

Jackie Robinson's Boston tryout

1945 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

Words to know

access — a way to reach, enter, or use something

equality — having equal rights or standing

barrier — something that blocks a person or action

Look closely



Modern topic illustration created for Massachusetts History Explorers. It is not a historical artifact.

Read the story

Jackie Robinson tried out for the Boston Red Sox in 1945, but the team did not sign him. In 1947 he broke modern Major League Baseball's color barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Think, talk, and show evidence

1. What happened in this reading? Tell one fact.
2. Who or what is this reading mostly about?
3. Choose a word from the word bank. Explain it in your own words.
4. Look at the picture and its caption. What does it help you notice? Is it from the time of the event?

Follow-up reading: Boston research helps fight polio

1949

Researchers John Enders, Thomas Weller, and Frederick Robbins grew poliovirus in laboratory tissue cultures. Their work in Boston helped later vaccine research. Scientific progress often depends on many teams.

How are the two readings alike or different? Tell a partner one connection. Which event came first?

Teacher guide & source trail

Original classroom adaptation. Suggested reading levels are instructional choices, not standardized readability certifications. Use professional judgment and learner feedback.

ELA practice: RI.2.1: ask and answer questions; RI.2.2: identify a main topic; RI.2.7: use images and words; W.2.2 and SL.2.1: explain and discuss.

These tasks support selected skills in the [Massachusetts 2017 ELA framework](#); they do not establish mastery of an entire standard.

Answer guidance

Factual anchor: Jackie Robinson tried out for the Boston Red Sox in 1945, but the team did not sign him. In 1947 he broke modern Major League Baseball's color barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers. The Boston tryout occurred two years before his Dodgers debut. Racism shaped baseball opportunities. The Red Sox did not integrate their major-league team until Pumpsie Green joined in 1959.

Accept accurate main ideas and explanations supported by the text. Vocabulary meanings are in the opening word bank. For picture questions, use the caption and credit below; distinguish what is visible from what is inferred. For comparison, accept a specific connection supported by both readings. Do not require personal accounts of trauma.

Continue the inquiry

[Research source for this event ↗](#)

[Research source for follow-up ↗](#)

[Event page, accessible HTML reading, and vocabulary game ↗](#)

Image: Original site illustration.

[Image source and rights record ↗](#)

The PDF contains selectable English text and embedded fonts. For adjustable text and browser reading tools, use the event's [HTML page](#). External sources may need adult guidance.