



Chasing Dreams

BASEBALL & BECOMING AMERICAN

FAMILY GUIDE

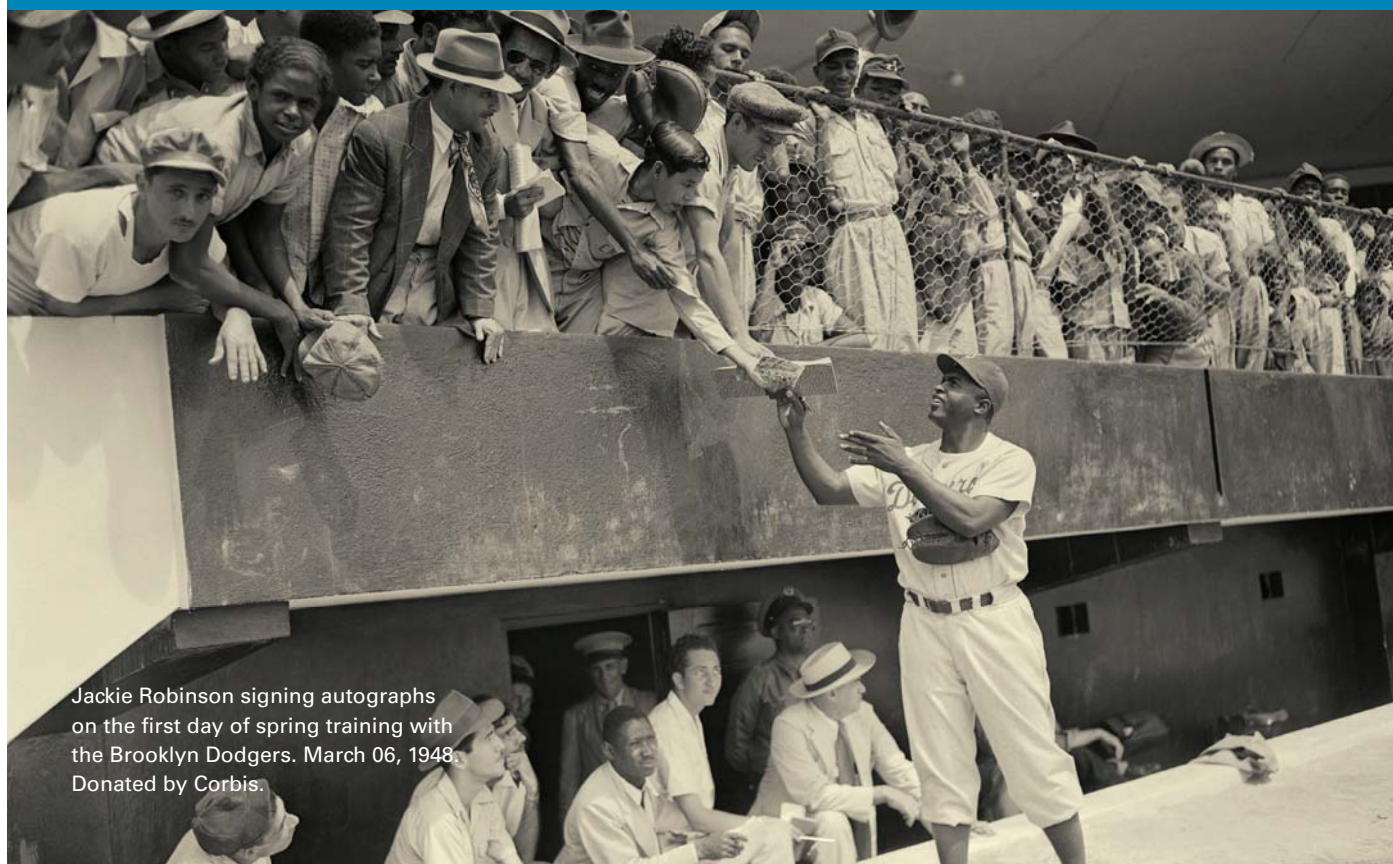
FOR FAMILIES WITH
CHILDREN AGES 5 AND UP

Hank Greenberg leaping for fly ball against
the Philadelphia Athletics, June 20, 1946.
Donated by Corbis.



