

**Learning Resources for
Ballpark Mysteries #18**

**The Atlanta Alibi
By David A. Kelly**

Background

About the Book

The Atlanta Alibi is the 18th team book in the Ballpark Mysteries series. There are also four Ballpark Mysteries Super Specials that take place in special locations (such as the World Series or the Cooperstown Hall of Fame).

In **The Atlanta Alibi**, Mike and Kate travel to Atlanta, Georgia. While Mike and Kate are visiting the stadium, they discover that Hank Aaron's ball and bat are missing. The cousins have another mystery on their hands! Can they find the missing ball and bat?

About the Author

David A. Kelly is a children's book author, travel writer and technology analyst. He's the author of the *Ballpark Mysteries* series from Random House, in which cousins Kate and Mike solve mysteries at different major league ballparks, and the *Most Valuable Players* (MVP) series from Random House as well, in which a group of elementary school kids have adventures playing different sports. Mr. Kelly is also the author of the early reader, *Babe Ruth and the Baseball Curse* and the picture book *Miracle Mud: Lena Blackburne and Secret Mud that Changed Baseball*.

He has written about travel and technology for the New York Times, the Boston Globe, the Chicago Sun Times, and many other publications.

Mr. Kelly lives in Newton, MA, with his wife and two sons.

For more information, visit David's webpage – www.davidakellybooks.com

You can follow Mr. Kelly on social media:

- Twitter @davidakelly
- Instagram @davidakellybooks
- Facebook @ballparkmysteries

Signed and personalized books are available at: www.buydavidakellybooks.com

Free Q&A virtual visit sessions are available at: www.dakvirtual.com

In-person and virtual author visits are available at: www.dakvisits.com



Figurative Language

Book Tie-in:

The author, David A. Kelly uses different types of figurative language in his writing. As students read the book, ask them to look for similes, metaphors, alliteration, and idioms.

Standards:

- RL.2.4 Describe how words and phrases (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song.
- L.3.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

Objective:

- Define and identify similes, metaphors, alliteration, and idioms.

Procedure:

- Define and explain simile, metaphor, alliteration, and idiom:
 - *Simile is a type of figurative language. A writer compares one thing to another using the words like or as. Examples: He runs as quick as a roadrunner. Santa's cheeks looked like two red cherries.*
 - *Metaphor is a type of figurative language. A writer says one thing is like another, but doesn't use the words like or as. Examples: The snow was a blanket. Life is a rollercoaster.*
 - *Alliteration is a type of figurative language. It occurs when a writer repeats the same beginning sound in a group of words. Examples: kitty cat, we walked, baby bear.*
 - *Idiom is a type of figurative language. A statement that means something different from its literal meaning. Examples: This is a piece of cat. It's raining cats and dogs.*
- Create an anchor chart for each of the types of figurative language.
- Have students complete the worksheet. Options include:
 - Whole group
 - Small group
 - Partners
 - Independent
- Extensions:
 - Write four sentences. Each sentence should use a different example of figurative language.
 - Challenge students to find other examples of figurative language as they read the book. Have students write them down on post-it notes and place them on chart paper.



Name: _____

Figurative Language



Identify the type of figurative language that is used by the author, David A. Kelly.

He was safe! Like a bank.

-  Metaphor
-  Simile
-  Hyperbole




You're the one acting like a clown!

-  Metaphor
-  Simile
-  Hyperbole

Clean up your act!

-  Metaphor
-  Simile
-  Idiom




It gets the team fired up.

-  Metaphor
-  Idiom
-  Hyperbole




They're a Southern specialty.

-  Metaphor
-  Simile
-  Alliteration




Hammerin' Hank

-  Metaphor
-  Alliteration
-  Hyperbole




He's got a sweet tooth.

-  Metaphor
-  Idiom
-  Hyperbole

Sultan of Swat

-  Alliteration
-  Simile
-  Hyperbole

BONKI!

