

THE HISTORY® CHANNEL DOCUMENTARY EVENT

FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS **LEBRON JAMES & MAVERICK CARTER**
& EMMY® AWARD WINNER **STANLEY NELSON**
A FILM BY **ANDRE GAINES**

AFTER JACKIE



NUMBER 42 WAS JUST THE BEGINNING

EDUCATION GUIDE



ABOUT THE SHOW

Executive produced by UNINTERRUPTED's LeBron James and Maverick Carter, Emmy Award® winning and Academy Award® nominated filmmaker Stanley Nelson ("Tulsa Burning: The 1921 Race Massacre," "Attica"), critically-acclaimed producer and director Andre Gaines ("The One and Only Dick Gregory," "The Lady and the Dale") and in association with Major League Baseball, *After Jackie* celebrates the 75th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's integration into Major League Baseball. Robinson opened the door for other African Americans to join the league and this documentary taps into key people and events in the aftermath.

On April 15th, 1947, Jackie Robinson started at first base with the Brooklyn Dodgers, marking the first time a Black man played in the modern Major Leagues and breaking the color barrier in the sport. However, when the Hall of Famer retired, there was still much work to be done in baseball. This two-hour documentary tells the overlooked story of the second wave of talented Black baseball players after Jackie Robinson — including Bill White, Curt Flood and Bob Gibson — who put their lives on the line to integrate baseball and demand a fairer and more inclusive America for African American athletes. The relentless efforts and sacrifices of these brave men would eventually advance the status of Black players on and off the field, send the league toward greater roster integration, and force the sport of baseball, and the country, to change for the better.



CURRICULUM LINKS

After Jackie would be useful for courses focusing on 20th Century American History, African American History, American Culture and related courses. Due to some sensitive language, we recommend this program for high school and college studies. Teachers should view the program before screening it to students.

Watch a preview and learn more about the documentary here:
<https://www.history.com/specials/after-jackie>

KEY TERMS

- Segregation
- Integration
- Fair Housing Act
- Reserve Clause
- Jim Crow
- Boycott

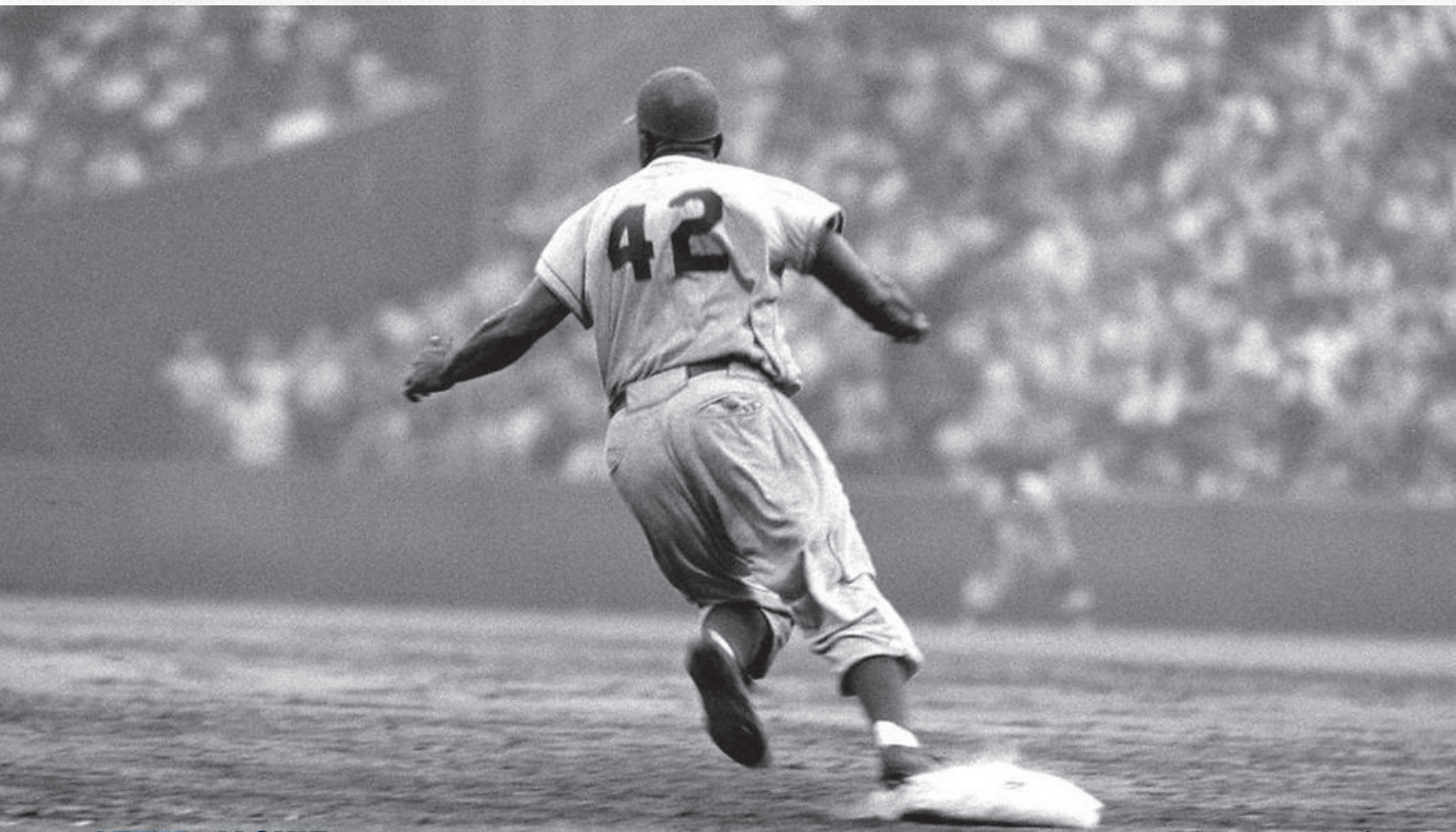
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. At the end of the documentary, Budd Mishkin says, "Baseball's integration is not just a great 20th century sports story. It's a great 20th century American story." After watching the documentary, discuss the role baseball played in the grand scale of the Civil Rights Movement and American History.
2. There were several talented Black baseball players that could have been chosen to play in the major leagues over Jackie Robinson. Why was Jackie chosen as the first to join the Brooklyn Dodgers? What were the other factors at play? Lastly, why was it important for the "right" person to be chosen?
3. Jackie Robinson is celebrated for breaking the color barrier in Major League Baseball, but this documentary details a story of years of fighting after Jackie. What are some of the struggles the second wave of talented Black baseball players faced in the years following Jackie Robinson?
4. Besides Jackie Robinson, who were some of the other key figures who played a role in breaking the color barrier in major league baseball in 1947? Discuss in detail the role each of them played.
5. Discuss the influence, both positive and negative, that the media had throughout this documentary.
6. After Jackie shines a light on several civil rights pioneers who are often overlooked in history, one of them being Dr. Ralph Wimbush. Who was Dr. Wimbush? Why is he an important figure in this story?
7. Despite Black baseball players, such as Bill White, Curt Flood and Bob Gibson, being celebrated by many on the field, off the field they faced severe discrimination. Why do you think this was?
8. Who was Wendell Smith? Discuss the influence he had throughout the fight for racial equality in baseball.
9. What were some of the key events that led the St. Louis Cardinals to winning their first world series in 1964?
10. The documentary compared the reserve clause to slavery saying the clause indentured players to the owners of teams. What are your thoughts on the reserve clause? Was this an accurate comparison?
11. Discuss the impact of Curt Flood on not only baseball, but the entirety of professional sports today.