Hank Greenberg Crosses the Plate.
June 04, 1940. Donated by Corbis.

PLAY BALL!



Jackie Robinson signing autographs
on the first day of spring training with
the Brooklyn Dodgers. March 06, 1948.
Donated by Corbis.

DISCOVER AMERICA'S NATIONAL PASTIME



Baseball strengthens family bonds, brings neighbors together, and nurtures communities.

Use this guide to discover familiar and surprising stories about the ways in which baseball connects and inspires people. Follow your child's lead but also look for what interests and excites you.

Share your discoveries with one another!



Ask each family member:

What comes to mind when you think of baseball?

{ Circle words and add your own }



Let's begin the journey...

NICE JEWISH BOY. GREAT PITCHER.



Look at the photo of Sandy Koufax getting ready to pitch.

How would you describe the look on his face?

Can you pose like him?

Read the label, 'Nice Jewish Boy. Great Pitcher' and discuss:

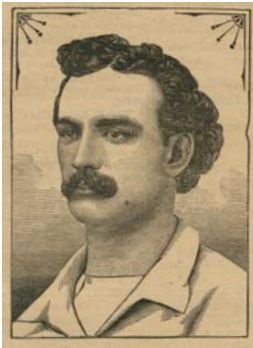
Why do you think Koufax chose to sit out Game 1 of the 1965 World Series and not play on Yom Kippur?

Would you have done the same?



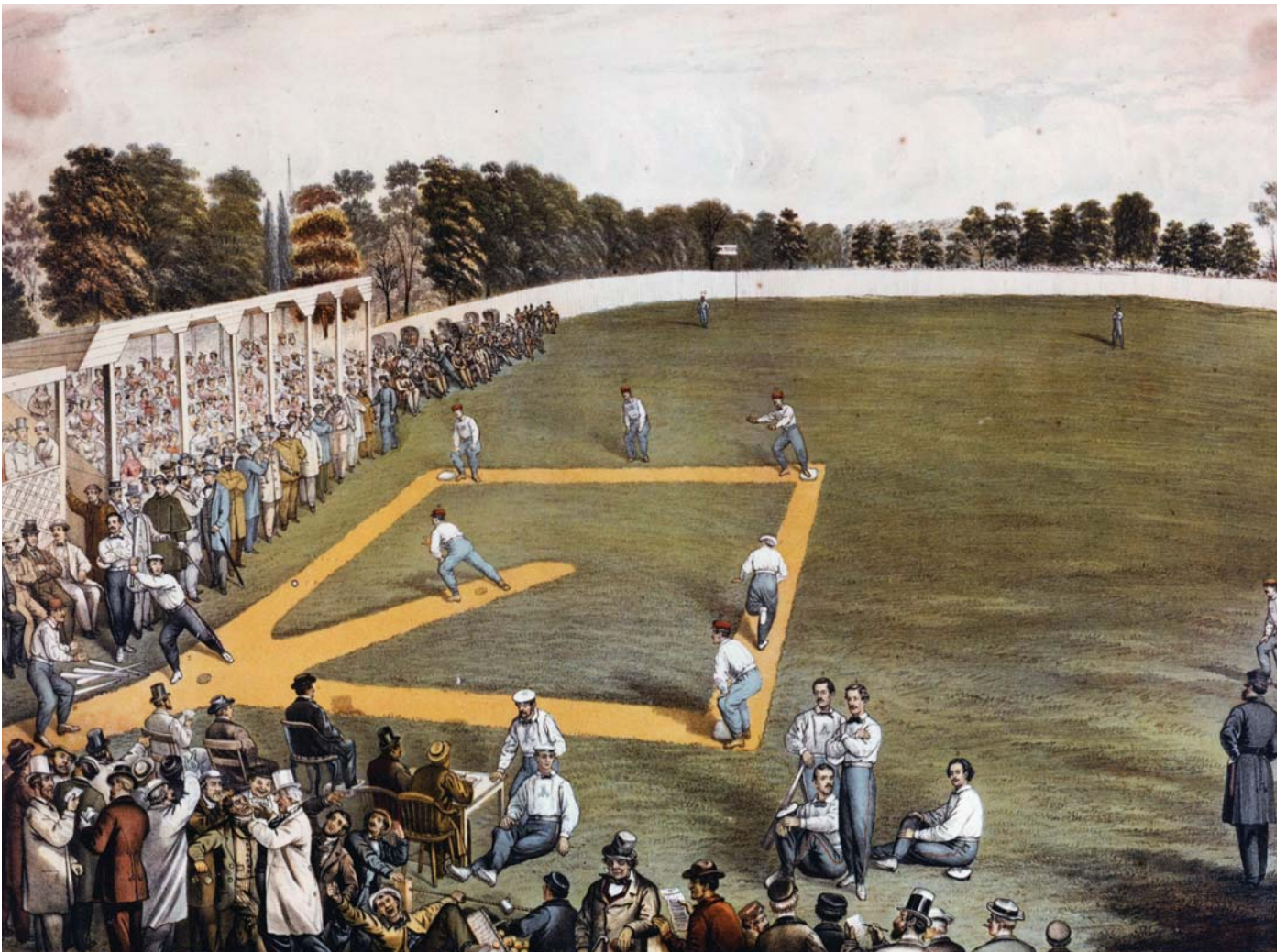
Sandy Koufax, 1965
Photo by Focus on Sport/Getty Images

