

BATTER UP LESSONS

**The Women of the Negro Leagues
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 explain the obstacles faced by women in general and by African American women, especially during the 20th and 21st centuries.</p> <p>The student will be able to explain how the African American women of the Negro Leagues prevailed over exclusionary practices in general and even within the Negro Leagues.</p>	<p>What civil rights were denied to women during the U.S.’s early history, and how did they seek to obtain them?</p> <p>What challenges did African American women face and overcome in the Negro Leagues?</p>	<p>Analyze the effects of the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 19th amendments on the role of African American women in the U.S.</p> <p>Select an African American woman who was active in the Negro Leagues, and create a project (poster, power point, website, etc.) to illustrate her career.</p> <p>Create a timeline relating women’s rights and women (Black and White) in baseball.</p> <p>Contrast the effects on the Negro Leagues and civil rights of Effa Manley as an executive to those of Stone, Johnson, and Morgan as players.</p>	<p>6.1.12.HistoryCC.6.c: Analyze the successes and failures of efforts to expand women’s rights, including the work of important leaders and the eventual ratification of the 19th Amendment</p> <p>6.1.12.EconNM.7.a: Assess the immediate and long-term impact of women and African Americans entering the work force in large numbers during World War I.</p>

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Research Sources

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

“The highest grossing baseball movie of all time, *A League of Their Own*, features a 15-second scene where an African-American woman picks up an errant ball and throws it back with such snap that it raises eyebrows... The film tells the story of what is now known as the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL), a real-life professional women’s baseball league in the Midwest 1943–54. The AAGPBL is remembered for creating a golden era in women’s baseball when women were paid well to play a game that otherwise barred their participation, but this brief scene is an allusion to the fact black women were barred from the league.

During this unprecedented period for women in baseball, African American women had two strikes against them: they were women and they were black. Even with the success of the AAGPBL, female players of color were largely invisible. Three African American women, however, broke gender and racial barriers by playing in the Negro Leagues. By playing professional baseball with men, Mamie “Peanut” Johnson, Toni Stone, and Connie Morgan directly challenged the belief that women were the “weaker sex...”

<https://sabr.org/journal/article/playing-with-the-boys-gender-race-and-baseball-in-post-war-america/>

“A League of Their Own” Movie, Black Woman Scene

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ri9K_8k_BcQ

“Recounting the history of the Negro Leagues is an incomplete exercise without also including the women who were part of the many stories. The Negro Leagues were the first place that a woman could own and run a baseball team and it was the first professional baseball league where a woman took the field alongside men. But as the Negro Leagues were the result of MLB’s exclusionary practice, so too did the Negro Leagues exclude and diminish the impact of the women who were a part of them.”

<https://www.beyondtheboxscore.com/2021/2/19/22288587/women-of-the-negro-leagues-effa-manley-olivia-taylor-mamie-johnson-toni-stone-connie-morgan>

“Desperate to salvage the leagues, many team owners turned to promotional offers and in-game stunts to win back fans. Pre-game and in-game entertainment ranged from comedians to singers to clowns; if the owners thought something could bring in a crowd, it was added to the mix. But attendance continued to dwindle, and clubs continued to fold, and it seemed like nothing could prevent the complete collapse of the Negro Leagues.

Then, in the spring of 1953, Syd Pollock, owner of the Indianapolis Clowns, decided to try to capitalize on the 1940s success of the All-American Girls Pro Baseball League by adding a woman to the roster: second baseman Toni Stone. Soon, the Clowns had two more female players: pitcher Mamie “Peanut” Johnson and second baseman Connie Morgan.”

<https://tht.fangraphs.com/tht-annual-2018/the-negro-leagues-last-hope-three-brave-women/>

About Effa Manley, Executive

<https://www.mlb.com/history/negro-leagues/players/effa-manley>

<https://baseballhall.org/hall-of-famers/manley-effa>

<https://nlbemuseum.com/history/players/manleye.html>

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About Toni Stone, Player

<https://www.mlb.com/history/negro-leagues/players/toni-stone>

<https://nlbemuseum.com/history/players/stone.html>

“Stone was not welcomed with open arms by the men in the Negro Leagues, who felt that a woman should not be allowed to play with them. She took it as an honor, when she showed off scars on her wrist when male players tried to spike her while sliding into second base.”

<http://ourweekly.com/news/2016/mar/10/black-women-have-long-history-professional-baseball/#:~:text=That%20was%20because%20the%20All,where%20they%20could%20play%20ball>

About Mamie Johnson, Player

<https://www.mlb.com/history/negro-leagues/players/mamie-johnson>

<https://nlbemuseum.com/history/players/johnsonm.html>

About Connie Morgan, Player

<https://nlbemuseum.com/history/players/morgan.html>