’s challenges and accomplishments in professional baseball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C. Analyze the Structure Answer Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paragraph Number</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paragraph 1</td>
<td>Robinson’s childhood and racism in the U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragraph 2</td>
<td>Robinson went to college and joined the Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragraph 3</td>
<td>Robinson’s Army experience and civil rights activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragraph 4</td>
<td>Start of his professional baseball career</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragraph 5</td>
<td>Branch Rickey’s goal to integrate professional baseball and why he chose Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragraph 6</td>
<td>Robinson’s challenges and accomplishments in professional baseball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragraph 7</td>
<td>Summary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. Supporting Details Answer Key

Read the main ideas and details below. Choose and circle the detail that best supports each main idea. Then explain your choice.

1. Main idea: Jackie Robinson had problems with racism early in his life, but he fought for what he believed in.

   *Detail A:* When Robinson was young, it was illegal for black and white people to eat in the same restaurants.
   *Detail B:* While in the army, Robinson was arrested because he would not sit in the back section of a segregated bus in Texas.

Why did you choose that detail? Why not the other one?
Detail B is the best fit because it includes information about Robinson fighting for civil rights.
Detail A is about racism but doesn’t include anything about Robinson’s actions.

2. Main idea: Branch Rickey chose Robinson as the first African-American player because of Robinson’s skill and dedication to working for equality.

Detail A: Robinson ignored racist fans and teammates, concentrated on playing well, and won important awards in 1947.
Detail B: Branch Rickey wanted to integrate the Brooklyn Dodgers team.

Why did you choose that detail? Why not the other one?
Detail A is the best fit because it includes information about Robinson’s skill and his work for equality (via ignoring racists and focusing).
Detail B is about integration but doesn’t say anything about Robinson’s skill or his work for equality.

3. Main idea: Jackie Robinson opened the doors to professional sports for many African-American players.

Detail A: Robinson was elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.
Detail B: Five years after Robinson started playing for the Dodgers, there were more than 150 African-American players.

Why did you choose that detail? Why not the other one?
Detail B is the best fit. It includes information about the results of sports being open to African-American players.
Detail A is about one of Robinson’s achievements but has no information about other African-American players.

F. Sequencing with Linking Words and Phrases Instructor Notes
Some students might need orientation to linking words in general and the meaning of these linking words in particular. You may want to supplement these materials with an overview of linking words, purpose, and meaning.

F. Sequencing with Words and Phrases Answer Key
1) Jackie Robinson was an early leader in the Civil Rights Movement, and he continues to inspire today. He was born in 1919 in Cairo, Georgia. He and his four brothers and sisters were raised in California by a single mother. While Robinson was growing up, the United States had terrible problems with racism and segregation. For example, in many places, it was illegal for black and white people to eat in the same restaurants or drink from the same water fountain.
2) Robinson was always good at sports. He went to college at the University of California, Los Angeles. During college, he played baseball, basketball, football, and track. After college, Robinson was a soldier in the Army. He fought in World War II.

3) Even in the Army, black and white soldiers were separated. Robinson was arrested because the driver of an Army bus told him to move to the back, but he stayed in his seat. At that time, in many southern states, only white people could sit in the front of the bus. But, Robinson knew there was a new rule that segregation was not allowed on Army busses. In the end, he did not have to stay in jail for refusing to go to the back of the bus.

4) Next, Robinson focused on baseball. At that time, only white men could play in the Major League. In 1945, Robinson started to play for the Kansas City Monarchs. That team was in the Negro League, which was a league for people of color.

5) Meanwhile, the manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, a team in the Major League, was looking for an African-American player to add to his team. The manager’s name was Branch Rickey. He wanted to integrate baseball. He wanted black and white players to play together in the Major League. Rickey chose Jackie Robinson as the first black member of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Rickey chose him for two reasons. One was his skill as a player. The other reason was Robinson’s focus on civil rights.

6) When Robinson joined the Dodgers in 1947, he was the first African-American to play Major League Baseball. While many people celebrated, many others were very angry. Racist people yelled terrible things at him during games, some of his teammates didn’t want to play with him, and his family got death threats. Despite all of these problems, Robinson stayed strong and focused on playing well. That year, the Dodgers won an important championship. In the same year, Robinson won a national award for being the best new player. During the rest of his baseball career, Robinson and his team won several championships. He was even voted the Most Valuable Player in the National League in 1949. Rickey said, "There was never a man in the game who could put mind and muscle together quicker than Jackie Robinson."

7) Robinson’s skill, courage, and determination helped integrate professional sports. By 1952, there were more than 150 black baseball players. In 1962 Robinson was elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame. He retired in 1957, but he continued to speak out and work for equal rights for African-Americans. Robinson said, “There’s not an American in this country free until every one of us is free.” Jackie Robinson was an amazing baseball player and civil rights activist, and his legacy lives on.

G-H. Sequencing Strategies Instructor Notes

- Jackierobinson.org has an interactive timeline with wonderful photos. It’s a quick way to make the events of his life come alive.
- If necessary, pre-teach students that bars on the timeline denote duration, while a single point denotes one event.