-  Metaphor
-  Onomatopoeia
-  Hyperbole

Name: _____

Answer Key

Figurative Language



Identify the type of figurative language that is used by the author, David A. Kelly.

He was safe! Like a bank.

- Metaphor
- Simile
- Hyperbole

You're the one acting like a clown!

- Metaphor
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- Hyperbole

Clean up your act!

- Metaphor
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- Idiom

It gets the team fired up.

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- Idiom
- Hyperbole

They're a Southern specialty.

- Metaphor
- Simile
- Alliteration

Hammerin' Hank

- Metaphor
- Alliteration
- Hyperbole

He's got a sweet tooth.

- Metaphor
- Idiom
- Hyperbole

Sultan of Swat

- Alliteration
- Simile
- Hyperbole

BONK!

- Metaphor
- Onomatopoeia
- Hyperbole



Fact and Opinion

Book Tie-in:

The characters in **Atlanta Alibi** make statements. Some statements are facts while others are opinions. Challenge students to identify character statements as fact or opinion.

Standards:

- W.2.1 Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g., *because*, *and*, *also*) to connect opinion and reasons, and provide a concluding statement or section.
- W.3.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

Objectives:

- Define and identify statements as facts or opinions.
- Write a book review that includes at least one opinion and one reason that supports the opinion.

Procedure:

- Define and explain fact and opinion:
 - A fact can be proven true.
 - An opinion is a person's feelings, thoughts, or beliefs.
- Watch video on fact and opinion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwdDCIWP6i4>
- Complete the fact and opinion worksheet. Options include:
 - Whole group
 - Small group
 - Partners
 - Independent
- Have students complete a book review for **Atlanta Alibi**.

Name: _____

Fact Or Opinion?



Read each statement. Decide if it is a fact or opinion. Sort the statements into the correct category.

Fact

Opinion

Name: _____

Fact Or Opinion?



Read each statement. Decide if it is a fact or opinion. Sort the statements into the correct category.

It's nice to be retired so I don't have to make calls that get you upset.

Jamal used to be a detective with the Atlanta police.

Then he pulled the glass cover away.

Hank was one of the all-time great baseball players.

Kayla picked up the candy fish.

This is terrible!

Jamal and Kayla packed up their black bag and left.

The grounds crew was raking the infield dirt.

They look perfect!"

This is so cool!

They dashed back into the stadium's main walkway.

"Thanks," Mike said. "That was a nice catch!"

Name: _____

Answer Key **Fact Or Opinion?**



Read each statement. Decide if it is a fact or opinion. Sort the statements into the correct category.

It's nice to be retired so I don't have to make calls that get you upset.

Opinion

Jamal used to be a detective with the Atlanta police.

Fact

Then he pulled the glass cover away.

Fact

Hank was one of the all-time great baseball players.

Opinion

Kayla picked up the candy fish.

Fact

This is terrible!

Opinion

Jamal and Kayla packed up their black bag and left.

Fact

The grounds crew was raking the infield dirt.

Fact

They look perfect!"

Opinion

This is so cool!

Opinion

They dashed back into the stadium's main walkway.

Fact

"Thanks," Mike said. "That was a nice catch!"

Opinion



Compound Words

Book Tie-in:

- The author, David A. Kelly uses compound words in this book. As students read the book, ask them to look for compound words.

Standards:

- L.2.4.D Use knowledge of the meaning of individual words to predict the meaning of compound words (e.g., *birdhouse*, *lighthouse*, *housefly*; *bookshelf*, *notebook*, *bookmark*).

Objective:

- Students will define, identify, and use compound words.

