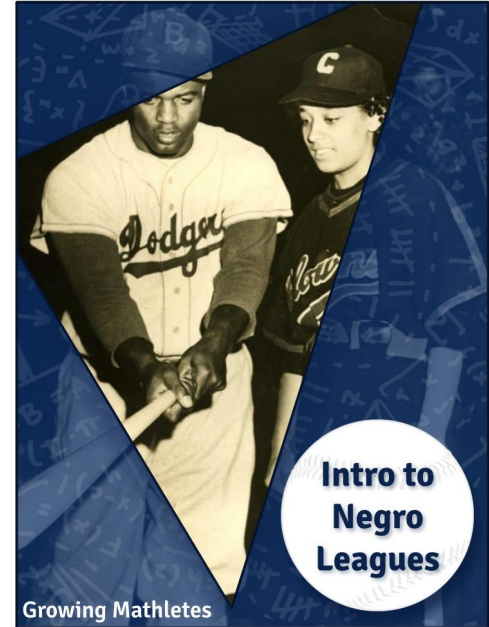


Negro Leagues 1: Timelines

Activity	Time	Description
Activity 1	45 minutes	Youth learn about the history of the Negro League and then collaboratively fill in a timeline about the league and the shifting of language over time. Then they find differences between years and make connections between their life and the timeline.
Activity 2	15 minutes	Youth learn about three women who played on the Negro League, then discuss effort and persistence.



Before we begin: *A note about language*

This lesson uses historical terms and phrases that have changed over time. At certain points in US history, the terms “colored” and “Negro” were considered respectful ways to refer to members of the Black or African American community. These words are used in this lesson as they were used in baseball’s history and so we can learn together how language changes over time.



Some language may be unfamiliar or uncomfortable. “While the terms “colored” and “Negro” were once acceptable...today these terms are often considered offensive and are unacceptable. [S]ome members of the Black community have reclaimed, reimagined, and repurposed “colored” and “Negro.” However, it is now inappropriate and offensive for non-Black people to use these words (aside from discussing historical material). Instead, you should use the terms *African American* or *Black*, as in a *Black person* (or a Black woman, a Black man, a Black student, etc.)”



IMAGE, CONTENT & QUOTES SOURCES

- <https://www.mlb.com/news/negro-leagues-given-major-league-status-for-baseball-records-stats> & <https://www.nlbm.com/>
- <https://www.mission-us.org/2022/11/08/historical-terms-and-why-they-matter/>
- <https://www.mission-us.org/teach/no-turning-back/teaching-this-mission/content-and-language-advisory/>

Negro Leagues 1: Timelines



I sure get laughs when I see in the papers where some major league pitcher says he gets a sore arm because he's overworked, and he pitches every four days. Man, that'd be a vacation for me.

- Satchel Paige

What do these quotes mean to you?

What messages are Satchel Paige trying to send?



- What do you know about the Negro Baseball Leagues?
- Do you know any names of players from the Negro Leagues?

VIDEO: [How the Negro National League Was Formed | Field of Dreams...Deferred](#)

What stood out to you from this video?

What are you curious about after watching this video?

