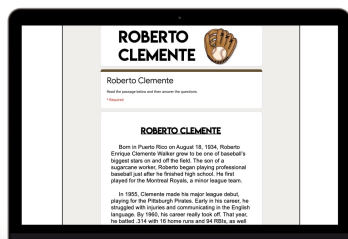


BASEBALL GREATS

DIGITAL READING PASSAGES & QUESTIONS

ROBERTO CLEMENTE

DIGITAL READING PASSAGE & QUESTIONS



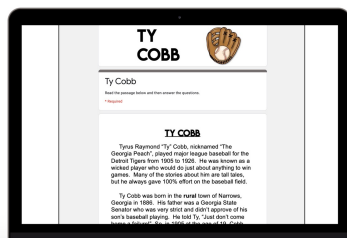
GRADES 3-5

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TY COBB

DIGITAL READING PASSAGE & QUESTIONS



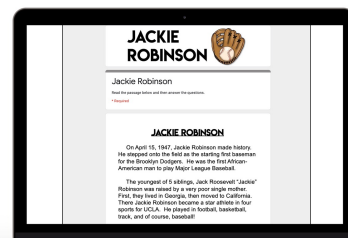
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JACKIE ROBINSON

DIGITAL READING PASSAGE & QUESTIONS



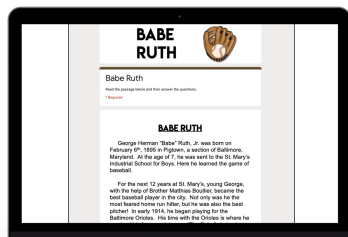
GRADES 3-5

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BABE RUTH

DIGITAL READING PASSAGE & QUESTIONS



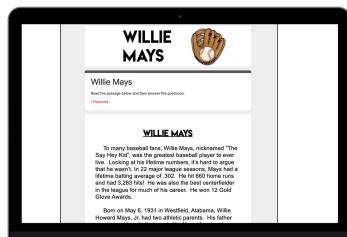
GRADES 3-5

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WILLIE MAYS

DIGITAL READING PASSAGE & QUESTIONS



GRADES 3-5

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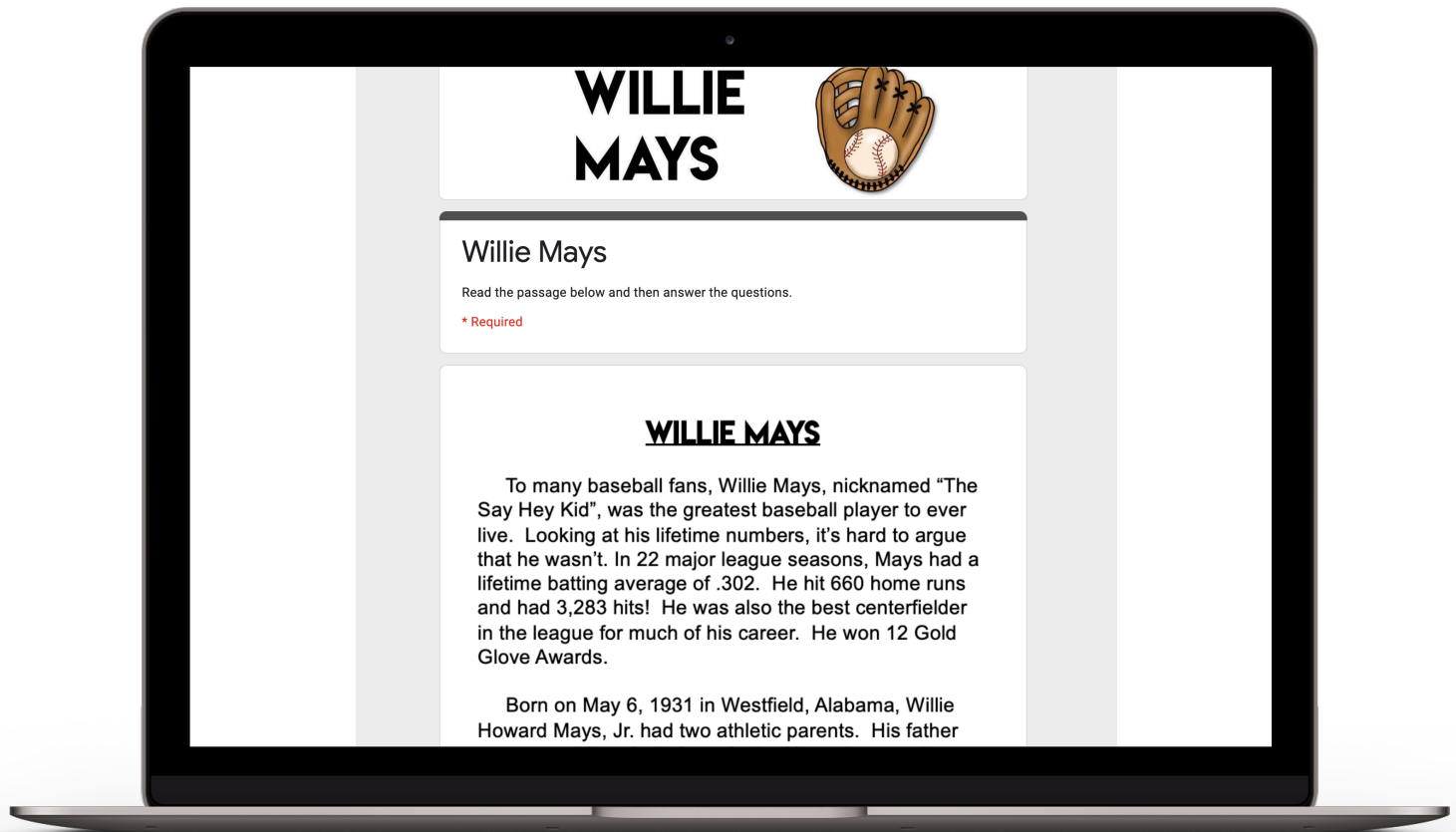
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BASEBALL GREATS