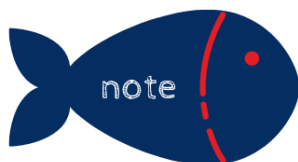
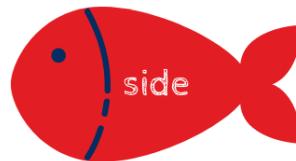
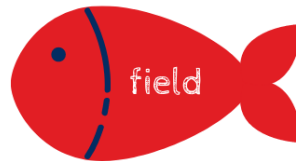
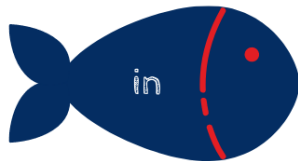
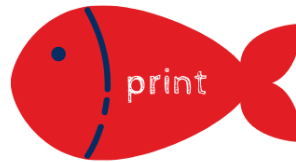
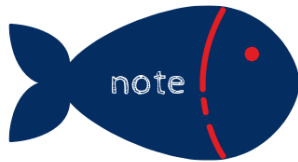
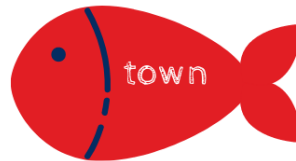
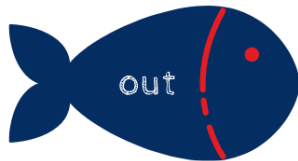
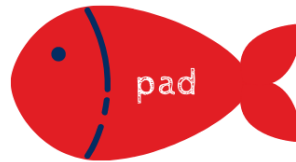
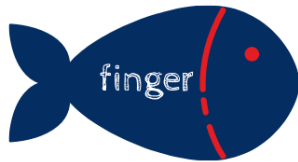
Procedure:

- Explain that compound words are formed when two or more words are put together. When they are put together the words create a new word and a new meaning.
- Put the following examples on the board: clubhouse, baseball, sideways. Ask students to identify each part of the compound word.
- Have students complete the compound worksheet. Options include:
 - Whole group
 - Small group
 - Partners
 - Independent
- Extension: Create a bulletin board with students entitled “Catching Compound Words”. Give students the fish template and instruct them to write a compound word on their fish. Compound words can be found in **Atlanta Alibi** or in other books.

