

BATTER UP LESSONS

**The Negro Leagues and World War II
developed by
Ms. Michelle Hamlett’s Historiography Classes 2020-2022
Eastside High School**

Learning Objective(s)	Essential Question(s)	Suggested Activities	Standards
<p>The student will be able to trace the history of the segregated United States Armed forces from the Civil War through World War II.</p> <p>The student will be able to cite examples of African Americans who played in the Negro Leagues serving in World War II even though the armed forces were segregated.</p>	<p>How did the service of African American soldiers in World War II ultimately lead to efforts to secure civil rights for minorities?</p> <p>How did the service of African American soldiers in World War II prepare the way for the integration of organized baseball?</p>	<p>Prepare a presentation (power point, poster, etc.) on a segregated segment of the U.S. Armed Forces (.e.g., Tuskegee Airmen, et.al.)</p> <p>The student will be able to describe the events leading up to the signing Executive Order 9981: Ending Segregation in the Armed Forces by President Truman</p> <p>Study the biography of Medgar Evers and give an opinion on how his WW II service might have resulted in his civil rights efforts.</p> <p>Respond to this statement: "If they can fight and die on Okinawa and Guadalcanal in the South Pacific, they can play baseball in America." <i>Baseball Commissioner AB "Happy" Chandler</i></p>	<p>6.1.12.HistoryUP.11.a: Explain why women, African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, and other minority groups often expressed a strong sense of nationalism despite the discrimination they experienced in the military and workforce.</p> <p>6.1.12.CivicsPR.10.a: Analyze how the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution to define and expand individual rights and use evidence to document the long-term impact of these decisions on the protection of civil and human rights.</p> <p>6.1.12.CivicsDP.13.a: Analyze the effectiveness of national legislation, policies, and Supreme Court decisions in promoting civil liberties and equal opportunities (i.e., the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, the Equal Rights Amendment, Title VII, Title IX, Affirmative Action, Brown v. Board of Education, and Roe v. Wade).</p>

BATTER UP LESSONS

Research Sources

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

“There are many well known stories of Major League Baseball players who served their country valiantly. From Bob Feller to Yogi Berra, dozens of baseball players who now are enshrined in Cooperstown fought in World War I, World War II and the Korean War — 64 to be exact.”

<https://nlbm.mlblogs.com/negro-leagues-players-played-major-role-in-world-war-ii-4bc5cb125b7f>

“They fought in the Pacific, and they were part of the victorious army that liberated Europe from Nazi rule. Black soldiers were also part of the U.S. Army of occupation in Germany after the war. Still serving in strictly segregated units, they were sent to democratize the Germans and expunge all forms of racism.

It was that experience that convinced many of these veterans to continue their struggle for equality when they returned home to the U.S. They were to become the foot soldiers of the civil rights movement.”

<https://www.militarytimes.com/military-honor/black-military-history/2018/01/30/african-americans-of-wwii-fighting-for-democracy-abroad-and-at-home/>

“African Americans served bravely and with distinction in every theater of World War II, while simultaneously struggling for their own civil rights from “the world’s greatest democracy.” Although the United States Armed Forces were officially segregated until 1948, WWII laid the foundation for post-war integration of the military. In 1941 fewer than 4,000 African Americans were serving in the military and only twelve African Americans had become officers. By 1945, more than 1.2 million African Americans would be serving in uniform on the Home Front, in Europe, and the Pacific (including thousands of African American women in the Women’s auxiliaries).”

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/sites/default/files/2017-07/african-americans.pdf>

"If they can fight and die on Okinawa and Guadalcanal in the South Pacific, they can play baseball in America." *Baseball Commissioner AB "Happy" Chandler*

“This updated list of Negro League players who served in the military during World War II, includes players who were with independent teams and those who played Negro League baseball after the war.”

<https://www.baseballinwartime.com/negro.htm>

Us Military Personnel (1939-1945)

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/students-teachers/student-resources/research-starters/research-starters-us-military-numbers>