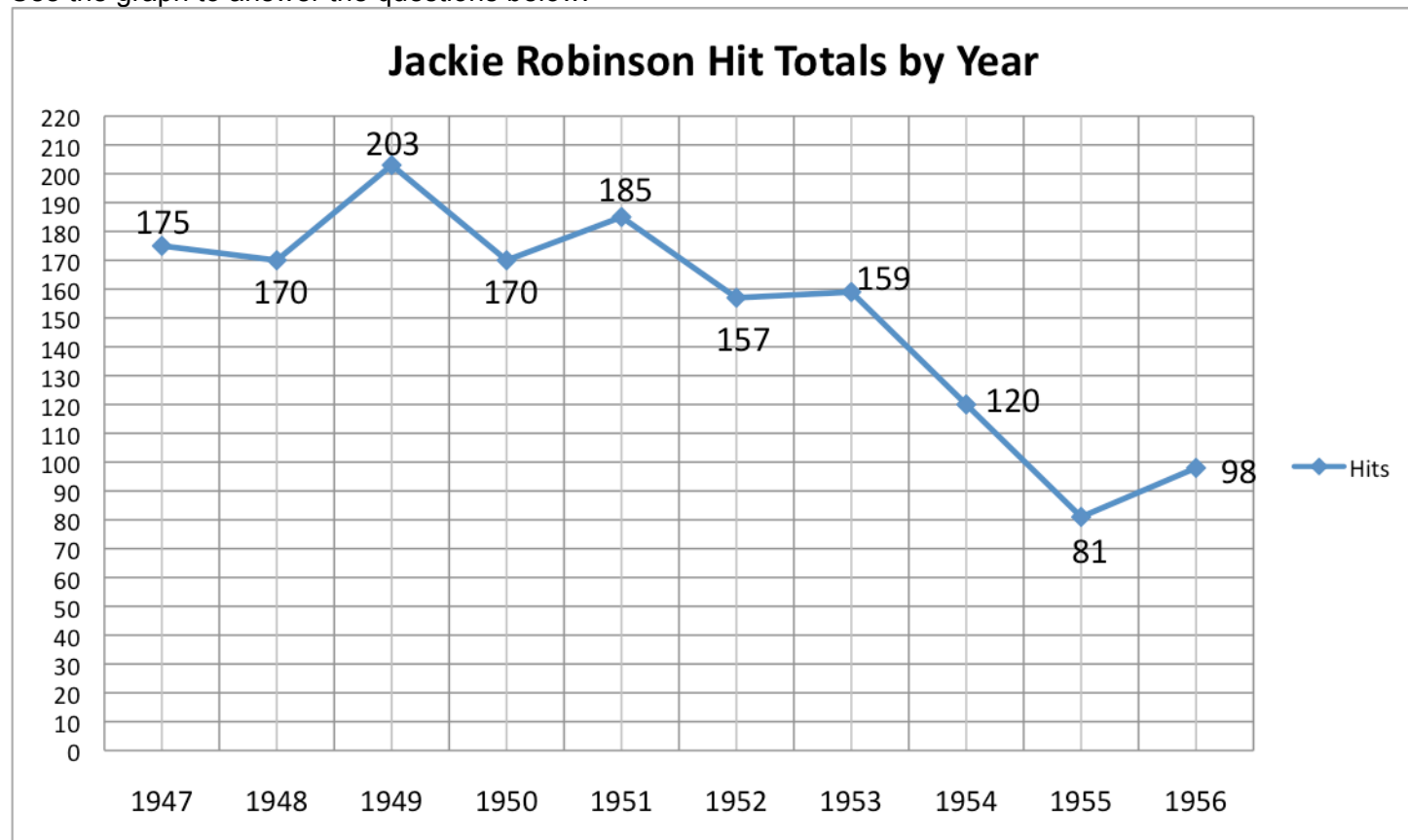


Jackie Robinson

"Jackie" Robinson was the first African-American baseball player to play in Major League Baseball since the game was segregated in the 1890's. Robinson broke the baseball color barrier as a 28-year old, when the Brooklyn Dodgers started him at first base on April 15, 1947.