Name: _____

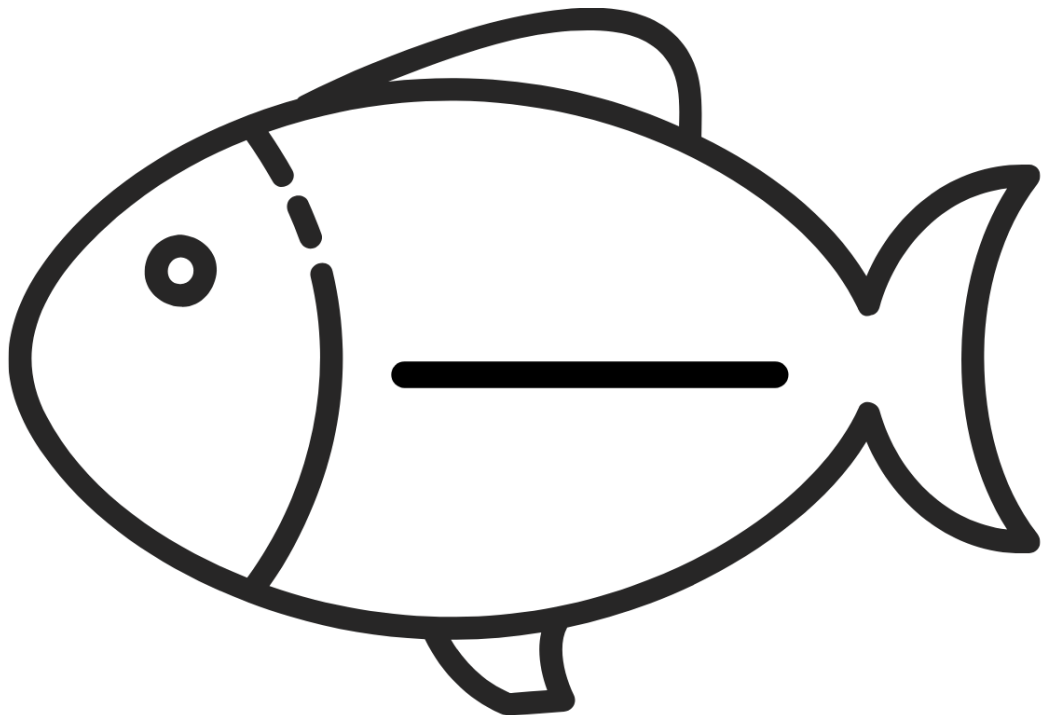
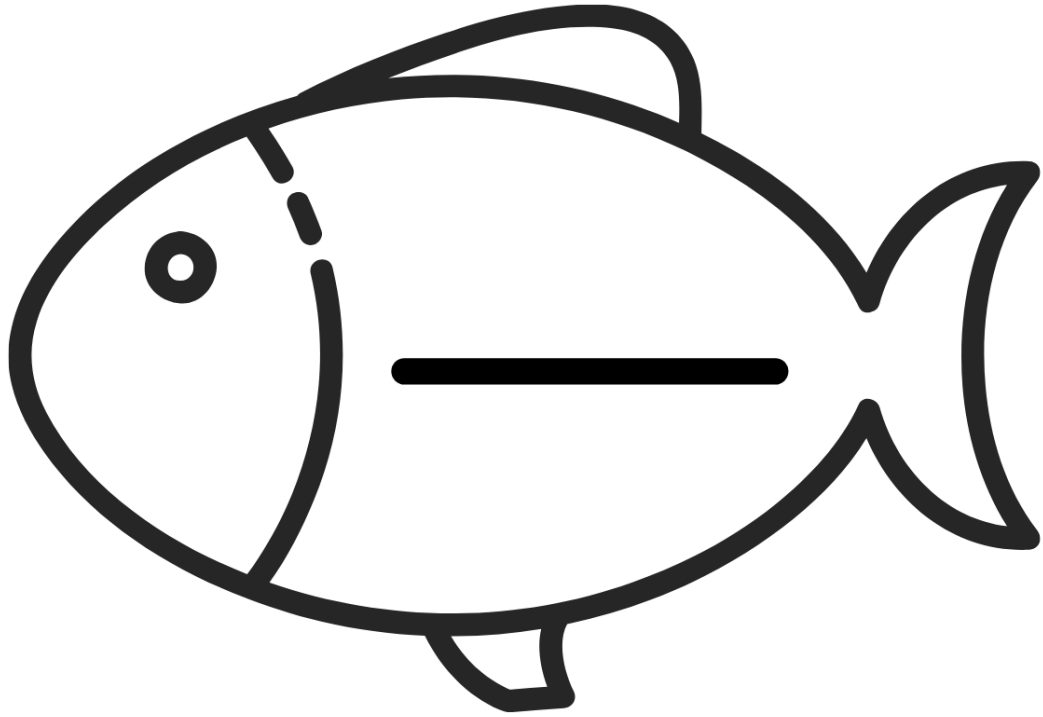
Catching Compound Words

Read each statement. Decide if it is a fact or opinion. Sort the statements into the correct category.



Name: _____

Catching Compound Words





Suspect Sheet

Book Tie-in:

- The author, David A. Kelly uses vocabulary words that are used by detectives. As students read **Atlanta Alibi** point out the vocabulary words that detectives use.

Standards:

- L.2.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 2 reading and content, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.
- L.3.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

Objective:

- Students will define and use the following Vocabulary words: motive, means, and opportunity.

Procedure:

- Define the following Vocabulary words:
 - Motive: the reason a person does something
 - Means: having the tools to complete an action
 - Opportunity: the chance to commit the crime
- Explain to students that Mike and Kate have several suspects that could have taken Hank Aaron's bat and ball. Ask students to list the possible suspects: umpire, Oliver, Tommy Blocks. Choose one of the suspects to complete the Suspect Sheet Worksheet together as a class.
- After completing the Suspect Sheet Worksheet as a class, have students pick another suspect and complete another Suspect Sheet Worksheet using one of the following options:
 - Whole group
 - Small group
 - Partners
 - Independent

Name:

Suspect:

Suspect Sheet



Choose a suspect and fill out the worksheet.

