

BATTER UP LESSONS

Recognizing Negro League Statistics in Major League Baseball developed by Ms. Michelle Hamlett's Historiography Classes 2020-2022 Eastside High School

Learning Objective(s)	Essential Question(s)	Suggested Activities	Standards
The student will be able to explain the reasoning behind Major League Baseball's decision to incorporate Negro League statistics into its record books. The student will be able to explain the process by which Negro League statistics will be accepted by Major League Baseball.	How does the acknowledgement and recognition of Negro League statistics satisfy Social Justice principles?	Select an African American player who played in the Negro Leagues and generate his statistics with and without his Negro League accomplishments.	6.1.12.HistorySE.14.a: Explore the various ways women, racial and ethnic minorities, the LGBTQ community, and individuals with disabilities have contributed to the American economy, politics and society. 6.1.12.HistorySE.14.b: Use a variety of sources from diverse perspective to analyze the social, economic and political contributions of marginalized and underrepresented groups and/or individuals.

Research Sources

Note: At the time of this publication these websites were active

"In response to an inquiry from *The Ringer* earlier this year, the league began exploring the possibility of reclassification, as we reported in August. Later today, the league will officially announce the results of that effort and proceed with plans to assign the same major league status enjoyed by the AL and the NL to the Negro Leagues—and, in the cases of players like Mays who played in the Negro Leagues between 1920 and 1948 and later joined the AL or NL, integrate records produced in segregated leagues."

<https://www.theringer.com/mlb/2020/12/16/22178257/mlb-acknowledge-negro-leagues-officially>

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“The co-founder of Kansas City’s Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, Lester cried tears of joy that his more than half-century of work was recognized, and that a greater air of legitimacy might be lent to the statistics of Black ballplayers deprived the chance to compete in a league bent on maintaining segregation.

And he cried tears of sadness that so many of his friends and Negro Leagues legends – be it Larry Doby, who integrated the American League, Cuban trailblazer Minnie Minoso, or Giants great Monte Irvin – did not live long enough to see the day.”

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/mlb/2020/12/18/negro-leagues-how-players-stats-being-added-mlb-history/3948761001/>

“Which all made us start to wonder: If there are now 29 seasons worth of newly recognized major league history, including approximately 3,400 players -- which, by the way, suddenly puts us over 20,000 all-time major leaguers -- are we about to suddenly see some new records? Is there a new all-time home run king, or single-season batting champion? *(Spoiler: Yes! Probably.)*”

<https://www.mlb.com/news/how-negro-leagues-stats-may-change-baseball-leaderboards>

“Unfortunately, many of the records from the 3,400 players who participated in the seven Negro Leagues from 1920 to 1948 were obscured by time. Some statistics contradict others or are incomplete, making it difficult to cite accurate accomplishments.

Historians and statistics now are busy filling in the gaps.”

https://www.upi.com/Sports_News/MLB/2021/01/04/MLBs-inclusion-of-Negro-Leagues-stats-reframes-greatest-player-debate/8271609172676/

“Elias Sports Bureau, MLB’s official statistician, will work with several entities to check those stats and see in what form they will be added to the existing MLB stats of Doby, Paige and Minoso. Melding the stats of an estimated 3,400 players into MLB’s existing database is going to be a herculean task.”

<https://www.cleveland.com/tribe/2020/12/how-long-will-it-take-to-meld-negro-league-player-stats-with-mlb-stats.html>