

**BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN**

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

BECAUSE OF JACKIE ROBINSON

AGES 9 - 12



BOTWC MINI POSING AS
JACKIE ROBINSON

**IM NOT CONCERNED WITH YOUR
LIKING OR DISLIKING ME...
ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU
RESPECT ME AS A
HUMAN BEING.**

-JACKIE ROBINSON

LIFE ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Read the text below to learn more about the life of baseball star Jackie Robinson, then answer the questions below.



First Base:

Jackie Robinson, born Jack Roosevelt Robinson, was the first African American to play in the modern major baseball league. His early life proved that this fight against **racism** was a war that wouldn't end soon. He was born in Cairo, Georgia, and he and his four siblings, the only Black family on his block, faced **prejudice**. He was the youngest child and followed his older brother, Matthew, who was an athlete and won the silver medal behind Jesse Owens in the 200-meter race at the 1936 Olympics.

Second Base:

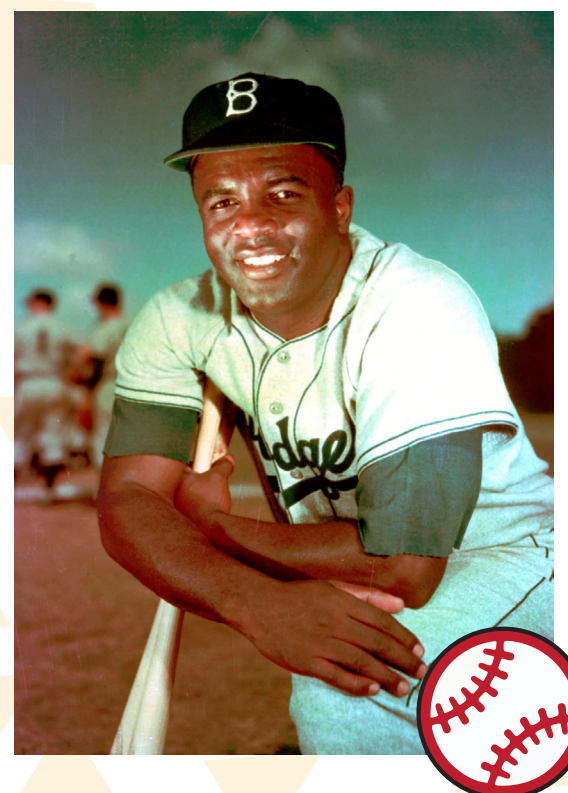
Jackie Robinson played four sports: football, basketball, track, and baseball. At UCLA, he became the first athlete to receive four **varsity letters**, one for each of those sports. This is also the place where he met his wife, Racheal Islum, a nursing student. Unfortunately, because of trouble paying the fees, Jackie Robinson had to leave college. He played semi-pro baseball for a while, and later went to the army. He continued to face some prejudice while he was in the army. He even got into trouble because he refused to give up his seat and move to the back of the bus. However, he was able to leave with an **honorable discharge**.

Third Base:

At that time, Blacks could not play in the major sports leagues. Jackie Robinson played in the Negro League (for Black players). Because of his talent and will to fight against racism, Jackie Robinson became the first African American player to play in the modern National Baseball League for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Although this was a huge **accomplishment**, Jackie still faced racism and even some of his teammates did not accept him. He faced **protests** against him, was picked on, and even had death threats. He still played the game on and off the field, with this fight against racism and work with the NAACP, his record-setting plays, and his inspiring actions and words.

Homebase:

Jackie not only helped to “break the color barrier” but also broke many records. He was eventually **inducted** into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962. He died 10 years later, but his legacy and words live on. Jackie Robinson once said, “A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives” - and he definitely made an impact.



READ & RESPOND

1. Describe one important detail that happened in Jackie Robinson's early life.

2. How did the prejudice that Jackie Robinson faced throughout his life impact him?

3. Jackie Robinson said, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives". Write down at least one aspect of his life that shows the reader how Jackie lived by that quote.



THE NEXT BASE - WHAT IS BASEBALL?

Read this short poem about the history of baseball and use the words to fill in the blanks in the crossword. Hint: The words do rhyme.



Most cultures have some game with a stick and ball but in 1846 is when the first game of baseball first **begun**.

There was a list of rules that were made to guide how the game would be played. Rules like in baseball, to score a point you have to get a _____ (5 Across).

The game became fun to watch and people were very **intrigued**.

At first baseball was run by players on the team, but businessmen took over - to decide the schedule, tickets, sales, and more - when it became the National _____ (2 Down).

The history of baseball is not as simple as it **seems**.

Over time the game changed hands and the owners had different plans but finally it was agreed to have 24 different _____ (4 Across).

The goal has never changed, to send the ball high and **flying**.

Or to start at the base and go around the entire _____ (3 Down).