Motive

Reason for committing the crime.

Means

How the crime was committed.

Opportunity

Time to commit the crime.



Verbs

Book Tie-in:

- The author, David A. Kelly uses verbs that are in the present, past, and future. As students read **Atlanta Alibi** ask them to point out the verbs they see.

Standards:

- L.2.1.D Form and use the past tense of frequently occurring irregular verbs (e.g., *sat, hid, told*).
- L.3.1.D Form and use regular and irregular verbs.

Objectives:

- Students will define and identify verbs.
- Students will identify the present tense of past tense verbs.

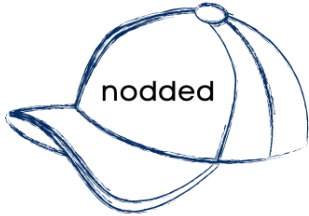
Procedure:

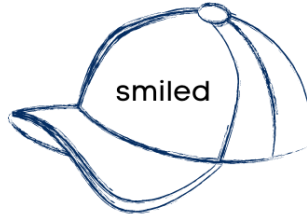
- Define verb: a word that shows action or state of being.
- Watch video: [Verb Song](#)
- Explain to students that verbs have three tenses:
 - Present
 - Past
 - Future
- Watch video: [Verb Tenses](#)
- Point out that regular verbs add -ed to the base to show that the action happened in the past. Irregular verbs don't follow this pattern. These verbs must be memorized.
- Complete the Verb Worksheet together as a class.
- Extension: Have students write 5 sentences using verbs in the past tense.

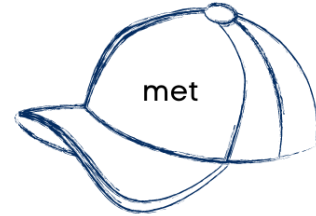
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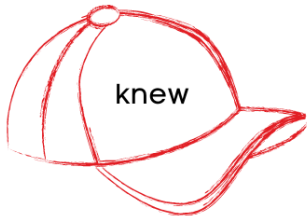
Verbs

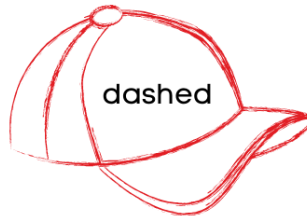
Put each verb into the present tense.

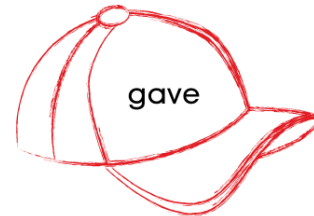


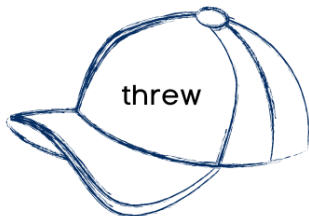


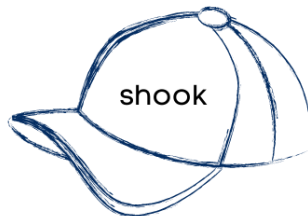


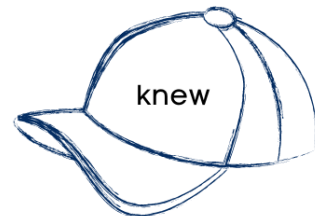


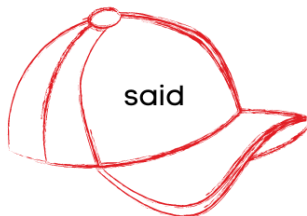














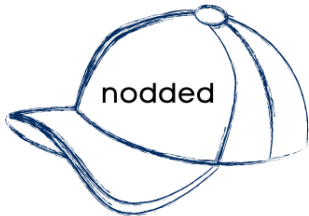


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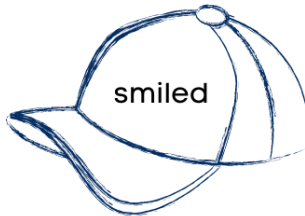
Answer Key

Verbs

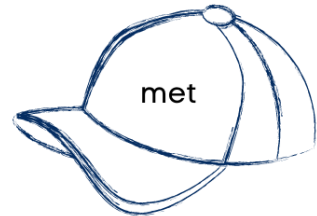
Put each verb into the present tense.



