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Integration and the “Barrier Breakers”: Black Baseball 1945-1960 (“Charting History”)

Key Features of Powerful Teaching and Learning:

(National Council for the Social Studies: “A vision of Powerful Teaching and Learning in the Social Studies: Building Social Understanding and Civic Efficacy.”

<http://www.socialstudies.org/positions/powerful/>)

Meaningful: Students will learn methods of historical analysis.

Integrated: Students will engage reading and math skills in analytical exercise.

Active: Students will explore biographical information, represent that information in chart form, and interpret the charts in order to complete the exercise.

Grade Level: 9-12

Subject: Social Studies

Standards

NCSS Standards: I, II

ISTE Standards: 1, 3, 5, 6

Missouri Standards: 2, 7

Time Allotment: 1, sixty minute period

Purpose/Rationale/Introduction: Students will learn about the integration of Major League Baseball. This lesson could be used to supplement material on the Civil Rights Movement.

Objectives:

1. Students will learn about the important individual baseball players who helped integrate Major League baseball.
2. Students will learn to analyze historical information through charts, graphs, and statistics.

Materials/Primary Resources:

1. “Barrier Breakers” players handout
2. “Barrier Breakers” players worksheet and answer key
3. “Barrier Breakers” reference charts for teacher
4. Graph paper and rulers
5. Colored pencils and/or chalk
6. *Crossing the Line: Black Major Leaguers, 1947-1959*, edited by Moffi & Krondstadt
7. *Biographical Encyclopedia of the Negro Baseball Leagues*, by James Riley
8. Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet

Procedures & Activities:

- Students will read and discuss the Barrier Breaker handout.
- Students will complete an in class assignment sheet analyzing the material from the handout into graphs and charts. They will be given a worksheet to complete after the activity using the charts they created.

Use the following for lesson and discussion:

Part 1: Barrier Breaker handout

- Read in class the overview printed on the “Barrier Breakers” handout.

FROM 1947—1959, over 100 African-American and Latino men endured the grueling process of integrating Major League and Minor League baseball organizations throughout North America. Even though the two groups came from different cultures and countries, they were both referred to as “black.” During this time period, they helped open the doors of inclusion to many in their respective communities. It took more than a decade before every major league team had at least one minority team member. Many encountered hardships and name-calling.

This list includes those who were part of Major League baseball team rosters for at least part of a season during this time period. Some did not have very distinguished baseball careers, while others became some the best-known baseball players of all time. Many won several awards and would become National Baseball Hall of Fame inductees.

Part 2: Barrier Breaker worksheet

- Using Page 1 of the handout, answer questions 1-10 on the worksheet provided.
- Using Page 2 of the handout create charts, using graph paper.
 - a. Chart #1 can be a “Bar Graph” or “Line Graph” and should measure the total number of minority players who integrated Major League baseball teams by year from 1947-1959.
 - b. Chart #2 can be a “Bar Graph” or “Line Graph” to measure and compare the number of American born and Non-American born minority players who integrated Major League teams by year from 1947-1959.
- Using Page 2 of the handout and the charts you have created, answer questions 11-30 on the worksheet.

(Teacher should demonstrate the construction of “Bar Graphs” and “Line Graphs” and offer examples of how each should look)

Conclusion:

After WWII, America faced many societal challenges. The integration of baseball was an important event in American history that affected many individuals and communities. Historians study these events and other events by using math, charts and graphs to determine patterns, trends, and changes over time.

Extension and Enrichment:

- Students could create a virtual exhibit of their research material focused on their subjects. Students could refer to *Crossing the Line* and *The Biographical Encyclopedia* to chart/graph other information on the players (such as, states and countries where players were born, average age of players during their major league debut, and other interesting facts).
- Students could create their own sets of questions and observations by using the Major League baseball statistics of these players. Students should separate the pitchers from the other types of players. Sources to use include *Crossing the Line* and internet sources such as www.mlb.com and www.baseballlibrary.com.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed on the in-class activities, creating charts and on worksheet answers.

Alternative Assessment:

Students can create charts and plot information using Microsoft Excel and print their graphs in color for display.

Resources for Diverse Learners:

- Students could start with a “graph template,” with part of the graph information filled in and certain plot points placed on the graph. Students should be challenged to fill in the rest of the chart in order to answer questions on the work sheet.
- Students could be limited to constructing one type of graph for the assignment and would be assigned just one part of the activity to complete.

