



Hank's Homers

Henry, or Hank, Aaron is known as the home run king of baseball and was the first black man to gain this type of fame.

Born on February 5, 1934, in Mobile, Alabama, Aaron began his career in the Negro League, and then became part of the Major League in 1954. During his Major League Baseball career, Aaron spent 23 years playing for the Milwaukee Braves (now the Atlanta Braves) and Milwaukee Brewers. He set many of baseball's most prominent records: runs batted in, extra base hits, total bases, and most years with 30 or more home runs. He is also one of the top five players for career hits and runs.

But perhaps Aaron's most notable achievement was breaking Babe Ruth's home run record. On April 8, 1974, Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run, which broke Ruth's record of 714. This was a momentous event for both baseball and the black community. But, unfortunately, Aaron couldn't enjoy it as much as he should have. He was threatened and bothered by racists who were not happy that a black man had broken Ruth's record.

Until 2007, Aaron also held the record for most career home runs: 755. That was the year when another baseball great, Barry Bonds, finally broke Aaron's amazing feat by hitting his 756th home run.

In 1975, Aaron retired from Major League Baseball. Among the many honors he's been granted, Aaron was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982. He also was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002. Major League Baseball even created an award that honors Hank Aaron, which is named after him and is given annually to the best overall hitter in each league.

Match each year to the event that happened.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1974 | Henry (Hank) Aaron was born. |
| 1982 | Hank Aaron was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. |
| 2002 | Barry Bonds broke Hank Aaron's career home run record. |
| 2007 | Hank Aaron started playing for the Major League. |
| 1954 | Hank Aaron was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. |
| 1934 | Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run. |