

The Rockford Peaches



Women and Professional Sports:

The Impact of WWII on Baseball

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OEDC 5313

June 21-23, 2016

Course/Grade Level: 8th grade U.S. History

Lesson Title: "The Rockford Peaches"

Teacher: Violet Roth

1. Set Induction: We will do a whole class brainstorming activity. Students will answer the question: How did women's role in society change during WWII? I will list the student's answers on the Smartboard.

2. Objective/Standards:

- Students will be able to analyze primary sources and determine a central idea from the text.
- Students will be able to analyze primary sources and make connections about differences and similarities of the text through creating a Venn diagram.
- Students will be able to read a text and determine the central ideas of a text.
- Students will be able to research a given person and write a biography using internet sources.

RI.8.1-Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

RI.8.2-Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas: provide an objective summary of the text.

RI.8.3-Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events.

Materials needed: Smartboard, Primary Source Analysis worksheets, Venn diagram, The All-Female Leagues reading comprehension worksheet, I-pads, scissors, glue, color pencils, sticky notes.

Planned Assessment: Venn Diagram and comprehension worksheet for “The All-Female League” article.

Procedures:

Day One:

A) Students will analyze pictures of men playing baseball in the 1940s. They will complete an analysis worksheet. We will discuss what they know about baseball, focusing on men's role in baseball.

B) Students will then analyze pictures of the Rockford Peaches. They will complete a Venn diagram comparing/contrasting the two sets of primary source. We will discuss what they observed and inferred about the pictures. If students have questions about the pictures, they will write them on sticky notes and post them to the baseball diamond poster in the classroom. (They will be used in tomorrow's lesson.)

C) Students will then read "The All-Female Leagues". This article explains how the roles of women transformed professional baseball during WWII. After reading the article, students will complete a comprehension worksheet about the article.

Day Two:

I will start the lesson off by playing a video “The Rockford Peaches.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2C361nTG1IA>

Rockford Peaches----Caroline Kittrell----3:39

This video reviews how and why women started playing professional baseball in the 1940s.

The class will then get to listen to a presentations from the Midway Village on “The History of the Rockford Peaches.” This will be an interactive lecture presented by knowledgeable museum staff. When the lecture is complete, students will ask questions they wrote on the sticky notes yesterday.

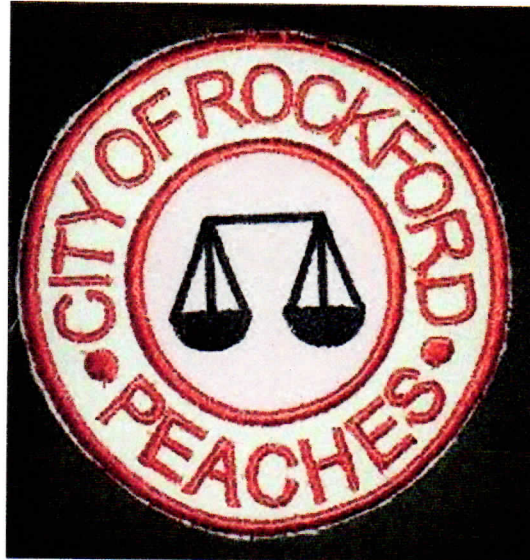
Follow-up Activities:

-Students will use I-pads in the classroom to research players of the Rockford Peaches. They can use google, Wikipedia or other search engines to find websites to begin their research. They will complete a biography on one of the players using the baseball card template to gather their information in a concise and orderly format.

-Field trip to the Midway Village to learn more about the Rockford Peaches.

-View movie “A League of Their Own” which is based off of the Rockford Peaches.

Worksheets, Primary Sources, and Research Template



America's Greatest Sports Thrill!

MAJOR LEAGUE

GIRL'S BASEBALL

"The Nation's Outstanding Feminine Baseball Stars"

Follow the

Rockford Peaches

AT THE

BEYER STADIUM
15th AVE.

Light refreshments available. Phone 437-27

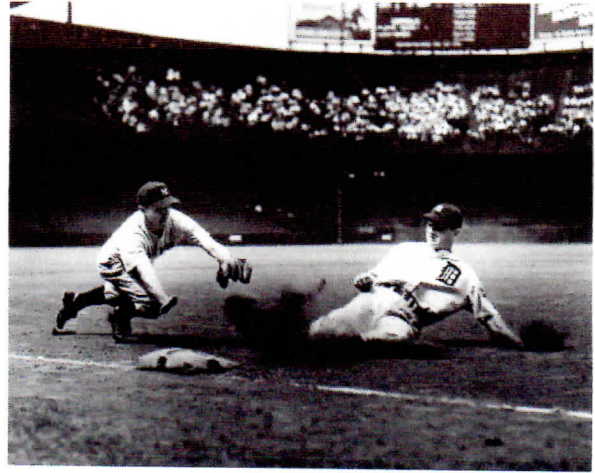
GAME TIME

- Single Game 8:00 P.M.
- Doubleheader 7:00 P.M.