Barrier Breakers: The First Black Players in Major League Baseball

FROM 1947—1959, over 100 African-American and Latino men endured the grueling process of integrating Major League and Minor League baseball organizations throughout North America. Even though the two groups came from different cultures and countries, they were both referred to as “black.” During this time period, they helped open the doors of inclusion to many in their respective communities. Even with this effort, it took more than a decade before every major league team had at least one minority team member.

This list includes players who appeared on Major League Baseball team rosters for at least part of a season during this time period. Some did not have very distinguished baseball careers, while others became some of the best-known baseball players of all time. Several players were repeatedly recognized for excellence during this time and some would later be inducted into National Baseball Hall of Fame.

*-Played in the Negro Leagues + - born outside the United States **bold** -National Baseball Hall of Fame inductees

First Black Players on each Major League Team 1947-1959

April 15, 1947	Jackie Robinson*	Brooklyn Dodgers
July 5, 1947	Larry Doby*	Cleveland Indians
July 17, 1947	Hank Thompson*	St. Louis Browns
July 8, 1949	Monte Irvin*	New York Giants
July 8, 1949	Hank Thompson*	New York Giants
April 18, 1950	Sam Jethroe*	Boston Braves
May 1, 1951	Minnie Minoso*+	Chicago White Sox
September 9, 1953	Bob Trice*	Philadelphia Athletics
September 17, 1953	Ernie Banks*	Chicago Cubs
April 13, 1954	Tom Alston	St. Louis Cardinals
April 13, 1954	Curt Roberts*	Pittsburgh Pirates
April 17, 1954	Nino Escalera+	Cincinnati Reds
April 17, 1954	Chuck Harmon*	Cincinnati Reds
September 5, 1954	Carlos Paula+	Washington Senators
April 14, 1955	Elston Howard*	New York Yankees
April 22, 1957	John Kennedy	Philadelphia Phillies
June 6, 1958	Ozzie Virgil+	Detroit Tigers
July 21, 1959	Pumpsie Green	Boston Red Sox

Black Major League Award Winners/Honors 1947-1960

<i>Rookie of the Year</i>	<i>M.V.P. Awards</i>	<i>Cy Young Awards</i>
Jackie Robinson ('47)*	Jackie Robinson ('49)*	Don Newcombe ('56)*
Don Newcombe ('48)*	Roy Campanella ('51)*	<i>Gold Glove Award</i>
Sam Jethroe ('50)*	Roy Campanella ('53)*	
Willie Mays ('51)*	Willie Mays ('54)*	Willie Mays ('57-60)*
Joe Black ('52)*	Roy Campanella ('55)*	Henry Aaron ('58-60)*
Jim Gilliam ('53)*	Don Newcombe ('56)*	Frank Robinson ('58)
Frank Robinson ('56)	Henry Aaron ('57)*	Minnie Minoso ('57, '59, '60)*+
Orlando Cepeda ('58)+	Ernie Banks ('58)*	
Willie McCovey ('59)	Ernie Banks ('59)*	

Barrier Breaker Players 1947-1959

1947
 DANIEL ROBERT "DAN" BANKHEAD*
 WILLARD JESSIE BROWN*
LAWRENCE EUGENE "LARRY" DOBY*
JACK ROOSEVELT "JACKIE" ROBINSON*
 HENRY CURTIS "HANK THOMPSON"

1948
ROY CAMPANELLA*
LEROY ROBERT "SATCHEL" PAIGE*

1949
 LUKE EASTER*
MONFORD MERRILL "MONTE" IRVIN*
 SATURNINO ORESTES "MINNIE" MINOSO*+
 DONALD "DON" NEWCOMBE*

1950
 SAMUEL "SAM" JETHROE*

1951
 ROBERT RICHARD "BOB" BOYD*
 SAMUEL "SAM" HAIRSTON*
 SAMUEL "SAM" JONES*
 LUIS ANGEL MARQUEZ*+
WILLIE HOWARD MAYS*
 RAFAEL "RAY" NOBLE*+
 HARRY LEON SIMPSON*
 ARTHUR LEE "ARTIE" WILSON*