EVERYBODY'S PLAYING IT



Find baseball player Lipman Pike on the *Official Baseball Record* from 1886, and find him (sitting on the bottom right) in the illustration below from the same year.

Detail: Lipman Pike in *Official Baseball Record*, August 23, 1886. National Museum of American Jewish History. Gift of Gil Bogen in memory of Rosalyn Rae Bogen.



Look closely at this game, played in Philadelphia.

Imagine that it could come alive.

Where would you stand? What would you be doing?

The Second Great Match Game for the Championship, featuring the Philadelphia Athletics against the Brooklyn Atlantics, 1866. By J. L. Magee, Courtesy of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Cooperstown, NY.

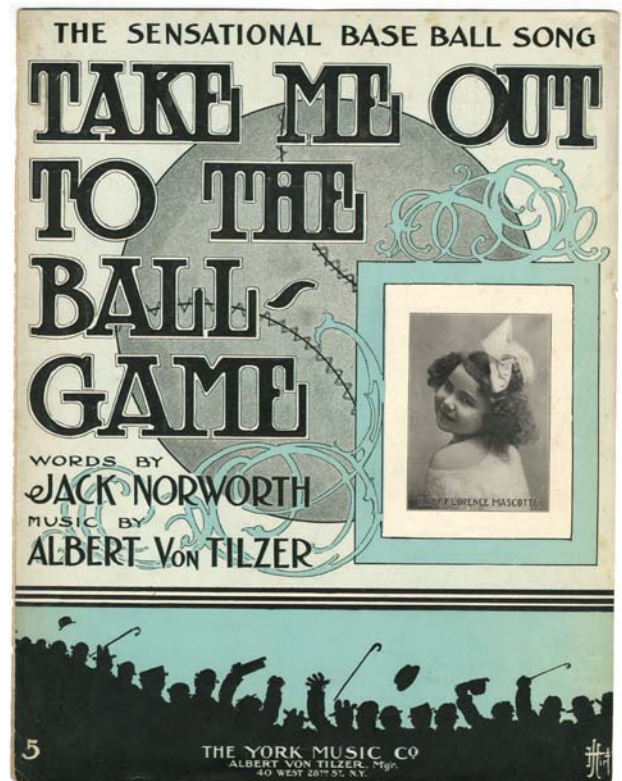
A BASEBALL SONG



Find the sheet music for the song that became our “other” national anthem and read about it.

Read the following verse from the song:

*...Katie Casey saw all the games,
Knew the players by their first names.
Told the umpire he was wrong,
All along, **Good and strong.**
When the score was just two to two,
Katie Casey **knew what to do,**
Just to cheer up the boys she knew,
She **made the gang sing this song...***



Sheet music for *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* by Jack Norworth and Albert Von Tilzer, 1908. Courtesy of Andy Strasberg.