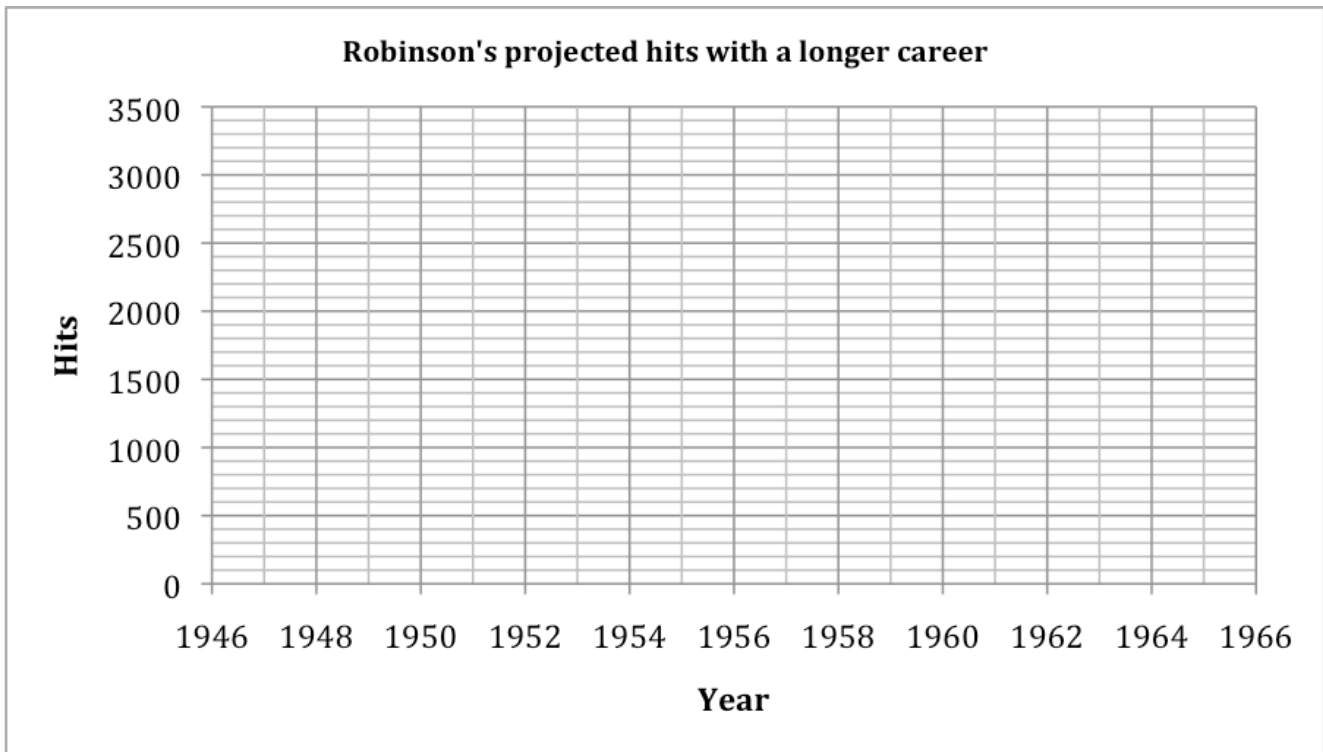
The example of Robinson's character and talent challenged segregation and contributed significantly to the Civil Rights Movement. Jackie played Major League Baseball for ten years. Like many athletes at the time, Jackie was in the military during World War Two. The war and the segregation of baseball kept Jackie out of the major leagues until he was 28 years old. Robinson was inducted into baseball's Hall of Fame in 1962. Jackie's story has been turned into a major motion picture: "42". In this activity we look at Jackie's total career hits and speculate on how many hits Jackie would have had if he had played a "full" career.

Use the graph to answer the questions below.



1. Make three observations from the table.

2. Jackie was in his prime from 1947 as a 28 year old until 1953 as a 34 year old. About how many more hits per season did he average in his "prime" years than he averaged 1954 – 1956?



3. Jackie Robinson was 28 years old when he was allowed to play in the major leagues. What might have happened if Jackie had started his MLB career when he was only 20 years old? What if Jackie would have played an additional eight seasons? If he had continued at the rate he was hitting for the next eight years, how many hits would you estimate he would have ended up with? Complete the table below (Robinson's projected hits) and plot the points on the grid above.

Robinson actual hits		Robinson as a 20 year old, projected hits	
Year	Hits	Year	Hits
1947	175	1947	
1948	345	1948	
1949	548	1949	
1950	718	1950	
1951	903	1951	
1952	1060	1952	
1953	1219	1953	
1954	1339	1954	
1955	1420	1955	
1956	1518	1956	
		1957	
		1958	
		1959	
		1960	
		1961	
		1962	
		1963	
		1964	

4. How did you come to your estimates for Jackie Robinson's hit total when you assumed that he was 20 years old in 1947? Did you have him reaching 3000 hits in his career? If so, during what year did you have him reaching 3000 hits? How did your estimates differ from those of your classmates?

Extra Robinson Math:

5. The earliest baseball card of Jackie Robinson was a 1949 Leaf baseball card. The card may have originally sold in a one-card pack for one cent or in a five-card pack for five cents. This card now sells for about \$1300 in excellent condition. How many times greater is the card worth now than it was in 1949?

6. After 64 years Jackie's first baseball card is worth \$1300. If that card continues to grow in value at the same rate, how much do you think it might be worth in another 64 years?

7. Here are Jackie's homerun totals for his MLB career. If he had starting playing at age 20 how many career homeruns might he have had?

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Homeruns	12	12	16	14	19	19	12	15	8	10