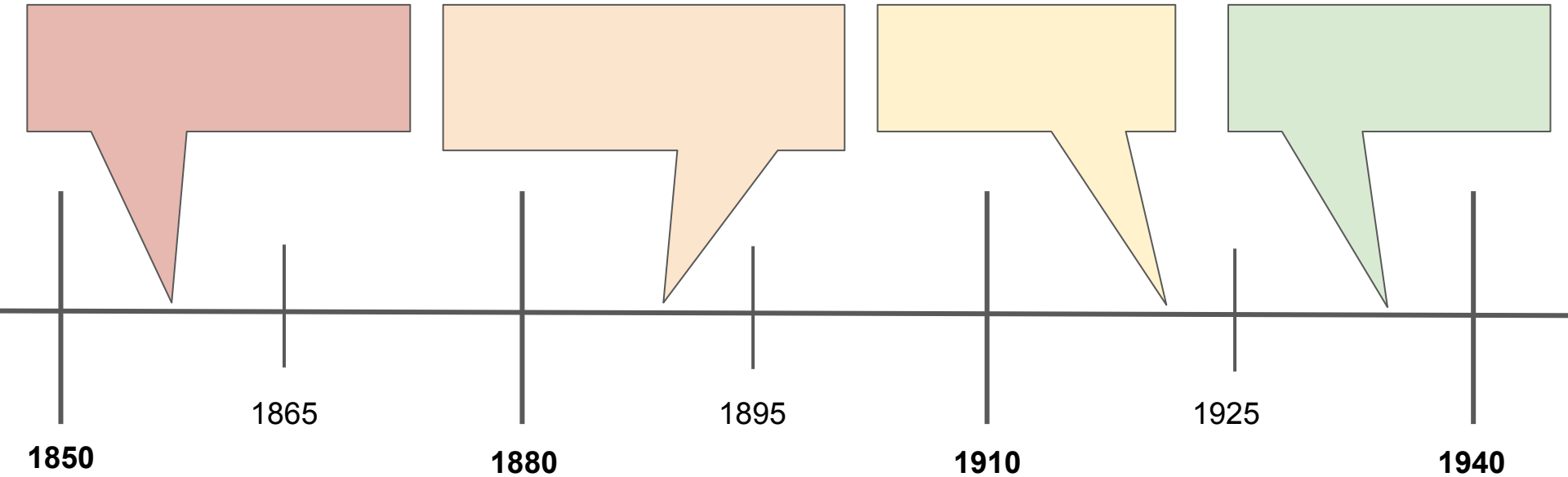


We've learned a little about the Negro Leagues...



Now we are going to play a game to apply our knowledge AND learn more!

**What do you notice?
What do you wonder?**



Timeline Creation Game: Whole Group Example

Where does the information below go on this timeline?

1887: The National Colored Baseball League becomes the first professional African American league.

1859: First baseball game between two African American teams is played.

Timeline of African American Baseball & The Shifting of Language

1859: First baseball game between two African American teams is played.

1887: The National Colored Baseball League becomes the first professional African American league.



SOURCES: Timeline of Negro League <https://www.thoughtco.com/negro-baseball-league-timeline-45421>, When did the word *Negro* become socially unacceptable? <https://jimcrowmuseum.ferris.edu/question/2010/october.htm>, Negro league baseball https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negro_league_baseball#Major_Negro_leagues; Overall MLB Diversity Up: <https://www.mlb.com/news/diversity-in-mlb-expanding-in-2023>

Timeline of African American Baseball & The Shifting of Language (1850-1940)

1859: First baseball game between two African American teams is played.

1887: The National Colored Baseball League becomes the first professional African American league.