56 HOME GAMES

KENOSHA	• MAY 25-26-27	JUNE 19-20	SEPT. 2-3-3
SO. BEND	• MAY 28-29	JUNE 13-14	JULY 6-7 AUG. 28
GRAND RAPIDS	• JUNE 3-3-4-5	JULY 30-31	AUG. 29-30
KALAMAZOO	• JUNE 6-7	JULY 27-28-29-29	AUG. 27-28
PEORIA	• JUNE 17-17	JULY 10-11 18-19	AUG. 3-4
FORT WAYNE	• JUNE 24-24	JULY 12-13	AUG. 17-18-19-20
BATTLE CREEK	• JUNE 26-27-28	JULY 14-15	AUG. 14-15-16

Men in Baseball



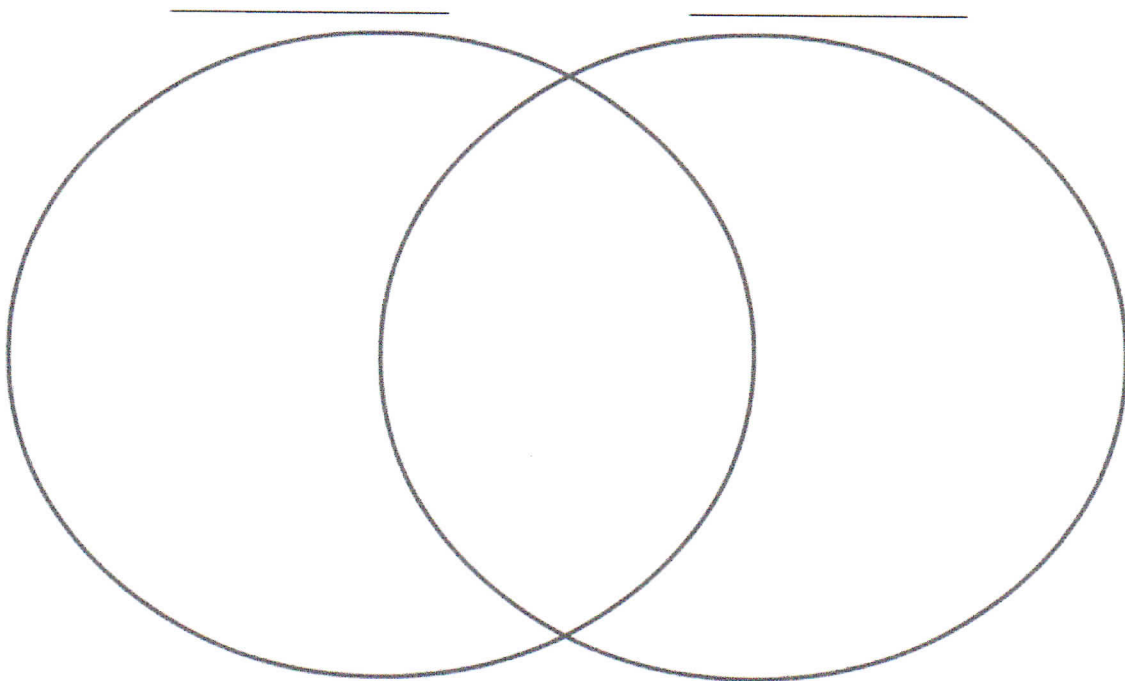
Observation: Look at the pictures above and analyze the events, people, and activities.

Events	People	Activities



Activity: Analyze the next set of primary sources. Complete the Venn diagram by comparing/contrasting the events, people, and activities...

Venn Diagram



Questions from Primary Sources: Write on sticky notes and place on baseball diamond poster in the room.