G. Sequencing Strategies: Scan for Dates Answer Key
Answers will vary.
1. What important event happened in 1919? Robinson was born.
2. What important event happened in 1945? Robinson started playing for the Kansas City Monarchs.
4. What other important event happened in 1947? (Hint: Look for “in the same year...”) Robinson won a national award for being the best new player. “The Dodgers won an important championship.” is also correct.
5. What important event happened in 1949? Robinson was voted MVP in the National League.
7. What important event happened in 1962? Robinson was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

I. Sequencing Strategies: Choose the Correct Linking Word Answer Key

1. Robinson was elected to the baseball hall of fame in the same year after he retired.
2. Robinson was chosen as the Most Valuable Player in the National League before after winning the award for being the best new player.
3. He played for the Dodgers since until 1957.
4. Robinson played for the Kansas City Monarchs before after going to the University of California.
5. During Until his time with the Dodgers, Robinson was voted Most Valuable Player of the National League.
6. He retired ten years before after joining the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Show Your Understanding Answer Key

Answers will vary.

1. What information in paragraph 2 allows the reader to infer that Jackie Robinson was black? He was arrested refusing to move to the back of a bus. A white person wouldn’t have been asked to move to the back of the bus, but a black person would.

2. The word integrate is in paragraphs 5 and 7. What information in the text helps explain what integration means? What does it mean? The next sentence says, “He wanted black and white players to play together in the Major League” in paragraph 4. In paragraph 6 it says, “By 1952, there were more than 150 black baseball players.” Integration means ending segregation.
3. Paragraph 4 says that Rickey, the manager of the Dodgers, chose Robinson both for his skill and for his focus on civil rights. What did Robinson do before Rickey hired him to show his skill in baseball? What did Robinson do before Rickey hired him to show his focus on civil rights?

Robinson played four sports in college, and he was arrested for refusing to go to the back of a bus.

4. In the beginning of paragraph 5, the author gives examples of racist reactions to Robinson. Which sentence in that paragraph shows the author changing from challenges to successes? Hint: After that sentence, the rest of the paragraph is about positive things.

“Despite all of these problems, Robinson stayed strong and focused on playing well.”

5. Rickey said that Robinson could “put mind and muscle together” better than anyone. What are three pieces of evidence from the text that support Rickey’s claim that Robinson’s mental and physical strength were excellent?

Several answers are possible. Answers should include one mental strength and one physical strength.

Mental Strength
- His willingness to be arrested to protest segregated buses
- Robinson ignored all the racist comments and actions of fans and teammates
- Continued to work for civil rights after he retired
- The quote, “There’s not an American in this country free until every one of us is free.”

Physical Strength
- Playing for the Monarchs
- He helped the Dodgers win a championship in 1947
- He won the award for being best new player
- Robinson and his team won several other awards
- Voted Most Valuable Player in 1949
- Elected to Baseball Hall of Fame

6. Paragraph 7 has a quote that Jackie Robinson said: “There’s not an American in this country free until every one of us is free.” What does free mean in this sentence? What problems is Robinson talking about? How did these problems affect everyone? Use evidence from the text to support your answers.

Free means free from segregation and racial discrimination. These problems affect everyone because with segregation everyone has limited choices. Segregation and discrimination mean that African Americans aren’t able to reach their full potential and neither are the organizations that could benefit from integration, such as sports teams, businesses, government, schools, neighborhoods, etc. In the text, the Brooklyn Dodgers and Major League baseball benefited from integration.
**Rock the Test Answer Key**

1. In paragraph 1, the author lists the fact that blacks and whites couldn’t eat in the same restaurants as an example of

   a. civil rights  
   b. **segregation**  
   c. Jackie Robinson’s challenges  
   d. breaking the color barrier

2. What evidence does the author give to support the claim that Robinson was good at sports?

   a. The Dodgers won an important championship in 1947.  
   b. By 1952 there were more than 150 black baseball players.  
   c. During college he played baseball, basketball, football and track.  
   d. In 1945 Robinson played for the Kansas City Monarchs.

3. Put the following events from the text in order. Copy the events into the correct box on the next page. The box on top is the first event that happened.

   - **There were no black players in Major League baseball.**  
   - Rickey chose Robinson to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers.  
   - Robinson’s family received death threats.  
   - **There were 150 black baseball players in the major leagues.**  
   - Robinson was added to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

4. Based on the information in the text, which adjective best describes Ricky Branch?

   a. **Courageous**  
   b. Lazy  
   c. Enthusiastic  
   d. Unpredictable

5. Which of these statements best explains the title “Jackie Robinson: Breaking the Color Barrier?”

   a. After joining the Dodgers, Robinson’s family received death threats.  
   b. Robinson was arrested for refusing to sit in the back of a bus.  
   c. Robinson and the Dodgers won several championships.  
   d. **Robinson was the first African-American to play Major League Baseball in 1947, and five years later there were more than 150 African American players in the Major Leagues.**

6. Which statements from the text best support the author’s claim that Jackie Robinson was skilled, courageous, and determined?
a. Some of his teammates didn’t want to play with him, and his family got death threats. Despite all these problems, Robinson stayed strong and focused on playing well...Robinson won a national award for being the best new player.

b. In 1962 Robinson was elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

c. Jackie Robinson was an amazing baseball player and civil rights activist, and his legacy lives on.

d. Robinson was arrested because the driver of an Army bus told him to move to the back but he stayed in his seat... But, Robinson knew there was a new rule that segregation was not allowed on Army busses.