

Babe Ruth

1 George Herman Ruth Jr. was born in Baltimore, Maryland in the year 1895 but grew up in a neighborhood known as Pigtown. While growing up, George was a very troublesome kid that got into a lot of things. So in order to keep him out of trouble, he was sent away. George's parents sent him away to St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys that would help him to stay out of trouble. While away at the school, he learned how to work hard, and most importantly, he learned to play baseball. As an adult, George continued to have a wild lifestyle of overeating and partying. His lifestyle did catch up with him. As an adult, he gained a lot of weight and had a hard time playing certain positions while playing baseball.

2 With the help of a monk by the name of Brother Matthias, George became an excellent pitcher, fielder, and hitter. George was so skilled and a natural at playing baseball that the monks spoke to the Baltimore Orioles. The Baltimore Orioles wanted to watch George play baseball. At the age of 19, George signed his first professional baseball contract with the Baltimore Orioles. While playing baseball, the Orioles players called him Babe. George was called Babe by the Orioles because he was one of the youngest players on the team. After that, the nickname Babe Ruth stuck with George and made him famous.



3 In 1914, Ruth began to be known more for his pitching in baseball rather than hitting, and the Orioles team sold him to the Boston Red Sox. While with the Boston Red Sox, Ruth became one of the best pitchers in the leagues. In 1919 while working with the Boston Red Sox, he was moved to an outfield position to become a hitter, and he hit 29 home runs.

4 Later in the year of 1919, Ruth was sold again to a new team, the New York Yankees. He played 15 years for them as one of the most celebrated players in history. While with the Yankees, he won four World Series titles and helped to lead the team in home runs every year he was with them

5 In 1936, Babe Ruth played his last year before retiring with the Boston Braves. At the time of retirement, he held 56 major league records and 714 home runs. By the year 2015, he was still in the top 10 of **MLB**¹ statistics of home runs and batting average. Ruth died of cancer in 1948 at the age of 53 in New York City.

"Babe Ruth" written for educational purposes.

¹ Major League Baseball is a professional baseball organization, the oldest of the four major professional sports leagues in the United States and Canada.



Jackie Robinson

6 Jackie Roosevelt Robinson was born on January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia, as the youngest of five siblings. Jackie's father left the family when he was born, so all Jackie had was his mother, Millie, who raised him and his siblings. As a young child, the family moved to Pasadena where Jackie was able to watch his older siblings play sports. His oldest brother was a great athlete that became a track star. He won a silver medal in a 200-meter dash during the 1936 Olympics.

7 Playing sports was something Jackie loved to do. In school, he ran track like his other siblings and played a variety of sports. During high school, he excelled in sports by being a star quarterback for the football team and a star player on the baseball team. Jackie did have a hard time in school because of being African American. He was teased and even verbally bullied. While on the sports teams he was well-liked but during the school hours, he was disliked because of his race. Jackie went to college at UCLA as an athlete and earned varsity letters in all four sports. After college, Jackie played professional football but was soon drafted into the army for World War 2. He was then accepted into officer training school and completed it. He was sent to Fort Hood in Texas where he joined the 761st Tank Battalion. Soon Jackie left the army as an honorable discharge in 1944.

8 After leaving the army, Jackie began to play baseball for the Kansas City Monarchs. The Kansas City Monarchs were a part of the Negro Baseball League. At this time in history, black players were not allowed to play in Major League Baseball. While playing for the Kansas City Monarchs, Jackie was approached by the general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Branch Rickey, the general manager, wanted Jackie to play for the Dodgers. Although Branch knew his race would be a problem, he was willing to take on the problem. Branch told Jackie that he would take the blame for all the racist remarks that he would receive when joining the team. On April 15, 1947, when the baseball season started off, Jackie began to work for the Dodgers. Jackie became the first African-American to play baseball in the major leagues. Although Jackie faced racist remarks from fans and other baseball players, he continued to play on the Brooklyn Dodgers team and focused on baseball. That very same year Jackie was named Rookie of the Year helping the Dodgers to win a pennant.

9 Jackie Robinson became one of the best baseball players in the major leagues over the next 10 years. He was named to the All-Star Team six times and was even the National League MVP in 1949. Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in baseball, making way for other African American players to join the major leagues. In October of 1972, Jackie died of a heart attack. In honor of Jackie, April 15th is Jackie Robinson Day. Jackie Robinson Day is celebrated by all players and managers. They all wear 42 on their jerseys in remembrance of Jackie Robinson.

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The Declaration of Independence

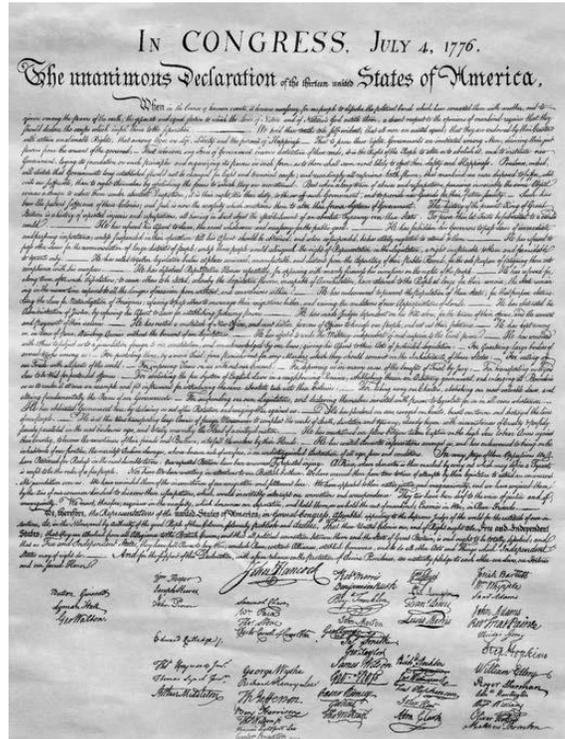
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1 By the summer of 1776, the Thirteen Colonies and Great Britain had been at war for more than a year. The relationship between the colonies and the mother country had been worsening since 1763. The British government, called Parliament, had been taxing the colonies. Britain wanted **revenue**¹ from the colonies. Many colonists believed that Parliament had no right to impose taxes upon them. The colonists found it unfair that they had no representative in Parliament to argue their side. They yelled, “No taxation without representation!”