1952
 EDMUNDO "SANDY" AMOROS*+
 JOSEPH "JOE" BLACK*
 JAMES BUSTER "BUZZ" CLARKSON*
 GEORGE DANIEL CROWE*
 DAVID "DAVE" POPE*
 HECTOR ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ*+
 QUINCY THOMAS TROUPPE*

1953
 EUGENE WALTER "GENE" BAKER*
ERNIE BANKS*
 CARLOS BERNIER+
 WILLIAM HARON "BILLY" BRUTON
 JAMES WILLIAM "JUNIOR" GILLIAM*
 RUBEN GOMEZ+
 DAVID TAYLOR "DAVE" HOSKINS*
 CLIFFORD "CONNIE" JOHNSON*
 JAMES EDWARD "JIM" PENDLETON*
 ALPHONSE EUGENE "AL" SMITH*
 ROBERT LEE "BOB" TRICE

1954
HENRY LOUIS "HANK" AARON*
 THOMAS EDISON "TOM" ALSTON
 JOSEPH VANN "JOE" DURHAM*
 SATURNINO "NINO" ESCALERA +
 WILLIAM HENRY "BILL" GREASON *
 CHARLES BYRON "CHUCK" HARMON *
 JEHOSE "JAY" HEARD*
 BROOKS ULYSSES LAWRENCE
 CARLOS CONILL PAULA +
 VIC PELLOT POWER +
 CURTIS BENJAMIN "CURT" ROBERTS *
 JOSE GUILLERMO SANTIAGO *+
 WILLIAM MICHAEL "JOE" TAYLOR*
 CHARLES "CHARLIE" WHITE*

1955
 EARL JESSE BATTEY
 JULIO BECQUER +
 VILBERT CLARKE
ROBERTO WALKER CLEMENTE +
 LINO DONOSO * +
 WILLIAM "BILLY" HARRELL
 ELSTON GENE "ELLIE" HOWARD *
 HECTOR HEADLY LOPEZ +
 ROMAN MEJIAS +
 HUMBERTO VALENTINO ROBINSON +
 MILTON "MILT" SMITH*
 ROBERT BURNS "BOB" THURMAN*
 ROBERTO ENRIQUE VARGAS* +

1956
 CHARLES A. "CHARLIE" BEAMON, SR.
 JOSEPH CLIFFORD "JOE" CAFFIE
 JOHN WESLEY "WES" COVINGTON
 SOLOMON LOUIS "SOLLY" DRAKE
 HUBERTO "CHICO" FERNANDEZ +
 CURTIS CHARLES "CURT" FLOOD
 FELIX LAMELA MANTILLA +
 CHARLES LEONARD "CHARLIE" NEAL
 CHARLES "CHARLEY" PEETE +
FRANK ROBINSON
 PARTICIO A. "PAT" SCANTLEBURY* +
 OSVALDO JOSE "OZZIE" VIRGIL +
 WILLIAM DeKOVA "BILL" WHITE

1957
 FRANK BARNES*
 BENNIE DANIELS
 LEONARD CHARLES "LENNY" GREEN
 JOHN IRVIN KENNEDY
 JUAN CORDOVA PIZARRO +
 LAWRENCE G. H. "LARRY" RAINES
 KENNETH ANDRE IAN RODGERS +
 JOHN JUNIOR ROSEBORO
 VALMY THOMAS +
 RENE GUTIERREZ VALDES +

1958
 FELIPE ROJAS ALOU +
 RUBEN AMARO +
 ELLIS NARRINGTON BURTON
ORLANDO MANUEL CEPEDA +
 JAMES TIMOTHY "MUDCAT" GRANT
 WILLIE CHARLES KIRKLAND
 JUAN FRANCISCO "PANCHO" HERRERA *+
 HENRY MASON *
 ORLANDO PEÑA +
 VADA PINSON
 R.C. STEVENS
 WILLIE TASBY
 ANTONIO SANCHEZ "TONY" TAYLOR +
 LEON LAMAR WAGNER
 BOB WILSON

1959
 GEORGE LEE ALTMAN*
 MARSHALL BRIDGES
 JOSEPH O'NEAL "JOE" CHRISTOPHER
 HERMAN THOMAS "TOMMY" DAVIS
 DONALD JOHNSON "DON" EADDY
ROBERT "BOB" GIBSON
 ELIJAH JERRY "PUMPSIE" GREEN
 ALVIN NEIL "AL" JACKSON
WILLIE LEE McCOVEY
 ARTHUR LEE MAYE
 JOSE ANTONIO PAGAN +
 JAMES ARTHUR "JIM" PROCTER
 RICHARD JAMES "DICK" RICKETTS
BILLY LEO WILLIAMS
 MAURICE MORNING "MAURY" WILLS
 EARL LAWRENCE WILSON

Barrier Breakers Worksheet

NAME: _____ CLASS/PERIOD _____

Directions: Analyze the historical information on the “Barrier Breakers” handout by answering these investigative questions.