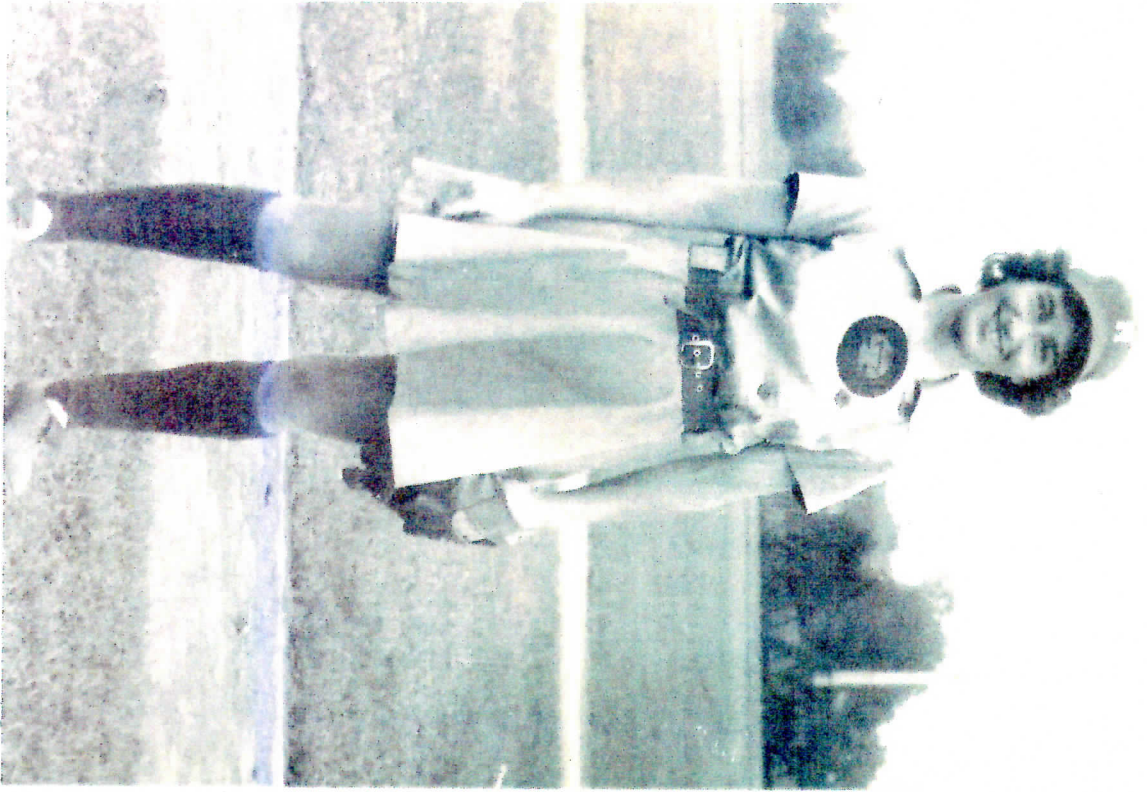




Yish. 273.



Little League 1952



07.25.60

Name: _____

Maiden Name:

Nickname:

Home Town:

Born:
Died:

Throwing Hand:

Bat Hand:

Affiliation:

Position:

Biography

Background

How did she get involved with baseball?

When did she enter the League?

Teams played for:

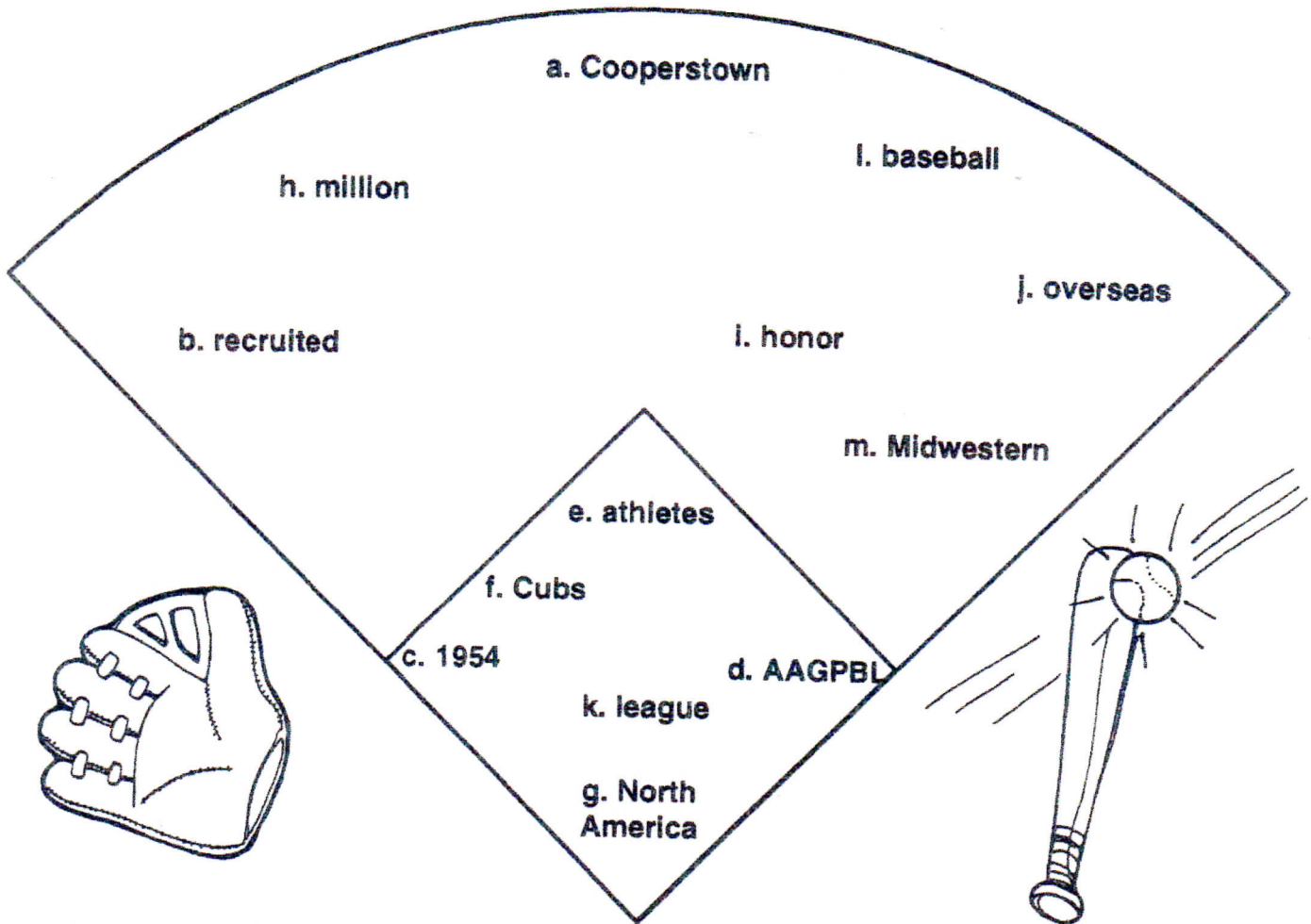
Accomplishments:

Life after Baseball:



Let's Play Ball!

During World War II, baseball games were a pastime that helped keep up morale of Americans on the home front. Use the words in the baseball diamond to fill in the blanks in the story shown below.



During World War II, over half of the nation's major 1 baseball players joined the war effort and went to fight 2. Phillip K. Wrigley, the owner of the Chicago 3 team, was afraid that Americans would lose interest in the game of 4 during the war years. He 5 the best female baseball players that he could find throughout the continent of 6. He formed the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, which was known by the letters 7.

Each week, the female ballplayers were paid between \$55 and \$85. The AAGPBL existed in the 8 part of the United States for twelve years, from 1943 until 9. This unique baseball league had teams in fourteen cities. During some seasons nearly one 10 fans enjoyed watching America's favorite pastime being played by some of the nation's top women 11. Altogether, 550 women played in the AAGPBL. In 1988, the National Baseball Hall of Fame located in 12, New York, added a special exhibit to 13 the AAGPBL and its players.

The All-Female Leagues

As more and more men went off to fight the war, American women began to take on new roles. They worked in factories and volunteered for a variety of duties, including driving ambulances. In 1943, another role for women opened up when chewing gum magnate Philip K. Wrigley organized an all-female baseball league. With the major league players gone to war, Wrigley, the owner of the Chicago Cubs, worried about the status of the game. Convinced that women could play baseball and keep the stands filled with fans, Wrigley put his plan into action.

Because there was not enough time to train female athletes from scratch, a combination softball/baseball was developed. Underhand pitches and a 12-inch ball were taken from softball, while rules that allowed leading off and stealing were taken from baseball. Once the rules had been established, Wrigley had special uniforms designed for the players. The uniforms featured a short dress worn with satin panties, and thick, wool knee socks worn with spiked shoes.



Players were required to dress and play like ladies and obey certain rules. For example, when in public, they had to wear skirts and could not smoke or drink. In addition to their regular games, the players had to play in exhibition games for soldiers at military camps, sell war bonds, and teach youngsters how to play. Players were paid \$55 to \$85 per week and all on-the-road expenses were paid by the team. Scouts recruited women age 15 to 25 and sent them to Wrigley's Chicago ballpark for tryouts. There, they were treated to charm school conducted by the famed Helena Rubenstein. The women were taught the basics of makeup and how to wear their hair. Those who made the final cut were soon on their way to a grueling three-month schedule in which they would play 108 games, half of them away. Because young women in 1943 lived at home until they married, Wrigley had his ballplayers live with host families in the midwestern towns in which they played. Often the players and their families became quite close.

In 1948 the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League began its peak year with ten teams. By the end of that season, more than 910,000 fans paid to see the women play. Four years later, due to decreasing attendance, the teams folded. It had been quite a run and a unique opportunity for women.

Suggested Activity

Status With the class discuss: What is the status of women's baseball today?

References

- A Whole New Ball Game* by Sue Macy (Henry Holt and Company, 1993).
Belles of the Ballpark by Diana Star Helmer (Millbrook Press, 1993).