Jackie Robinson
Major League Baseball Player

Jackie Robinson was born in Cairo, Georgia, on January 31, 1919. In high school Jackie became a star athlete. He played on the baseball, football, basketball, and track teams. In college Jackie was an outstanding athlete. He decided to be a physical education teacher. Jackie was a popular student, had a good sense of humor, and showed good sportsmanship. He had to leave college before graduating to help support his family.

After serving in the Army during World War II, he played shortstop for the Kansas City Monarchs, a team in the Negro American Baseball League. He traveled a lot, worked hard for his team, and was able to send money home. Many baseball scouts watched Jackie play, and on April 10, 1947, he became a first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers. As the first black baseball player in the major leagues, Jackie had a difficult first year. He had to hold his temper and let his outstanding baseball playing show his teammates that he could help win the pennant. That year Jackie was named Rookie of the Year. He was a batting champion and was very good at stealing bases. His playing added excitement to baseball.

Answer in a complete sentence.
1. What sports did Jackie Robinson play in high school? He played baseball, football, basketball, and track.
2. Why did Jackie have to leave college? He left to support his family.
3. What special things was Jackie good at in baseball? He was good as a shortstop.
5. Why was Jackie's first year in the major leagues difficult? He had to hold his temper and let his talent show.

Brainwork! Use a dictionary to find the meanings of these baseball words: mound, dugout, bunt, foul, grounder, umpire, mound.