

bio. CLASSROOM



Babe Ruth Classroom Guide

George Herman “Babe” Ruth is remembered as one of the greatest sports heroes in American history, a man whose nicknames, "the Sultan of Swat" and "the Babe," evoke the combination of power and innocence that made him so unique. Babe Ruth was more than a ball player. He was a public figure whose popularity transcended that of any game. Ruth had a simplicity and warmth of spirit that people found electrifying. But his true greatness resided on the baseball diamond, where he set a roster of records capped by his 60-home run season. This 1-hour BIO tells Ruth's story, from his birth in Baltimore in 1895 and his early career as a Red Sox pitcher to his years of glory in Yankee pinstripes, and beyond.

Curriculum Links:

Babe Ruth would be useful for classes on American History, Sports History and American Culture. It is appropriate for middle school and high school.

Vocabulary:

Ask students to define the terms below, and keep their own list of words define while they are watching this program.

- exhilarating
- hierarchy
- mercenary
- parole
- revelry
- rhetoric
- stigma
- tranquility
- unrelenting

Discussion Questions:

1. Americans love to elevate sports figures to the status of national heroes. Do sports figures have any obligation to the public to set examples in their personal and professional lives?
2. Babe Ruth's childhood was erratic and tumultuous. How did his childhood experiences influence his career and his life off the diamond?
3. Babe Ruth was truly an American hero during his era. What made Babe Ruth such a hero? Why did Americans place him on a pedestal?
4. In 1919, the Chicago Black Sox scandal seriously eroded America's faith in the game of baseball. What was the scandal about? How did Babe Ruth restore the faith in the game?
5. Yankee Stadium is one of the most famous sports arenas in the world. Why is Yankee Stadium known as "the house that Ruth built?"
6. Babe Ruth was a man who lived fast and hard. How did his personal excesses affect his career and his life?
7. Why is baseball "America's favorite pastime?"
8. As Babe Ruth's career was winding down, he was signed first by the Boston Braves and then by the Brooklyn Dodgers. These clubs had promised Ruth a managerial position, but wanted Ruth for other reasons. How did these two ball clubs exploit Ruth in the twilight of his career?

Extended Activities:

1. Write an obituary for Babe Ruth. What would you include and how would you convey his importance to baseball and American popular culture?
2. Babe Ruth was the largest sports hero of his day. Compare Ruth's life and career with some of the famous sports figures of today. What are the similarities and differences between these athletes? How does the time period in which they live(d) influence their careers, lifestyles, and impact on American culture?
3. Create a commemorative poster for Babe Ruth's induction into the Baseball Hall Of Fame in Cooperstown, NY.

Websites:

Learn more on Bio.com:

<http://www.biography.com/articles/Babe-Ruth-9468009>

The official Babe Ruth website:

<http://www.baberuth.com/>