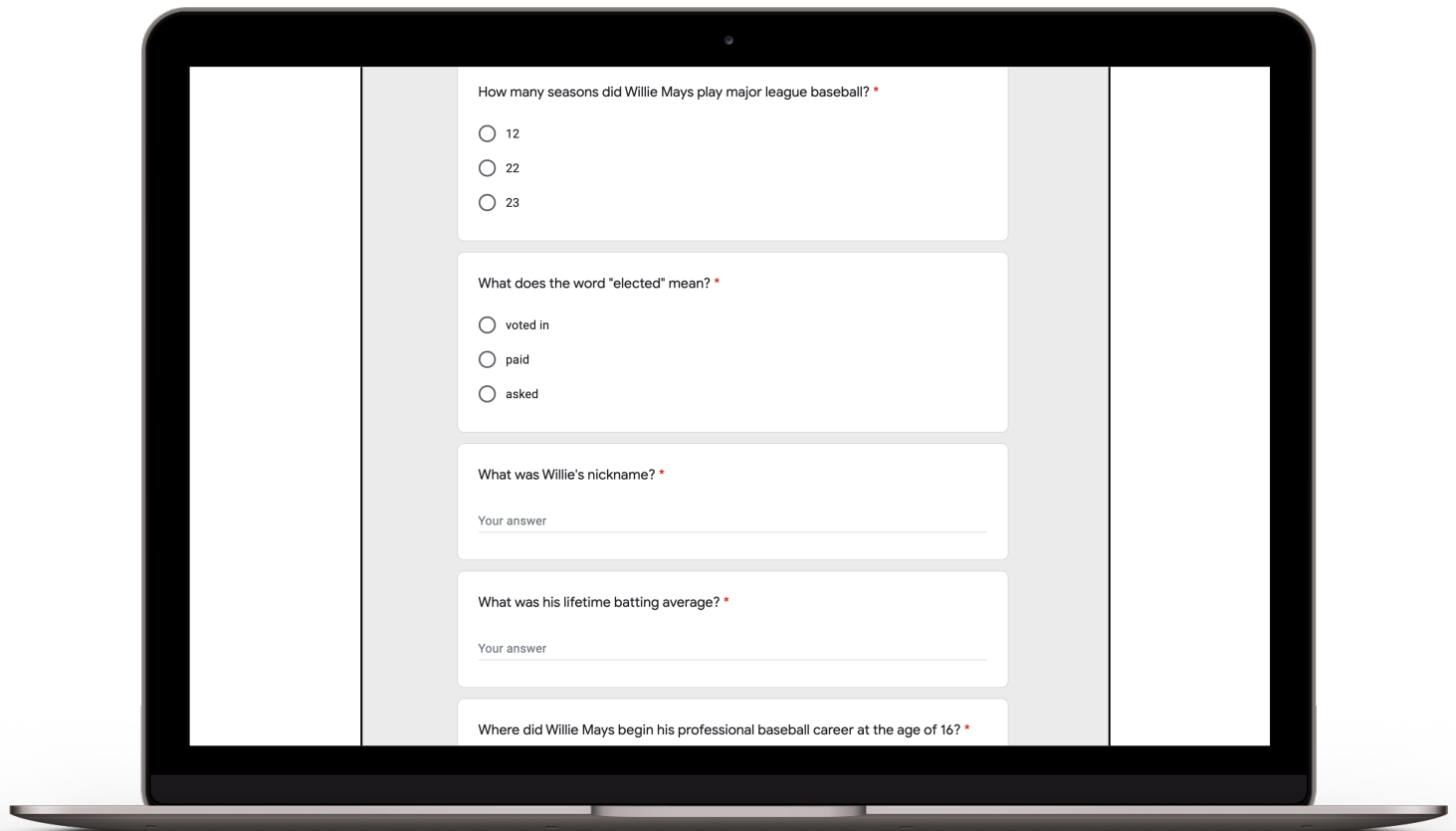
READING PASSAGE SHORTCUTS WITH QUESTIONS