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Moments of monumental change throughout our history happened slowly and as a result of a combined effort and sacrifices made by pioneers. The story of the fight for racial equality in Major League Baseball is no different. Create a timeline of key events featured in this documentary. To demonstrate how the fight for racial equality in baseball fit into the broader context of the Civil Rights Movement, be sure to include other critical events from your knowledge of this period.
2. The documentary describes an event in 1964 where Curt Flood rented a house in Alamo, California, but was threatened not to move in or be shot by the owner of the property. Flood took the owner to court and later moved in with the help of armed police. Four years later in 1968, the Fair Housing Act was signed into law. You can read more about the Act here: <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/fair-housing-act>. Write a short essay detailing the key events leading up to the passing of this piece of legislation and discuss its impact.
3. One of the themes present throughout the documentary is how Black athletes were seen as sources of entertainment on the field but continued to face discrimination off the field. There was a view that Black athletes could be celebrated in their sports but should resume their role as second-class citizens in the real world. Do some research around other significant Black figures in arts and entertainment during this era who were held to the same standards. What similarities can be drawn to the struggles faced by athletes like Jackie Robinson, Bill White, Curt Flood, and Bob Gibson?



RELATED WEBSITES

Official Show Site:

<https://www.history.com/specials/after-jackie>

Jackie Robinson Foundation:

<https://jackierobinson.org/history/>

Smithsonian:

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/celebratingjackie>

Related Content from History.com

Silent No Longer: The Outspoken Jackie Robinson:

<https://www.history.com/news/silent-no-longer-the-outspoken-jackie-robinson>

4 Black Baseball Players Who Followed Jackie Robinson's Lead in 1947:

<https://www.history.com/news/jackie-robinson-black-baseball-players-1947>

Jackie Robinson: His Life and Career in Pictures:

<https://www.history.com/news/jackie-robinson-life-baseball-pictures>

6 Decades Before Jackie Robinson, This Man Broke Baseball's Color Barrier:

<https://www.history.com/news/moses-fleetwood-walker-first-black-mlb-player>

Jim Crow:

<https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/jim-crow-laws>

Civil Rights Movement:

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/civil-rights-movement>

Fair Housing Act:

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/fair-housing-act>

History of Negro League Baseball:

<https://www.history.com/topics/sports/negro-league-baseball>



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