

IT HAPPENED HERE NEW JERSEY

Effa Manley and The Newark Eagles

Target Age: Middle School
Time Period: 20th Century
Featured County: Essex
NJ 350th Theme: Diversity

Common Core States Standards for English Language Arts:

R.CCR.2- Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

R.CCR.3- Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop an interact over the course of a text.

SL.CCR.2- Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards:

Social Studies: 6.1.12.C.8.b, 6.1.12.D.6.c

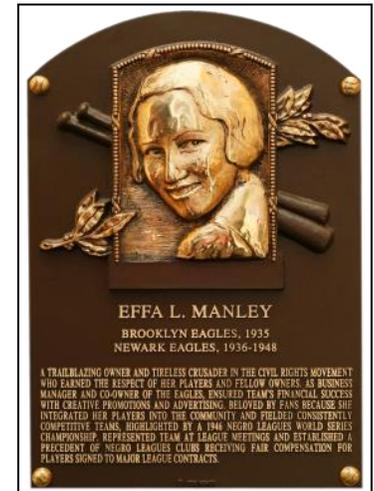
FOCUS QUESTION:

In what ways did women and African Americans play a role in the development of the “National Pastime” in New Jersey and across the United States?

BACKGROUND:

Of the nearly 300 members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, only one is a woman. Effa Manley and her husband, Abe, were co-owners of the Newark Eagles from 1936 to 1948. The Eagles played in the old Negro League, the home of black stars who were banned from Major League baseball because of their skin color. Effa Manley effectively ran the team herself, and, under her stewardship, the Eagles won the Negro League World Series in 1946, upsetting the Kansas City Monarchs in seven games. The team also became one of the most financially successful franchises in black baseball.

The Eagles had a number of players who would go on to become stars in the major leagues, including Larry Doby, a graduate of Paterson Eastside High School who became the first African-American player in the American League in 1948, Don Newcombe, a native of Madison, and Monte Irvin, who grew up in Orange. Manley handled the bulk of the team’s off-the-field activities, from scheduling games to arranging transportation to negotiating contracts with players. She was easily the most-powerful woman in baseball in the 1940s. The Negro Leagues faded as a result of the integration of Major League Baseball



Courtesy National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, NY.

in the late 1940s and 1950s. Manley turned her energies to the Civil Rights movement where she served as an important leader.

Effa Manley was elected to the Hall of Fame on February 27, 2006, joining her one-time players Larry Doby and Monte Irvin as a baseball immortal.

ACTIVITY:

After having a discussion on the women’s rights movement and the movement to overcome Jim Crow segregation in the United States during the early 20th Century, read the following article, “The First Lady of Black Baseball,” from MLB.com by Aimee Crawford.

http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/history/mlb_negro_leagues_story.jsp?story=effa_manley

Either individually, in small groups, or as a class consider the following questions after reading the article:

- To what extent is sports a reflection of the norms and values of our society and culture?
- What obstacles did Effa Manley have to overcome as a woman in a sport dominated by men?
- Which obstacle was more challenging for Effa Manley to overcome, her gender or her race?

FOLLOW-UP:

Watch the following videos and continue the discussion based on the previous questions.

[Baseball Hall of Fame - Effa Manley: Behind The Plaques](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWajgZn8v6o>

<http://baseballhall.org/hof/manley-effa>

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Places You Can Visit

Newark Bears at Riverfront Stadium
450 Broad Street, Newark, NJ
973.848.1000
<http://newarkbears.com/>

Additional Teaching Resources

Women and the Negro League Baseball Lesson
A lesson for middle school and high school students that focused on the role of women in an integrated society

<http://www.coe.ksu.edu/annex/nlbemuseum/resource/lpwomen.html>

For More Information

National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

<http://baseballhall.org/hof/manley-effa>

Negro Leagues Baseball Museum

<http://www.coe.ksu.edu/annex/nlbemuseum/history/players/manley.html>

James Overmeyer, *Queen of the Negro Leagues: Effa Manley and the Newark Eagles* (Scarecrow Press, 1998).

Mercedes, Yanora, "Baseball: Leading Off for Integration." (Student essay. Saint Joseph's University, 2012).

http://scholarship.sju.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=afirstud_student_essays&sei-redir=1&referer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Fhws%2Fsearch%3Fhl%3Den%26client%3Ddell-usuk%26channel%3Dusp%26ibd%3D3080713%26q%3DSource%253A%2Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fmlb.mlb.com%252Fmlb%252Fhistory%252Fmlb_negro_leagues_story.jsp%253Fstory%253Deffa_manley%26Submit%3DGoogle%2BSearch#search=%22Source%3A%20http%3A%2F%2Fmlb.mlb.com%2Fmlb%2Fhistory%2Fmlb_negro_leagues_story.jsp%3Fstory%3Deffa_manley%22

CREDIT INFORMATION:

Pg. 1: Effa Manley Plaque, National Baseball Hall of Fame. National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, NY.

It Happened Here: New Jersey is a program of the New Jersey Historical Commission made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in the program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. To access more teaching resources created for this program visit www.officialnj350.com.

NEW JERSEY
Historical
COMMISSION