Section A:

Using the information on page 1 of the Barrier Breakers handout, in the section discussing the “First Black Payers on Each Major League Team 1947-1959,” answer questions 1-5.

<u>ANSWERS</u>	<u>QUESTIONS</u>
	1. Of the first black baseball players on Major League teams from 1947-1959, how many participated in the Negro Leagues?
	2. How many baseball players in this group were born outside the United States?
	3. Which player was the first to integrate 2 different teams?
	4. How many of the players in this group would become National Baseball Hall of Fame inductees?
	5. Express as a fraction how many players in this group did not play in the Negro Leagues. (Show your math work on back of this worksheet).

Section B:

Using the information on page 1 of the Barrier Breakers handout, in the section discussing the “Black Major League Award Winners/Honors 1947-1960,” answer questions 6-10.

<u>ANSWERS</u>	<u>QUESTIONS</u>
	6. Which non-U.S. born player won the “Rookie of the Year” Award?
	7. Which black player earned the most “M.V.P.” awards in this time period?
	8. From 1947-1960, which years did black players not win the “Rookie of the Year” Award?
	9. Express as a percentage (%) how many “Rookie of the Year” Awards were earned by black players between 1947-1960 (show your math work on the back of this worksheet).
	10. Express as a percentage (%) the number of non-black players earning “M.V.P.” awards between 1947-1960 (show your math work on the back of this worksheet).

Section C:

Using information on page 2 of the “Barrier Breakers” handout, create two charts on graph paper to analyze the information.

Chart #1—Create a “line graph” or “bar graph” which measures the number of black baseball players by each year, from 1947-1959, that integrated baseball.

Chart #2—Create a “line graph” or “bar graph” which measures the number of black baseball players by each year, from 1947-1959, that integrated baseball. **Chart #2 must also separate the number of American born players from non-American born players.**

Be as accurate as you can with the information. You will need your charts to answer questions 11-30 on this worksheet.

Section D:

Using the information on page 2 of the “Barrier Breakers” handout, answer questions 11-15.

<u>ANSWERS</u>	<u>QUESTIONS</u>
	11. What is the total number of baseball players on this list?
	12. How many players listed are National Baseball Hall of Fame inductees?
	13. What is the total number of American born baseball players on this list?
	14. What is the total number of non-American born baseball players on this list?
	15. How many non-American born baseball players are National Baseball Hall of Fame inductees?

Section E:

Using the information on page 2 of the “Barrier Breakers” handout, and Chart #1 that you created, answer questions 16-20.

<u>ANSWERS</u>	<u>QUESTIONS</u>
	16. Which year had the fewest number of players integrated? Which year had the highest number of players integrated?
	17. In which consecutive years did the number of baseball players integrated remain the same?
	18. Which year had the 3 rd most players integrated? Which year had the 5 th most players integrated?
	19. Which year had the 3 rd fewest players integrated? Which year had the 4 th fewest?
	20. What was the average number of players to integrate per year from 1947-1959? (show your math work on the back of this worksheet)

Section F:

Answer questions 21-25 using the information on page 2 of the “Barrier Breakers” handout, and Chart #2 that you created.

<u>ANSWERS</u>	<u>QUESTIONS</u>
	21. What year did non-American black players who integrated baseball exceed American players?
	22. In which consecutive years did the integration of non-American black players remain constant?
	23. Which year had the largest disparity or difference between the number of American born and non-American born players? Which year showed the 2 nd largest disparity?
	24. What was the average number of American born players to integrate baseball per year between 1947-1959? (show your math work on the back of this worksheet)
	25. What was the average number of non-American born players to integrate baseball per year between 1947-1959 (show your math work on the back of this worksheet)

Section G:

Using the information on page 2 of the “Barrier Breakers” handout, Chart #1 and Chart #2 that you created, answer questions 26-30.