1920: Negro National League (I) begins. *(It ends in 1931.)*

1933: The Negro National League (II) begins. *(It ends in 1948.)*

1865

1895

1925

1850

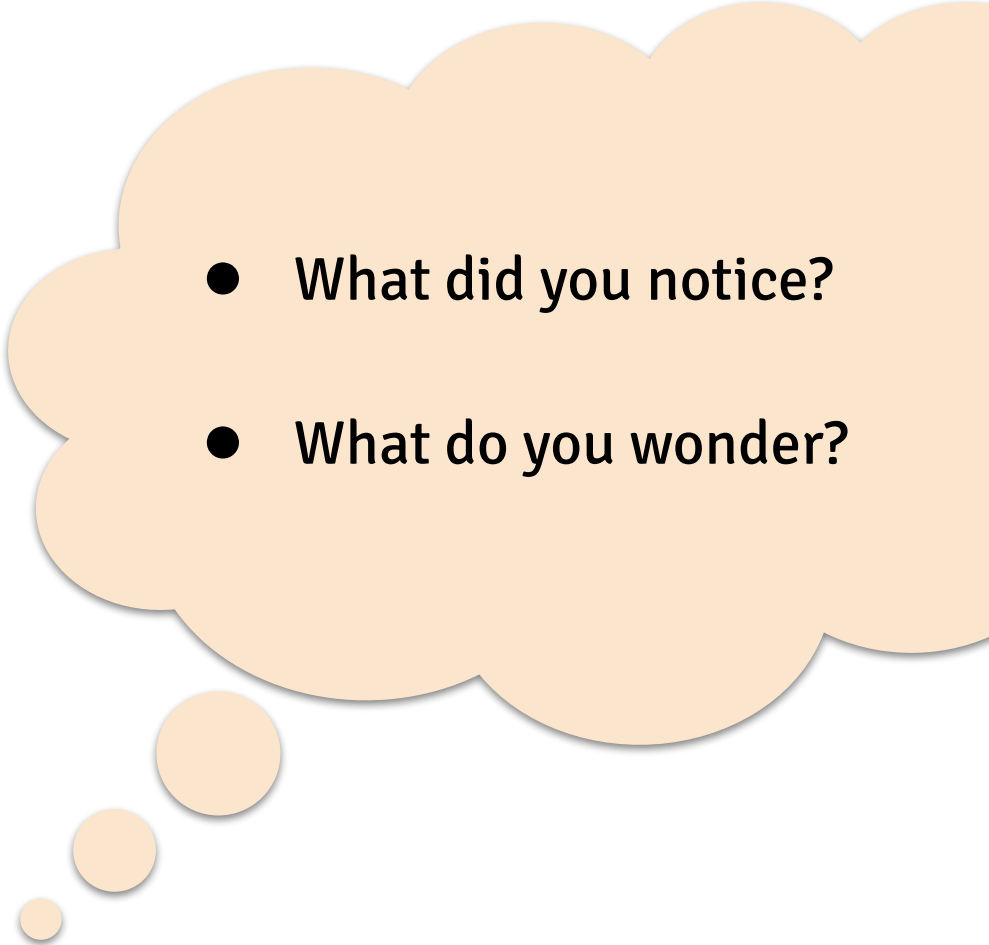
1880

1910

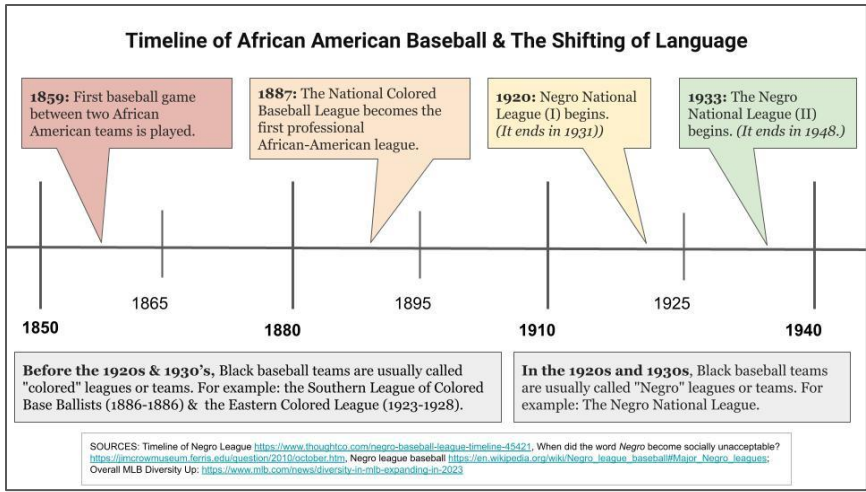
1940

Before the 1920s & 1930's, Black baseball teams are usually called "*colored*" leagues or teams. For example: the Southern League of Colored Base Ballists (1886-1886) & the Eastern Colored League (1923-1928).

In the 1920s and 1930s, Black baseball teams are usually called "*Negro*" leagues or teams. For example: The Negro National League.



- What did you notice?
- What do you wonder?

