

BATTER UP LESSONS

Hinchliffe Stadium and The Negro Leagues
 developed by
Ms. Michelle Hamlett’s Historiography Classes 2020-2022
Eastside High School

Learning Objective	Essential Question(s)	Suggested Activities	Standards
The student will be able to describe how the fortunes of Hinchliffe Stadium changed from the time it was built to the present day.	Why should the legacy Hinchliffe Stadium be preserved?	Create a timeline tracing significant events in the history of Hinchliffe Stadium. Interview local experts on what Hinchliffe means to Paterson.	6.1.12.HistorySE.14.a: Explore the various ways women, racial and ethnic minorities, the LGBTQ community, and individuals with disabilities have contributed to the American economy, politics and society. 6.1.12.EconEM.12.a: Assess the role of the public and private sectors in promoting economic growth and ensuring economic stability.

Research Sources
Note: At the time of this publication these websites were active.

“There stands a newly designated National Historic Landmark in Paterson, New Jersey, whose deteriorating appearance belies the remarkable talent and courage of its earlier inhabitants and what was accomplished within its walls. Hinchliffe Stadium, the Art Deco, open-air sports arena was built during the Great Depression on a commanding bluff above the Passaic River. It overlooks the splendid Paterson Great Falls and has views of downtown ½ mile away. Its playing fields were intended for local football, baseball, and track & field events, although it has accommodated many other sports and performances.”

https://www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo/1identify/nrsr_15_Nov_Hinchliffe.pdf

“History lives at the intersection of Liberty and Maple Streets in Paterson, New Jersey. Tragically, those who venture to the area, a stone’s throw away from the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, are often unaware that they’re walking the same steps, breathing the same air as some of baseball’s bravest legends. The Great Falls sit in the shadow of a baseball cathedral and testament to American resiliency and strength, a multi-purpose facility known as Hinchliffe Stadium.”

<https://empiresportsmedia.com/breaking-news/the-legacy-of-hinchliffe-stadium-part-i-history-on-liberty/>

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“With a nod to our nation’s history and the need to write a new narrative for Paterson, we are bringing back our historic treasure that, once again, will serve as a symbol of our city’s strength. Our effort to resuscitate our one-time cultural and social anchor of our community recently received a big boost.”

<https://www.northjersey.com/story/opinion/2020/12/18/hinchliffe-stadium-njs-field-dreams-and-negro-league-history-rise-again/3938502001/>

“What will Hinchliffe Stadium’s “second act” look like in the wake of Major League Baseball raising the bar in regard to the Negro Leagues?

Major League Baseball also stated: “With this action, MLB seeks to ensure that future generations will remember the approximately 3,400 players of the Negro Leagues during this time period (1920-1948) as Major League-caliber ballplayers.” “

<https://www.northjersey.com/story/opinion/2021/01/25/hinchliffe-stadium-paterson-nj-sporting-venue-black-history-icon/6670090002/>

“Mayor Andre Sayegh has touted the \$94 million project, which also will include a 315-space parking garage and a six-story, 75-unit senior citizen apartment building, as being crucial to Paterson’s revitalization efforts. The rebuilt stadium would have 7,800 seats.

Three former major league baseball players — Harold Reynolds, CC Sabathia and Willie Randolph — attended the ceremony in tribute to Hinchliffe’s national landmark status as one of the last two ballparks still standing from the segregated Negro Leagues of the mid-20th century.”

<https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/paterson-press/2021/04/14/paterson-nj-breaks-ground-hinchliffe-stadium-project/7223553002/>

“New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) Board of Directors today approved an Economic Redevelopment and Growth (ERG) Program tax credit for the redevelopment of Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, New Jersey. The redevelopment of the historic stadium, which has been vacant for decades, will include a museum honoring the site’s history as a Negro League baseball stadium, a stadium and recreational center for the Paterson community, affordable housing for seniors, a restaurant and event space, and a parking garage.”

<https://www.njeda.com/njeda-board-approves-erg-award-for-hinchliffe-stadium-redevelopment/>