<u>ANSWERS</u>	<u>QUESTIONS</u>
	26. Express as a percentage (%) the number of American born players in this list. (show your math work on the back of this worksheet)
	27. Express as a percentage (%) the number of non-American born players on this list (show your math work on the back of this worksheet)
	28. From 1947-1952, what was the average number of black baseball players to integrate the major leagues? What was the average between 1953-1959? Was there an increase or decrease between the two periods? By how much? (show your math work on the back of this worksheet)
	29. From 1954-1958, what is the percentage of non-American born players to integrate? What is the percentage of American born players to integrate? (show your math work on the back of this worksheet)
	30. Of all the players from 1947-1959, how many players played in the Negro Leagues and were non-American born? Express in a percentage of the total players this group was to the whole list.

Answer Key

Barrier Breakers “Charting History” Worksheet

Directions: Analyze the historical information on the “Barrier Breakers” handout by answering these investigative questions.

Section A:

Using the information on page 1 of the Barrier Breakers handout, in the section discussing the “First Black Payers on Each Major League Team 1947-1959,” answer questions 1-5.

<u>ANSWERS</u>	<u>QUESTIONS</u>
12	1. Of the first black baseball players on Major League teams from 1947-1959, how many participated in the Negro Leagues?
4	2. How many baseball players in this group were born outside the United States?
Hank Thompson	3. Which player was the first to integrate 2 different teams?
4	4. How many of the players in this group would become National Baseball Hall of Fame inductees?
6/17	5. Express as a fraction how many players in this group did not play in the Negro Leagues.

Section B:

Using the information on page 1 of the Barrier Breakers handout, in the section discussing the “Black Major League Award Winners/Honors 1947-1960,” answer questions 6-10.

<u>ANSWERS</u>	<u>QUESTIONS</u>
Orlando Cepeda	6. Which non-U.S. born player won the “Rookie of the Year” Award?
Roy Campanella	7. Which black player earned the most “M.V.P.” awards in this time period?
'49, '54, '55, '57, and '60	8. From 1947-1960, which years did black players not win the “Rookie of the Year” Award?
9/14= 64.3%	9. Express as a percentage (%) how many “Rookie of the Year” Awards were earned by black players between 1947-1960 (show your math work on the back of this worksheet).
5/14=35.7%	10. Express as a percentage (%) the number of non-black players earning “M.V.P.” awards between 1947-1960 (show your math work on the back of this worksheet).

Section C:

Using information on page 2 of the “Barrier Breakers” handout, create two charts on graph paper to analyze the information.

Chart #1—Create a “line graph” or “bar graph” which measures the number of black baseball players by each year, from 1947-1959, that integrated baseball.

Chart #2—Create a “line graph” or “bar graph” which measures the number of black baseball players by each year, from 1947-1959, that integrated baseball. **Chart #2 must also separate the number of American born players from non-American born players.**

Be as accurate as you can with the information. You will need your charts to answer questions 11-30 on this worksheet.

Section D:

Using the information on page 2 of the “Barrier Breakers” handout, answer questions 11-15.

<u>ANSWERS</u>	<u>QUESTIONS</u>
120	11. What is the total number of baseball players on this list?
14	12. How many players listed are National Baseball Hall of Fame inductees?
87	13. What is the total number of American born baseball players on this list?
33	14. What is the total number of non-American born baseball players on this list?
2	15. How many non-American born baseball players are National Baseball Hall of Fame inductees?

Section E:

Using the information on page 2 of the “Barrier Breakers” handout, and Chart #1 that you created, answer questions 16-20.

<u>ANSWERS</u>	<u>QUESTIONS</u>
1950, 1959	16. Which year had the fewest number of players integrate? Which year had the highest number of players integrate?
1951 & 1952	17. In which consecutive years did the number of baseball players integrated remain the same?
1954, 1957	18. Which year had the 3 rd most players integrate? Which year had the 5 th most players integrate?
1949, 1947	19. Which year had the 3 rd fewest players integrate? Which year had the 4 th fewest?
9.2	20. What was the average number of players integrated per year from 1947-1959? (show your math work on the back of this worksheet)