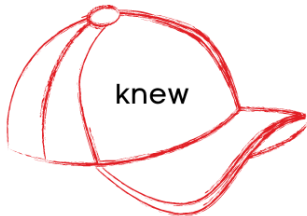
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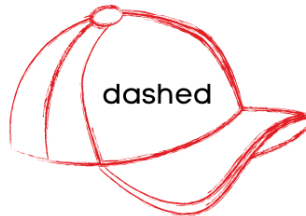
smile



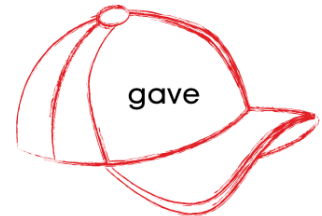
meet



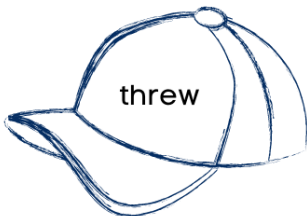
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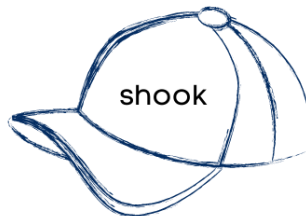
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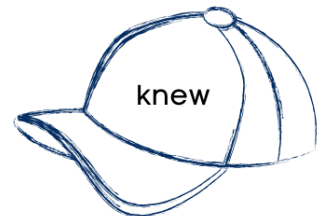
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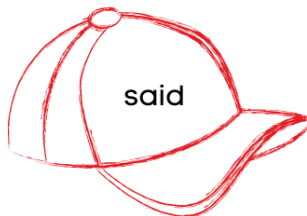
throw



shake



know



say



grab



worry



Hank Aaron Math

Book Tie-in:

- In the book, **Atlanta Alibi**, David A. Kelly writes about MLB great, Hank Aaron. This worksheet provides students with additional facts on this baseball player.

Standards:

- OA.2.1 Use addition and subtraction within 100 to solve one- and two-step word problems involving situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing, with unknowns in all positions, e.g., by using drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem.
- OA.3.8 Solve two-step word problems using the four operations. Represent these problems using equations with a letter standing for the unknown quantity. Assess the reasonableness of answers using mental computation and estimation strategies including rounding

Objective:

- Students will solve math word problems.

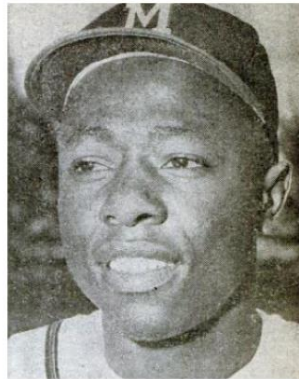
Procedure:

- Have students complete the Hank Aaron Math Worksheet. Options include:
 - Whole Group
 - Small Group
 - Partners
 - Independent
- Extension: Have students create math word problems for another MLB player such as Jackie Robinson. Students can research facts or the teacher may provide the data.

Name: _____

Hank Aaron Math

Hank Aaron played for 23 seasons. He played for the Braves for 21 seasons. How many seasons did he play for other teams?



Hank Aaron broke Babe's Ruth in 1974. Babe Ruth had held the record since 1935. How long did his record stand?

Hank Aaron retired from Major League Baseball 1976. He started in the league in 1952. How many years did he play?

Hank Aaron was born in 1934. He played his first Major League Baseball game 1954. How old was he?

Hank Aaron hit 47 homeruns in 1971. In 1954 he hit 13 homeruns. How many more homeruns did he make in 1971?