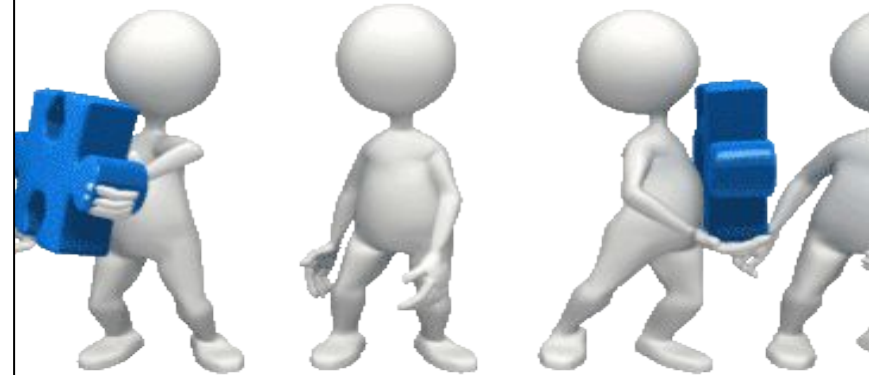
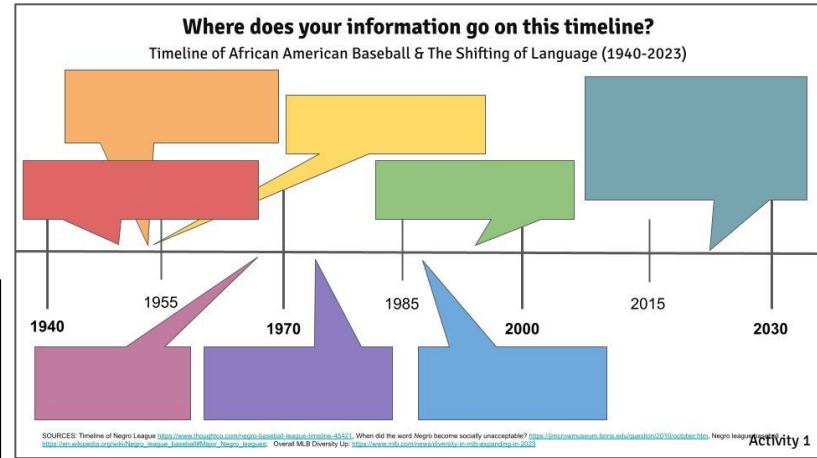


Now it's your turn!

Timeline Creation Game

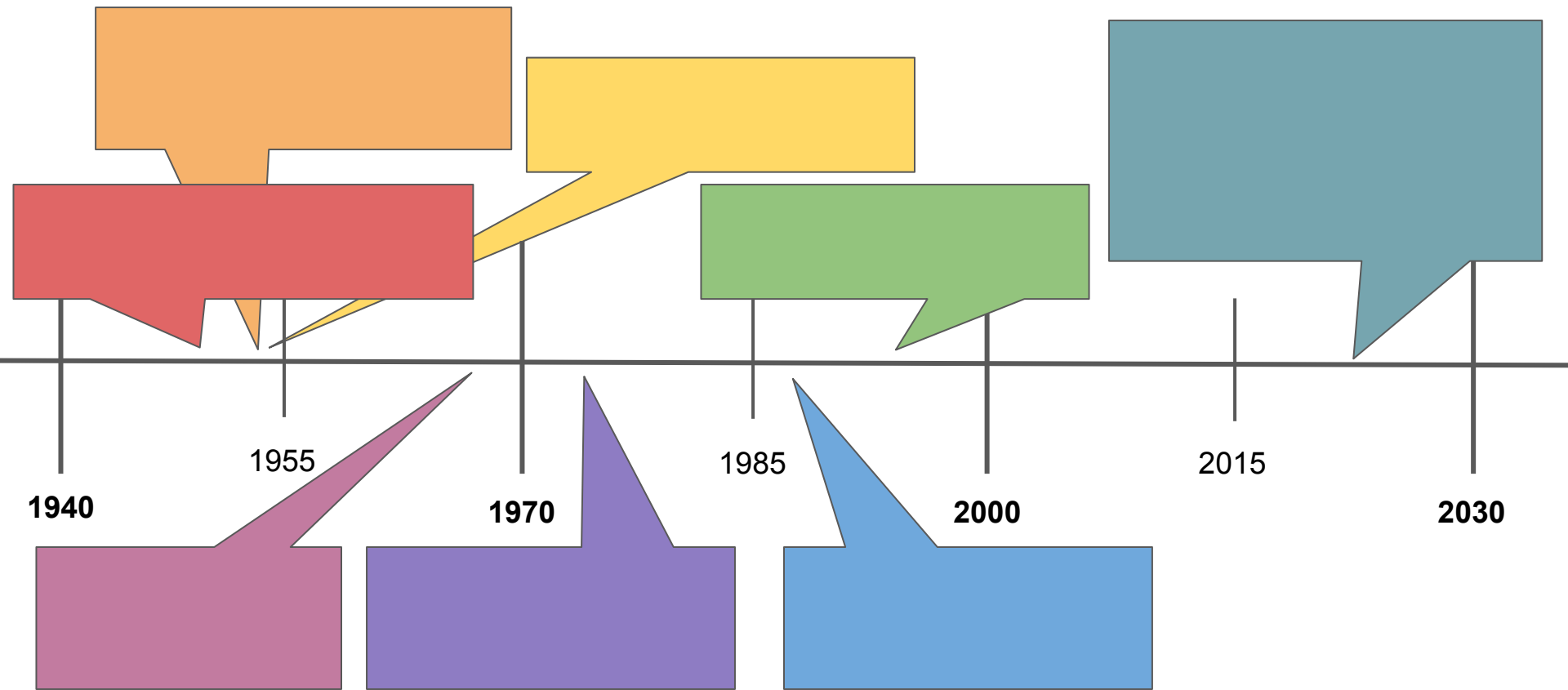
How to play:

1. Get into pairs/small groups
2. Look at your info card(s)
3. Talk to your group: where does your information go on the timeline?
4. Together we will piece together the timeline like a puzzle!



Where does your information go on this timeline?

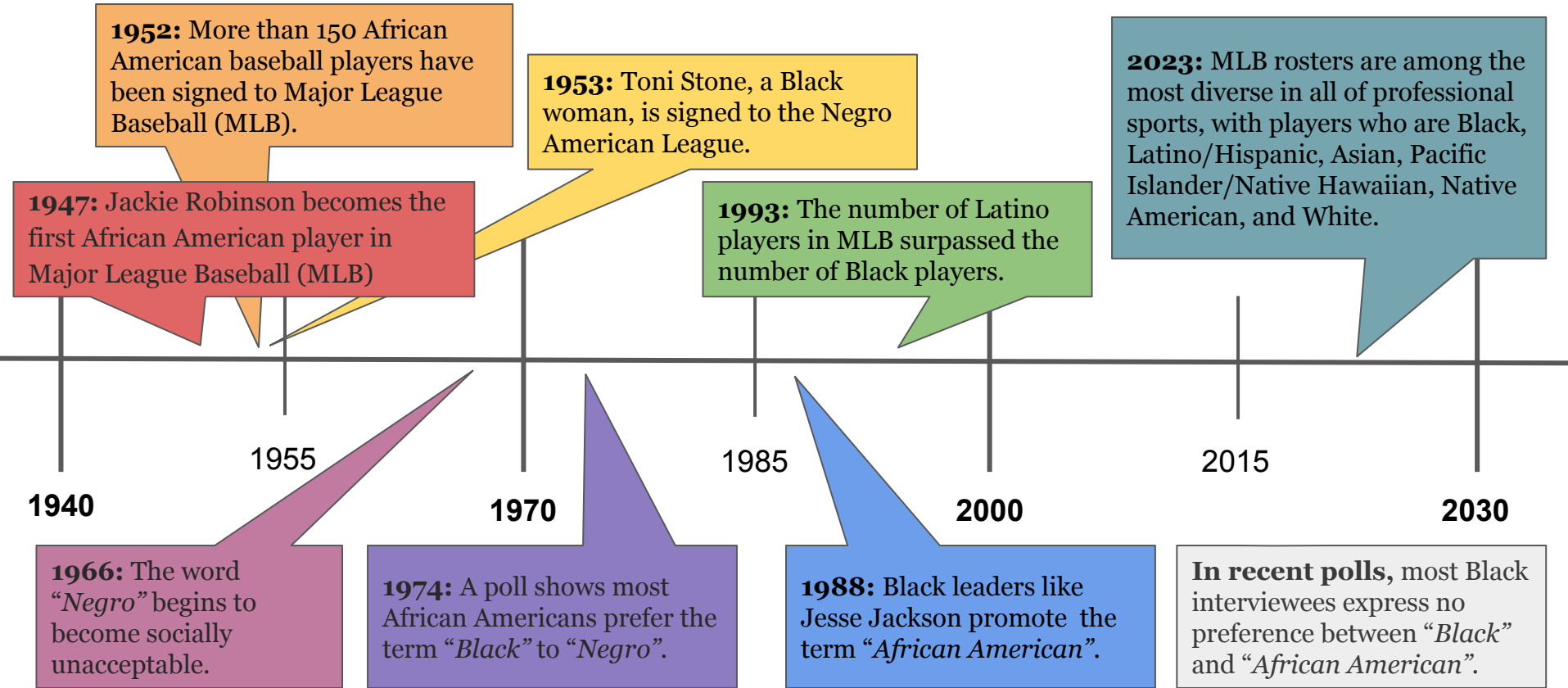
Timeline of African American Baseball & The Shifting of Language (1940-2023)



SOURCES: Timeline of Negro League <https://www.thoughtco.com/negro-baseball-league-timeline-45421>, When did the word Negro become socially unacceptable? <https://jimcrowmuseum.ferris.edu/question/2010/october.htm>, Negro league baseball https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negro_league_baseball#Major_Negro_leagues; Overall MLB Diversity Up: <https://www.mlb.com/news/diversity-in-mlb-expanding-in-2023>

Where does your information go on this timeline?

