

**Name:**

## Day One

# Ernie Banks and the Negro Leagues

### Part 1: Silent read

→ Ernie Banks was the first Black player for the Chicago Cubs. Read silently.

Ernie Banks is one of the Chicago Cubs' most loved players. He joined the Chicago Cubs in 1953. He was the team's first African American player. Who could foretell that Ernie Banks would play for the Cubs for 18 years? Banks hit more than 500 home runs during this time!

It was hard to be the first Black player for the Cubs. Ernie Banks later recalled going through "painful struggles just to play baseball." People prejudged him because of his race. Some White players refused to shake his hand. Some White fans shouted racist things.

But Banks' fans called him "Mr. Sunshine." They say that he always had a refreshing smile. Fans also remember Banks as a great baseball player. In 1977, Banks entered the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Ernie Banks first played for the Kansas City Monarchs. The Monarchs were part of the Negro American League. For many years, the major leagues rejected African American players. So Black baseball players played in separate leagues called the Negro Leagues.

For decades the Negro Leagues attracted talented African American players. Black baseball became known for its speed and exciting play. But players did not make much money. In the 1950s, the major leagues began hiring the best Black players away from the Negro Leagues. African American stars made more money and played bigger games in the major leagues. Fans followed their favorite players. The last of the Negro Leagues folded in the 1960s.



## Day One

// one minute

# Ernie Banks and the Negro Leagues

### Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

Ernie Banks is one of the Chicago Cubs' most loved players. He joined the Chicago Cubs in 1953. He was the team's first African American player. Who could foretell that Ernie Banks would play for the Cubs for 18 years? Banks hit more than 500 home runs during this time! 50

It was hard to be the first Black player for the Cubs. Ernie Banks later recalled going through "painful struggles just to play baseball." People prejudged him because of his race. Some White players refused to shake his hand. Some White fans shouted racist things. 68  
83  
95

But Banks' fans called him "Mr. Sunshine." They say that he always had a refreshing smile. Fans also remember Banks as a great baseball player. In 1977, Banks entered the National Baseball Hall of Fame. 111  
126  
130

Ernie Banks first played for the Kansas City Monarchs. The Monarchs were part of the Negro American League. For many years, the major leagues rejected African American players. So Black baseball players played in separate leagues called the Negro Leagues. 146  
159  
170

For decades the Negro Leagues attracted talented African American players. Black baseball became known for its speed and exciting play. But players did not make much money. In the 1950s, the major leagues began hiring the best Black players away from the Negro Leagues. African American stars made more money and played bigger games in the major leagues. Fans followed their favorite players. The last of the Negro Leagues folded in the 1960s. 182  
198  
213  
227  
242  
243

### Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why did Black players want to play for the major leagues?

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What was one nickname fans had for Ernie Banks?

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## Day One

# Ernie Banks and the Negro Leagues

### Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Ernie Banks / is one of the Chicago Cubs' / most loved players. // He joined the Chicago Cubs / in 1953. // He was the team's first African American player. // Who could foretell / that Ernie Banks would play for the Cubs / for 18 years? // Banks hit more than 500 home runs / during this time! //

It was hard to be the first Black player / for the Cubs. // Ernie Banks later recalled / "going through painful struggles / just to play baseball." // People prejudged him / because of his race. // Some White players / refused to shake his hand. // Some White fans shouted racist things. //

But Banks' fans called him "Mr. Sunshine." // They say / that he always had a refreshing smile. // Fans also remember Banks / as a great baseball player. // In 1977, / Banks entered the National Baseball Hall of Fame. //

Ernie Banks first played / for the Kansas City Monarchs. // The Monarchs were part of the Negro American League. // For many years, / the major leagues rejected African American players. // So Black baseball players / played in separate leagues / called the Negro Leagues.

For decades the Negro Leagues / attracted talented African American players. // Black baseball / became known for its speed / and exciting play. // But players did not make much money. // In the 1950s, / the major leagues began hiring the best Black players / away from the Negro Leagues. // African American stars made more money / and played bigger games / in the major leagues. // Fans followed their favorite players. // The last of the Negro Leagues folded / in the 1960s. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.