

THE FOUR SIDES OF A BASEBALL DIAMOND IDENTITY, DIVERSITY, INTEGRATION, AND COMMUNITY

FIRST BASE EVERYBODY'S PLAYING IT

Chasing
Dreams
BASEBALL & BECOMING AMERICAN

Look at Hank Greenberg's Most Valuable Player Award and read about him.

Which nickname tells us that he was a baseball star? _____

Which one shows the fact that he was a Jewish baseball star? _____

Look closely at **one** of the following artifacts:

Sheet music for "*Jake, Jake, the Yiddisha Ball Player*"

What is this song about?

The composer's birth name was *Israel Isidore Beilin*.

Why do you think he changed his name?

What is the name of the song's composer?

Do you think that some baseball players did the same?

Sheet music for "*Take Me Out to the Ball Game*"

What is this song about?

The composer's birth name was *Albert Gumbinski*.

Why do you think he changed his name?

What is the name of the song's composer?

Do you think that some baseball players did the same?

How would you feel about changing your name?

SECOND BASE SHAPING IDENTITY

Choose and explore the story of **one** of the following players:

1. Andy Cohen

Find the New York Giants ad from the *Forward*, 1948-55.

In what language is it written?

What does it say? _____

Find the ad for Toddy from the *Jewish Morning Journal*, 1928.

What is Andy Cohen advertising? _____

Find the new names of five Cohens that played before Andy in the major leagues. Why did they change their names?

2. Joe DiMaggio

How did DiMaggio express his determination to be American?

Find the book *Hayim Pumpnickel* by Ben Aronin. Why did Joe DiMaggio and Hank Greenberg leave the ball field in the middle of a game?

3. Hank Greenberg

Find Hank Greenberg's Sultan of Swat award. Why was he given this award?

There are two different occasions in which Hank Greenberg chose not to play:

1. When did the poet Edgar Guest write "*We shall miss him in the infield and shall miss him at the bat...he's true to his religion—and I honor him for that!*"?

2. When did he say "*baseball is out the window as far as I'm concerned*"?

THIRD BASE

DIVERSITY AND INTEGRATION

Find the ticket to opening day at Ebbets Field.

In what year did this game take place? _____

Which team won? _____

Look closely at the boys on the poster that says “*What’s his race or religion got to do with it...?*”?

What do you think that the boy standing with his back to us just said?

What is the response he gets?

Look around you and find **one** story that shows how baseball **can** unite people from different cultural backgrounds.

HOME

COMMUNITY

Find the T-shirt that says “*A League of Our Own*” from the girls’ softball team in Riverdale, New York. How did this team improve the community of Riverdale?

Find Nathan Freiman’s Hebrew-school certificate from 2000.

What did this certificate prove? _____

What was this proof needed for? _____

THE MUSEUM’S CORE EXHIBITION:

In his book, *The Third Time Around*, George Burns describes how children that grew up in the Lower East Side of New York played stickball in crowded alleys where:

“a fire hydrant was first base, second base was a lamp post, and Mr. Gitletz who used to bring a kitchen chair down to sit and watch us play, was third base. One time I slid into Mr. Gitletz, he caught the ball and tagged me out.”

As you explore the Museum, find stories that show other ways in which immigrants learned about American culture and strove to make America their home.