Each informational passage is high-interest and designed for a reading in a short time-frame. The questions are both multiple choice and open ended.

BASEBALL GREATS

READING PASSAGE SHORTCUTS WITH QUESTIONS



How many seasons did Willie Mays play major league baseball? *

☐ 12

☐ 22

☐ 23

What does the word "elected" mean? *

☐ voted in

☐ paid

☐ asked

What was Willie's nickname? *

Your answer

What was his lifetime batting average? *

Your answer

Where did Willie Mays begin his professional baseball career at the age of 16? *

Each informational passage is high-interest and designed for a reading in a short time-frame. The questions are both multiple choice and open ended.

BASEBALL GREATS

INCLUDES PRINTABLE VERSIONS

ROBERTO CLEMENTE

Born in Puerto Rico on August 18, 1934, Roberto Enrique Clemente Walker grew to be one of baseball's biggest stars on and off the field. The son of a sugarcane worker, Roberto began playing professional baseball just after he finished high school. He first played for the Montreal Royals, a minor league team.

In 1955, Clemente made his major league debut, playing for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Early in his career, he struggled with injuries and communicating in the English language. By 1960, his career really took off. That year, he batted .314 with 16 home runs and 94 RBIs, as well as helping the Pirates win the World Series. As time went on, it was clear that Clemente was one of the players in baseball. During the 1972 season, he became the first Hispanic player to ever reach 3,000 career hits.

Off the field, Clemente was well-respected. He was a quiet gentleman and was very proud of his Puerto Rican heritage. In 1963, he married Vera Zabala and they had three sons. He worked hard to help people in need. Sadly, on December 31, 1972, Clemente died in a crash while on his way to take supplies to earthquake survivors in Nicaragua.

Clemente was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1973 and will always be remembered for his contributions to the sport.

TY COBB

Tyrus Raymond "Ty" Cobb, nicknamed "The Georgia Peach", played major league baseball for the Detroit Tigers from 1905 to 1926. He was known as a wicked player who would do just about anything to win. Many of the stories about him are tall tales, but he always gave 100% effort on the baseball field.

Ty Cobb was born in the rural town of Narrows, Georgia in 1886. His father was a Georgia State Senator who was very strict and didn't approve of his son's baseball playing. He told Ty, "Just don't come home a failure!" So, in 1905 at the age of 19, Cobb went to Detroit to play baseball for the Tigers. In the following season, he was the starting centerfielder, batting .316 that year. That turned out to be his best season batting average of his career.

For the next 22 years, Ty Cobb became one of the most feared players in the league. He may have been one of the smartest players ever to play the game. During the 1920 season, he became the manager of the Detroit Tigers, and he continued to play for them at the same time. Cobb also holds the record for most steals of home plate of all time at 54!

Ty Cobb finished his career with some of the greatest numbers of all time. He finished with a lifetime batting average of .366. He was also the all-time hit leader with 4,189 hits. That record stood for almost 60 years!

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

- Name _____ Date _____
- Where was Roberto Clemente born?
a) Montreal b) Puerto Rico c) Pittsburgh
 - What is a **feat**?
a) baseball b) hit c) great achievement
 - Name 2 things Clemente struggled with early in his career.

