

## Jackie Robinson



Jackie Robinson was born in 1919. He was born in a very small town in Georgia. His family was poor. While in Georgia, Jackie was raised by just his mother. His mother took the family to live near her brother in California. Jackie was less than two months old.

Jackie's mother worked hard. It didn't matter that they didn't have much money. Jackie had talent. One day he would change the world forever.

As a boy, Jackie loved sports. He could play football, baseball, and basketball. He ran track, too. Jackie was good at them all.

Jackie went to college. He played sports there, too. There was only one problem. Some people did not like the color of his skin. Jackie was African American. Some people taunted him. They called him names. This was one of the reasons that Jackie left college in 1941.



War broke out in 1939. In 1942, Jackie joined the army. He stayed in the army until it was over.

In 1945, Jackie was 26 years old. He was still good at sports. He got a job playing baseball. He played with an African American team. In 1945, the big-league teams only hired white players.

Jackie was special. He could run fast and steal bases. He hit many home runs.

One day a scout spotted him. He liked what he saw. Soon after, the Brooklyn Dodgers asked him to join their team. Jackie would be the first African American to play with an all-white big-league team.

The Dodgers warned Jackie. It would be hard. People might not be friendly. Some people might not like him. All this would be because he had dark skin.

On April 15, 1947, Jackie played his first game. No one ran faster. No one hit more home runs. He was a valuable player for the Dodgers.

Still, Jackie went through hard times. Players said mean things to him. Some called him bad names. People hurt his feelings. But he didn't quit.

In ten years, Jackie's team went to the World Series six times. One year the Dodgers won it.

Jackie proved that the color of your skin does not matter. Success in sports is about the game. It's about how you play it. Today the big leagues are filled with players of all colors. It is all because of Jackie Robinson.

Jackie died in 1972. Baseball honored Jackie Robinson. They "retired" his number. That means that no one can ever wear his number again.

Even today, he is a hero. Jackie changed baseball. He also changed the world.