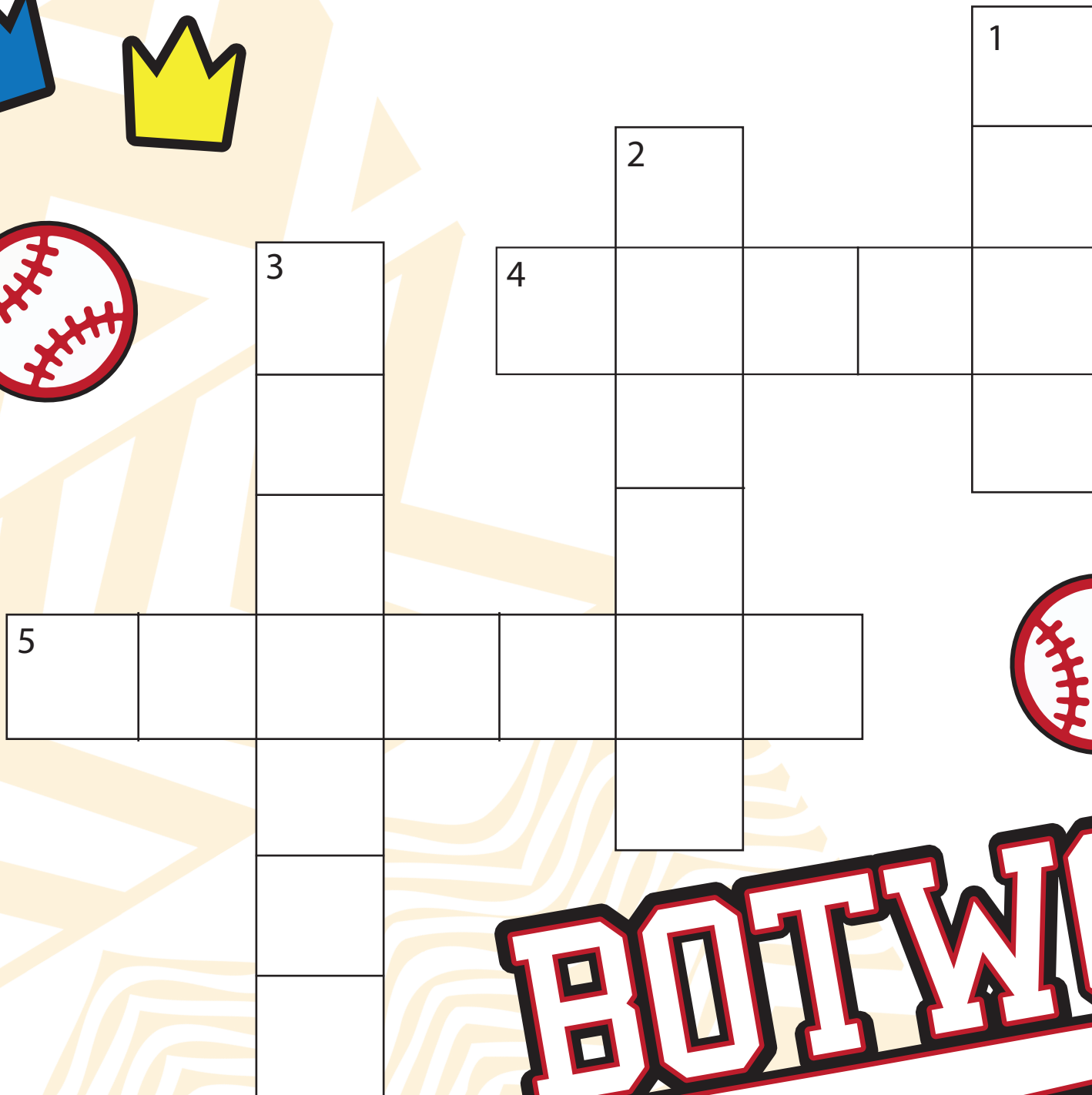
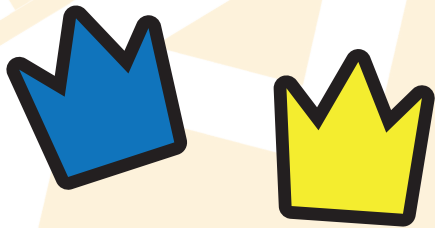
Baseball was supposed to be America's sport but racial integration became a huge **case**.

Jackie Robinson helped to change the game on and off the _____ (1 Down).





BASEBALL CROSSWORD



BOTWC

GLOSSARY

Racism - poor treatment of or violence against people because of their race

Honorable Discharge - when a person leaves the army and has completed their service.

Prejudice - an unfair feeling of dislike for a person or group because of race, sex, religion, etc.

Accomplishment - the successful completion of something

Varsity Letters - is an award earned in the United States for excellence in school activities.