Hank Aaron hit a total of 755 homeruns. Write this number in word form and expanded form.

Hank Aaron retired in 1976. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982. How many years after he retired did he get inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Hank Aaron played in the Negro American League in 1952. He then joined the Major League in 1954. How many years did he play for the Negro American League?

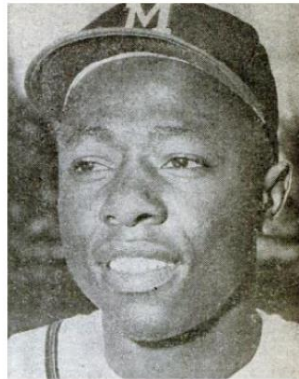
Name: _____

Hank Aaron Math

Answer
Key

Hank Aaron played for 23 seasons. He played for the Braves for 21 seasons. How many seasons did he play for other teams?

2 seasons



Hank Aaron broke Babe's Ruth in 1974. Babe Ruth had held the record since 1935. How long did his record stand?

39 years

Hank Aaron retired from Major League Baseball 1976. He started in the league in 1952. How many years did he play?

24 seasons

Hank Aaron was born in 1934. He played his first Major League Baseball game 1954. How old was he?

20 years

Hank Aaron hit 47 homeruns in 1971. In 1954 he hit 13 homeruns. How many more homeruns did he make in 1971?

17 more

Hank Aaron hit a total of 755 homeruns. Write this number in word form and expanded form.

seven hundred
fifty-five
 $700 + 50 + 5$

Hank Aaron retired in 1976. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982. How many years after he retired did he get inducted into the Hall of Fame.

6 years

Hank Aaron played in the Negro American League in 1952. He then joined the Major League in 1954. How many years did he play for the Negro American League?

2 years



Places To Visit In Atlanta

Book Tie-in:

- **Atlanta Alibi** takes place in Atlanta. This activity allows students to explore some of the key attractions in this city.

Standards:

- W.2.7 Participate in shared research and writing projects.
- W.2.8 Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
- W.3.7 Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.
- W.3.8 Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.

Objectives:

- Students will use the Internet to find information.
- Students will create an informative poster using research gathered from the Internet.

Procedure:

- Teachers may want to create QR Codes for the first worksheet to help students locate the websites quickly.
- Review with students the following:
 - Using a search engine
 - Appropriate and trustworthy websites
 - Finding information of a website
- Complete the first worksheet using one of the following options:
 - Whole Group
 - Small Group
 - Partners
 - Independent
- After completing the first worksheet, assign one of the key attractions to each student to research further.
 - Complete research
 - Fill out the poster by hand or electronically.

Name: _____



Places to Visit In Atlanta

World of Coca Cola

List three facts about the Coca Cola Polar Bear.

<https://www.worldofcoca-cola.com/explore/explore-inside/explore-coca-cola-polar-bear/>

Children's Museum

What can you do in the Tools for Solutions Exhibit?

<https://childrensmuseumatlanta.org/experiences/tools-for-solutions/>

Legoland

List three activities you can do at Legoland.

<https://www.legolanddiscoverycenter.com/atlanta/>

Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park

What do you need to do to become a Junior Ranger?

<https://www.nps.gov/malu/learn/kid-youth/beajuniorranger.htm>

Name: _____



Places to Visit In Atlanta

Answer Key

World of Coca Cola

List three facts about the Coca Cola Polar Bear.

- Take pictures with the bear
- First print ad in 1922 in France
- Modern bear in 1993

Children's Museum

What can you do in the Tools for Solutions Exhibit?

- Build it Lab
- Ball Machine
- Construction House
- City Blocks

Legoland

List three activities you can do at Legoland.

- Lego Racers
- Kingdom Quest Ride
- 4D Movie

Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park

What do you need to do to become a Junior Ranger?

Complete a Junior Ranger packet and be sworn in by a Park Ranger.

Name:



Location

Cost

Place Photo
Here

Hours

Things To Do