Timeline of African American Baseball & The Shifting of Language (1940-2030)





- What's something in the timeline that surprised you?
- What else are you curious about?

You, Willie Mays, Jackie Robinson & the Timeline

Work on your own or with a partner to answer the questions on **Worksheet 1a**.

Use the timeline we co-created to help you (on **Worksheet 1b**).



Jose Carlos Fajardo/Bay Area News Group/TNS

Willie Mays



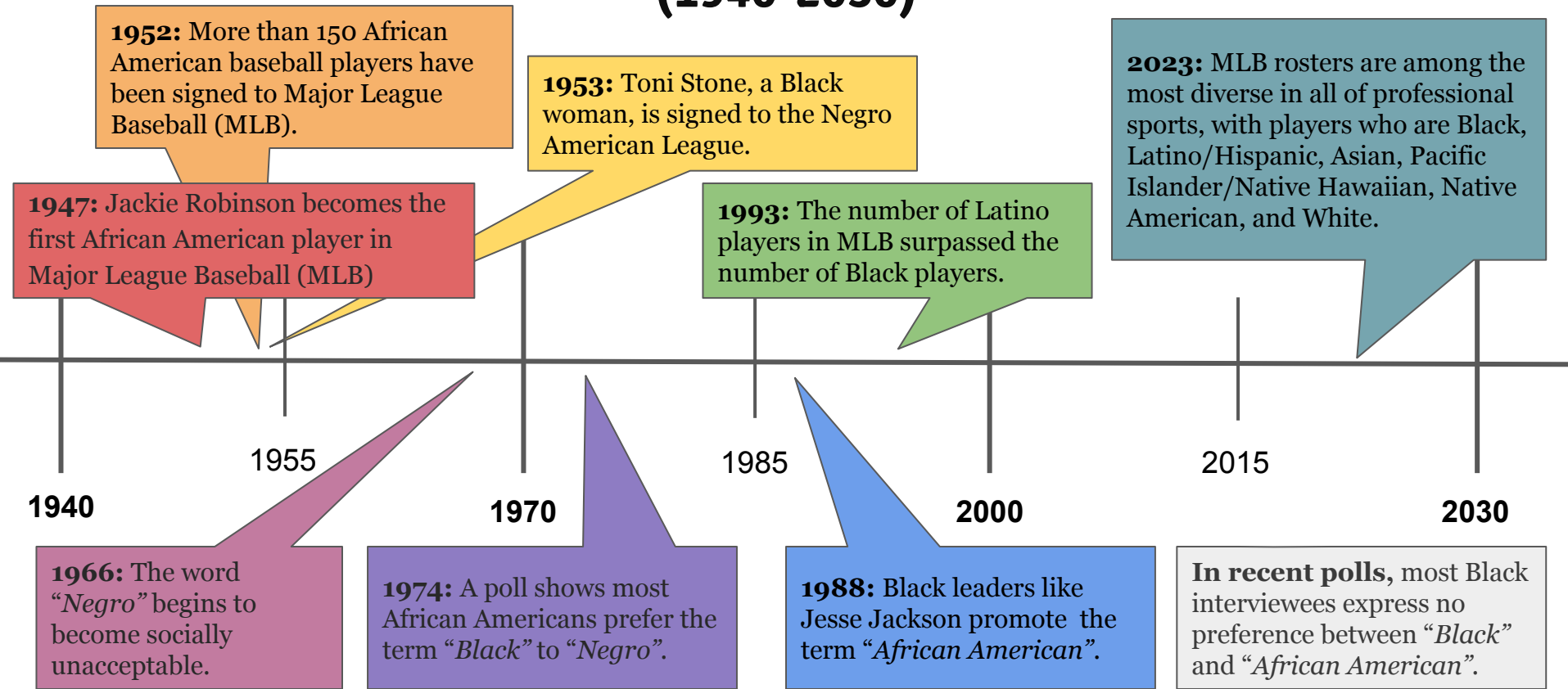
Worksheet 1a - Questions

INSTRUCTIONS:

Work on your own or with a partner to answer the following questions. Use the information in the timeline we co-created to help you.