 - What happened during the 1972 season?

JACKIE ROBINSON

On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson made history. He stepped onto the field as the starting first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers. He was the first African-American man to play Major League Baseball.

The youngest of 5 siblings, Jack Roosevelt "Jackie" Robinson was raised by a very poor single mother. First, they lived in Georgia, then moved to California. There Jackie Robinson became a star athlete in four sports for UCLA. He played in football, basketball, track, and of course, baseball!

At that time, African-Americans were only allowed to play in baseball leagues with other African-Americans. Major League Baseball was not one of those leagues. The owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers, Branch Rickey, decided it was time to change all that. He searched for several years for a black man who could break into Major League Baseball. In 1945, he found Jackie Robinson and knew he was the man for the job.

It took two years for Jackie Robinson to get called up to the big leagues. It finally happened in 1947. He played in 151 games as a **rookie**. He faced some terrible racism from other teams and fans. In 1947, he bled through his uniform and was hit in the head by a bat. 297, hit 12 home runs, and won the Major League MVP award.

Jackie Robinson was a very kind man. He was often seen out in the street playing stick-ball with the local children on his days off. Can you imagine a Major-League player playing ball with kids in the street today? When the New York Giants moved to San Francisco in 1958, Robinson was also seen at his new home doing the same thing.

On January 23, 1979, Willie Mays was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

What was Ty Cobb's lifetime batting average?

Ty Cobb's all time hit record of 4,189 hits stood for almost 60 years. True or False?

BABE RUTH

George Herman "Babe" Ruth, Jr. was born on February 6th, 1895 in Pigtown, a section of Baltimore, Maryland. At the age of 7, he was sent to the St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys. Here he learned the game of baseball.

For the next 12 years at St. Mary's, young George, with the help of Brother Matthias Boutlier, became the best baseball player in the city. Not only was he the most feared home run hitter, but he was also the best pitcher.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

- Name _____ Date _____
- In what state did Jackie first live as a child?
a) New York b) California c) Georgia
 - What does the word **rookie** mean?
a) beginner b) experienced player
 - How did Jackie Robinson make history on April 15, 1947?

 - Which four sports did Jackie Robinson play at UCLA?

WILLIE MAYS

To many baseball fans, Willie Mays, nicknamed "The Say Hey Kid", was the greatest baseball player to ever live. Looking at his lifetime numbers, it's hard to argue that he wasn't. In 22 major league seasons, Mays had a lifetime batting average of .302 and had 3,283 hits.

Willie Mays was born in the Negro leagues in 1931. His mother was a basketball and track & field star in high school. They raised young Willie to love all sports, but baseball was his favorite. At the age of 16, he started his professional baseball career in the Negro Leagues of the south. Then in 1950, he went to play for the New York Giants. He became the starting centerfielder for the Giants in May of 1951.

Willie Mays moved to Harlem in New York City and was known to be a very kind man. He was often seen out in the street playing stick-ball with the local children on his days off. Can you imagine a Major-League player playing ball with kids in the street today? When the New York Giants moved to San Francisco in 1958, Mays was also seen at his new home doing the same thing.

On January 23, 1979, Willie Mays was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

- Name _____ Date _____
- How old was Babe Ruth when he was sent to the St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys?
a) 7 years b) 12 years c) 6 years
 - What does the word **sultan** mean?
a) worker b) king c) baseball
 - What is Babe Ruth's full name?

 - Which team was he playing for when he earned the nickname "The Babe"?

 - Name 3 great things Babe accomplished while playing for the New York Yankees.
a) _____
b) _____
c) _____
 - What is the purpose of this passage?
a) to inform b) to entertain c) to persuade
 - How much did the Red Sox sell Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees for?

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

- Name _____ Date _____
- How many seasons did Willie Mays play major league baseball?
a) 12 b) 22 c) 23
 - What does the word **elected** mean?
a) voted in b) paid c) asked
 - What was Willie's nickname?

 - What was his lifetime batting average?

 - Where did Willie Mays begin his professional baseball career at the age of 16?

 - What is the purpose of this passage?
a) to inform b) to entertain c) to persuade
 - In 1950, what professional team did Mays play for?

 - When was Willie Mays elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame?

 - Willie Mays did not spend time playing with or helping children in his neighborhood. True or False?

ANSWER KEYS INCLUDED!