2 In June of 1776, Congress debated independence for four days. Finally, a committee was formed to write a formal declaration of independence from Britain. The committee was made up of five men: John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Robert R. Livingston of New York, and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia. The Committee of Five decided that Jefferson should write the declaration.

3 On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted to declare independence from England. For two days, Congress carefully edited Jefferson's original document. They shortened it, removed unnecessary wording, and improved sentence structure. On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted. It was signed by John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress, that day. The rest of the Congress signed two months later.

4 The declaration contained three sections: a general statement and the purpose of government, a list of complaints against the British King, and the declaration of independence from England. The Declaration of Independence is considered by many to be the foundation of American freedom. The first sentence of the **Preamble**² is considered to be one of the best-known sentences in the English language. It states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” The Declaration of Independence has been quoted by great Americans such as Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr. who have referenced it as a beacon of hope for all people everywhere.



¹ revenue: income, earnings or money
² Preamble: the introduction of a document

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The Bill of Rights (1791)

5 The Bill of Rights, written by James Madison, includes the first 10 amendments of the U.S. Constitution. Several states wanted protection for individual liberties specifically stated in the Constitution. The Bill of Rights is a list of limits on government power so the country would never be under the rule of another king with ultimate power.

6 The first five amendments are extremely important and protect individual rights that all Americans deserve to have. The First Amendment protects the right of people to have freedom of religion, freedom of speech, press, assembly, and petition. The Second Amendment protects the right to keep and bear arms, or guns, in order to maintain an army. The Third Amendment prevents soldiers from staying at someone's private home without their permission. The Fourth Amendment protects the freedom from unreasonable searches of people or their house. The Fifth Amendment gives certain legal rights.

7 The last five amendments in the Bill of Rights protect various legal rights. The Sixth Amendment protects the rights of people accused of a crime, such as the right to a speedy trial. The Seventh Amendment explains that all trials can have a jury. The Eighth Amendment also protects the rights of people accused of a crime, such as the right not to have cruel or unusual punishment. The Ninth Amendment states that the American people have rights other than just the rights listed in the Constitution. Last but not least, the Tenth Amendment gives the power not mentioned in the Constitution to the people or the states.



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The United States Constitution

Constitutional Convention

8 The Constitution was written in the summer of 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by delegates from 12 states, in order to replace the Articles of Confederation with a new form of government. There was a need for a new Constitution in 1787 because there were problems with the original constitution. Each state legislature was invited to attend a convention in Philadelphia to discuss changes to the Articles. In May of that year, **delegates**³ from 12 of the 13 states (Rhode Island sent no representatives) convened in Philadelphia to begin the work of redesigning the government and drafting a new Constitution for the United States.



9 The main goal of the Constitutional Convention was to create a government with a balance of power. The government needed to have enough power to act on a national level without putting Americans' rights at risk. One way that this was accomplished was to separate the power of government. The powers of government were separated into three branches. Each of the three branches had checks and balances on those powers. That means each branch of government could not ever gain superiority or be powerful enough to take over as the King of England did.

10 The president of the Constitutional Convention was George Washington. James Madison is also known as the "Father of the Constitution" because of his help with the Constitution. In September of 1787, it was sent to the states for **ratification**⁴. Nine of the thirteen states would have to approve the new Constitution to become effective for those ratifying states. Finally, a debate began among the states over ratification. Those who argued that the Constitution should be approved were called Federalists; those who argued against it were called Anti-Federalists. The debate went on for months. In June of 1788, nine states had ratified the Constitution. The rest of the states ratified the Constitution once the Bill of Rights was added.

Articles of the Constitution

11 The U.S. Constitution consists of a preamble, or introduction, seven articles, and a signed closing endorsement. Article One describes Congress, the legislative branch of the federal government. Congress

³ delegates: person elected to represent others

⁴ ratification: approval



consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The article explains elections for these positions and the qualifications for members of each body. Article one also outlines the powers given to the legislature.

12 The President is head of the executive branch of the federal government. Article Two describes the office, qualifications, and duties of the President of the United States

and the Vice President. It also explains situations which call for the removal of the President. Article Three describes the court system, called the judicial branch, of the United States which includes the Supreme Court. The article describes the kinds of cases the court takes. Article Four outlines the relations among the states and between each state and the federal government.

13 Article Five outlines the process of **amending**⁵ the Constitution. Article Six establishes the Constitution to be the supreme law of the land. It requires that all federal and state legislators, officers, and judges take oaths to support the Constitution. The states' constitutions and laws should not conflict with the laws of the U.S. Constitution. Article Seven describes the process for establishing the proposed new frame of government.

14 The Signing of the United States Constitution occurred on September 17, 1787, when 39 delegates to the Constitutional Convention endorsed the constitution created during the convention. In addition to signatures, the closing endorsement included a brief declaration that the delegates' work had been completed and that those whose signatures appeared on it agreed with the final document.

Preamble to the Constitution

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

⁵ amending: making changes

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