How would you describe Katie?
Do you know anyone like her?
What team do you “root, root, root” for?



DID YOU KNOW?

Throughout the history of baseball, often despite difficulties, women have played important roles in the game. Vassar College started its first baseball teams for women in 1866. Yet, in 1908, it was still considered unusual for a woman at the ballpark to be rooting and cheering.

Back then, women did not even have the right to vote! *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* asserted that a woman's place was indeed at the ballpark and that an independent young woman like Katie Casey was perfectly capable of leading cheers from the stands.

HAMMERIN' HANK AND JOLTIN' JOE



Hank Greenberg and Joe DiMaggio. Donated by Corbis.

Find a really large photo of two players looking at each other.

Who are these players?

What teams did they play for?

Read the label and discuss:

What event made these two players put their baseball careers on hold for a few years?

Why do you think Hank Greenberg and Joe DiMaggio became heroes and role models?

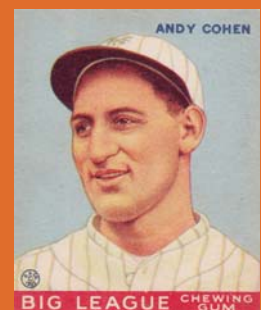


THINK ABOUT THIS:

Look at Andy Cohen's picture and find the new names of five Cohens that played before him in the major leagues. *Why did they change their names?*

Remember the song *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*? The composer's birth name was Albert Gumbinski.

Why do you think he changed his name to Albert Von Tilzer? How would you feel about changing your name?



HEROES & HURDLES



Find the large photo of Jackie Robinson and read the label.

What do you think Jackie Robinson might be thinking, leaning against his bat at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh?

Look at this pin that reads, “I’m rooting for Jackie Robinson.”

Beyond baseball, what do you think cheering for Robinson meant?



Jackie Robinson pin. Loan courtesy of Stephen Wong.



DID YOU KNOW?

Hank Greenberg was one of the few players to publicly welcome Robinson to the majors in 1947, and when they accidentally collided at first base Greenberg told Robinson,

“Don’t let them get to you. You’re doing fine. Just keep it up.”

Robinson never forgot that advice.

Look at Justine Siegel’s photo and read her story.

What is the name of the league that she started? Why do you think this league was important?

Find Roberto Clemente’s photo at Shea Stadium and read about him.

Why did he become an icon to Spanish-speaking Americans?

As you read Clemente’s words “If you have an opportunity to make things better and you don’t, then you are wasting your time on this earth,” think about an example from your life that shows how you made things better.

ROLE MODELS



A role model is someone you want to be like, someone who makes you want to be a better person. Many ball players become role models because of how they act on and off the field. *Who are your role models?* It might be a family member, a teacher, a friend, or a historical figure.

{ Use the space below to write about or draw one of your role models.
You can also attach a picture at home! }

Let's bring it home...

THE FAMILY THAT PLAYS TOGETHER, STAYS TOGETHER



Find the photo of the stickball team on a building stoop in New York City from 1935.

Read George Burns' funny description of how children that grew up in the Lower East Side of New York played stickball in crowded alleys:

“a fire hydrant was first base, second base was a lamp post, and Mr. Gitletz who used to bring a kitchen chair down to sit and watch us play, was third base. One time I slid into Mr. Gitletz, he caught the ball and tagged me out.”

(George Burns /The Third Time Around)

Share one of your favorite baseball memories with one another.



Stickball team in New York City, 1935
Museum of the City of New York



THINK ABOUT THIS:

Read the label “I Am Who I Am” and discuss:

How does baseball represent the diversity of American society?

How does diversity within a sports team, classroom, or community make it strong?

Look at the photo on the next page, Phil Gomshay and his friends in Manhattan's Inwood neighborhood in 1942. Describe what you see and discuss:

On a team, everyone has a role to play and it can only be successful if everyone contributes. This does not just apply to sports teams.

How is your family a team?



SEE YOU AGAIN SOON.

*Chasing
Dreams*
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NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN JEWISH
HISTORY

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