- How many years ago did the Negro League begin?
- Willie Mays was born May 6, 1931 and joined the Negro American League in 1948.
 - How old was he when he joined the Negro League?
 - Do you think he might be alive today? If so, how old would he be?
- Can you think of anyone in your family, or anyone you know, who might have been alive when Jackie Robinson joined the MLB?
 - Who is that person to you?
 - About how old would they be now or about how old are they now?
- BONUS:** What other ways can you connect your life to the timeline?

Timeline of African American Baseball & The Shifting of Language (1940-2030)



You, Willie Mays, Jackie Robinson & the Timeline

Worksheet 1

INSTRUCTIONS:
Work on your own or with a partner to answer the following questions.
Use the information in the timeline we co-created to help you.

1. How many years ago did the Negro League begin?
2. Willie Mays was born in 1931 and joined the Negro American League in 1948.
 - a. How old was he when he joined the Negro League?
 - b. Do you think he might be alive today, and if so, how old would he be?
3. Can you think of anyone in your family who might have been alive when Jackie Robinson joined the MLB? Who is it, and how old are they?
4. BONUS: What other ways can you connect your life to the timeline?

Now, share some answers with the group!



Activity 2: Women of the Negro Leagues



[Undeniable Episode 1: Women of the Negro League \[VIDEO LINK\]](#)

Persisting to pursue our dreams

Mamie "Peanut" Johnson wanted to play for the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League but was not allowed to because of the color of her skin.

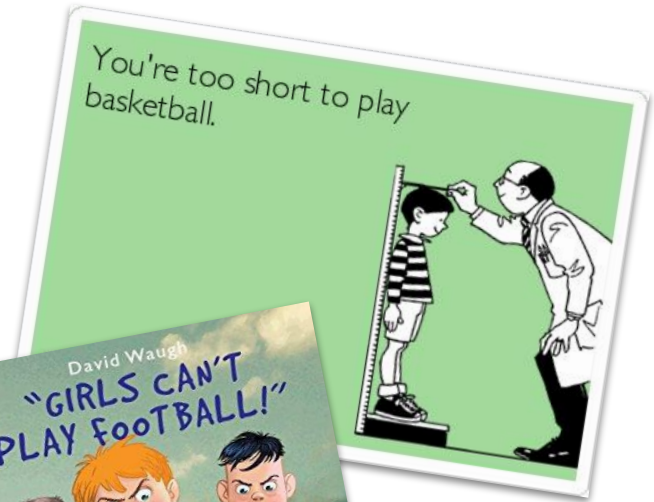
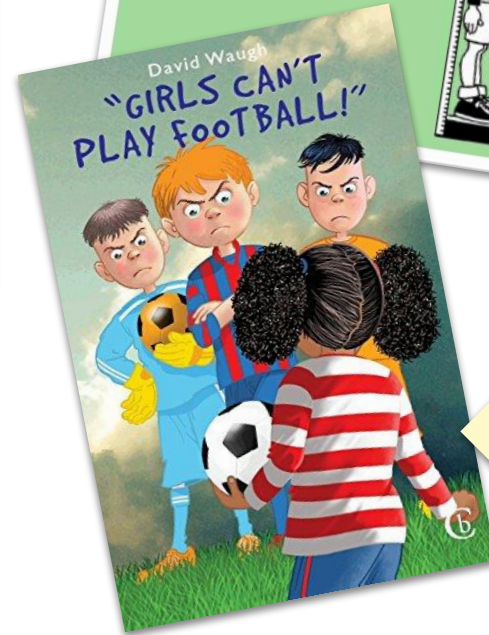


Instead of giving up her dream to play baseball, she persisted and found another way: by playing in the Negro League alongside the men.

What's a dream you have that might require effort and persistence to achieve?

Have you ever been told you could not do something because of something about you?

Share with your partner.



Fun fact:
What we call "soccer" in the United States is called "football" in most other countries



How does this quote we read earlier connect to what shared with your partner?

Never let the odds keep you from pursuing what you know in your heart you were meant to do.

- Satchel Paige