Protest - to show or express strong disagreement with or disapproval of something



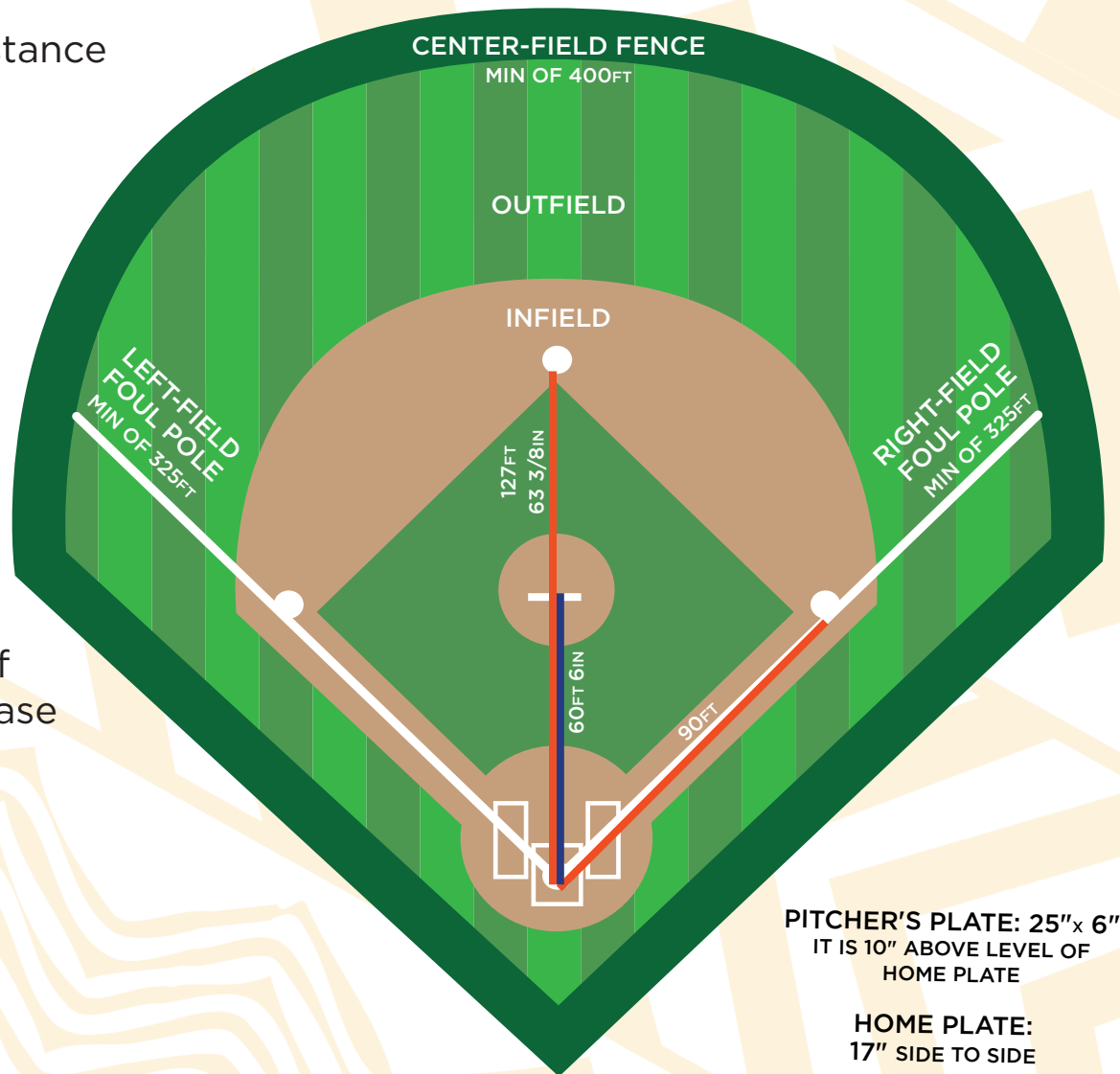
THREE STRIKES OR A HOMERUN

Look at the baseball field and answer the following questions.

1. What is the perimeter if the distance from 2nd to 3rd base is 90ft?

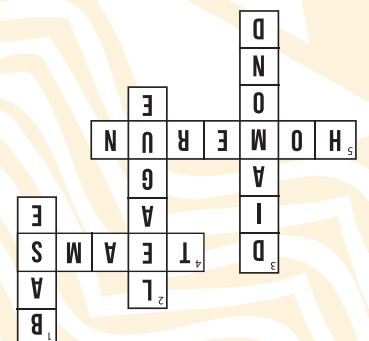
2. What is the area of the infield if the distance from 2nd to 3rd base is 90ft?

3. What is the perimeter of the fence from home base all the way around center-field and back to home base?



PITCHER'S PLATE: 25" x 6"
IT IS 10" ABOVE LEVEL OF HOME PLATE

HOME PLATE: 17" SIDE TO SIDE



CROSSWORD ANSWER KEY:

ANSWERS, POEM: (1) Homerun (2) League (3) Diamond (4) Teams (5) Base
ANSWERS, MATH: (1) 360 ft (2) 1,800 ft (3) 1,230 ft

TAKE THE PLEDGE

I WILL HONOR
THE SACRIFICES OF
MY ANCESTORS.

I WILL BELIEVE
IN ME.

I WILL PURSUE
MY DREAMS.

I WILL HELP
OTHERS ALONG
THE WAY.