

For families with teenagers, be sure to take a look at the [Jackie Robinson Resource Guide for Families](#) and continue the conversation using these prompts:

In what other sports did Jackie Robinson excel? How did his talent as an athlete help him become a forward-thinking public figure in the fight for social equality?

Robinson said, “The right of every American to first-class citizenship is the most important issue of our time.” **What time period was he referring to? What did he mean by “first-class citizenship?” What does “first-class citizenship” mean today, and do you believe that all Americans share this right equally?**

“We had agreed [that] I had no right to lose my temper and jeopardize the chances of all the blacks who would follow me if I had a chance to break down the barriers.” **With whom did Jackie Robinson make this agreement? What did it mean? How did his wife Rachel Robinson support him? How did his commitment to certain values benefit all people?**

Jackie Robinson’s mother Mallie Robinson taught him the importance of staying focused and using one’s resources and talents to have a positive impact on others. **What major events of his life demonstrate that he took his mother’s advice seriously?**

In what areas of our everyday life did Jackie Robinson have an impact that we benefit from today?

Robinson believed that the two keys to creating equal opportunities for African Americans in the United States were “the ballot and the buck.” **What do you think he meant? Can you identify the actions and events in his life that support his idea?**

Robinson’s core beliefs and loyalty to his country led him to make choices that many people disagreed with, including: his opinion of the United States’ involvement in the Vietnam War; his decision to testify before the Un-American Activities Committee of the United States Congress, challenging Paul Robeson’s opposition to African Americans serving in the United States Armed Services; and his belief in the use of non-violent tactics against racism and inequality. **Who were his supporters and opponents on these views?**

What are examples of actions by Jackie and Rachel and their children to fight discrimination before, during, and after the Civil Rights Movement? Which do you believe were most effective and why?

What values did Jackie embrace and live by that made him the leader he was? What leadership skills do you have?

Is there something you would like to improve in your school, neighborhood, city, or country? What is it and how would you get started? Who are your friends and supporters who could help you get the job done?