

# **Hank Aaron Activity Bundle**

## **Integrated Reading and**

## **CRITICAL THOUGHT**

## **Activities**

**For Grades 5 – 8**

Reading Comprehension Passage with ten multiple choice questions

Virtual History Teacher: Elaborating on the life of Hank Aaron

Geo-Discovery: Where were the important places in Aaron's life?

Baseball Card Math: Make calculations and observations based on his actual statistics

**FOUR INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES**

**Perfect for Interactive Notebooks**

**Perfect for Morning Work or Assessments**

**MR. NUSSBAUM**  
LEARNING + FUN

## ANSWERS

Name	Answers
Hank Aaron Reading Comprehension	C, B, D, D, D, C, A, D, B, B

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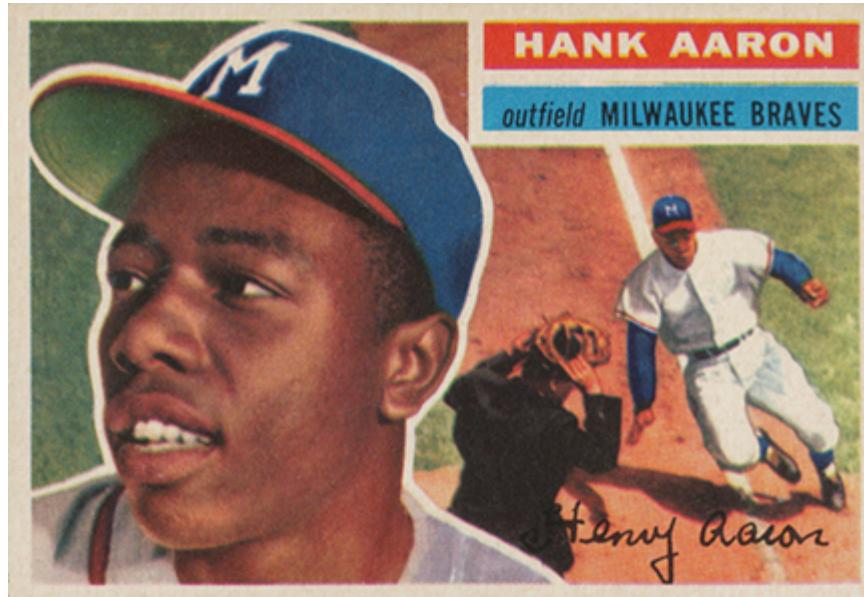
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Hank Aaron Baseball Card Math.** Use the chart below to answer the questions. These are REAL statistics!



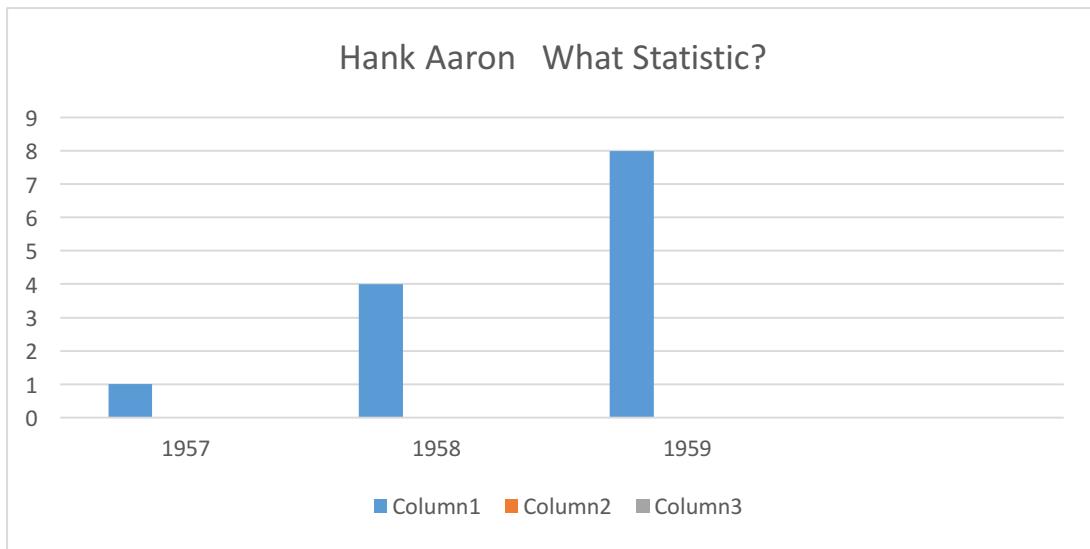
Year	At-Bats	Hits	Doubles	Triples	Home Runs	RBI's	Runs Scored	Walks	Stolen Bases
1957	615	198	27	6	44	132	118	57	1
1958	601	196	34	4	30	95	109	59	4
1959	629	223	46	7	39	123	116	51	8

Questions:

1. How many total at-bats did Hank Aaron have in the three years combined?
2. How many SINGLES did Hank Aaron have in 1958? Singles are all of the hits that ARE NOT home runs, doubles, or triples.

3. Did Hank Aaron have more RBI's or runs scored in the three years show above? How many more?

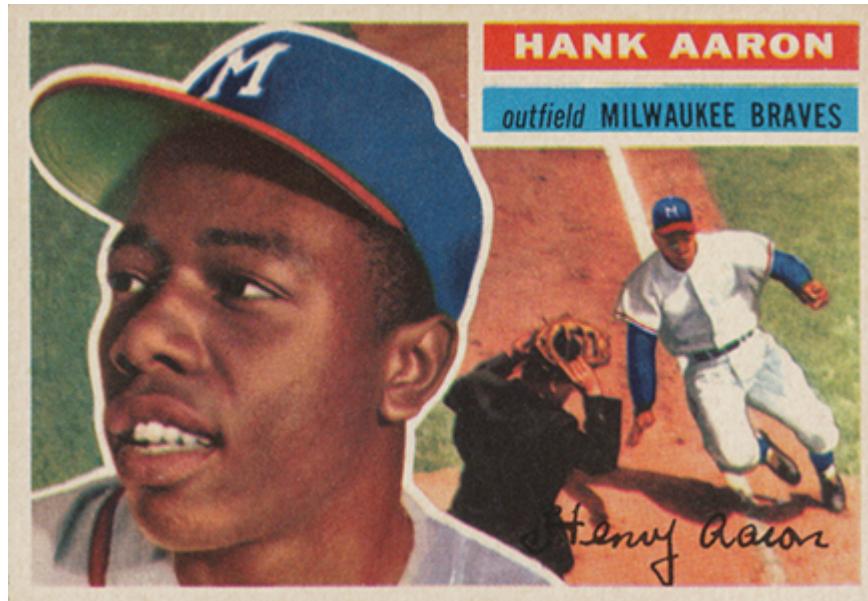
4. What does the graph below show? \_\_\_\_\_



5. Which statistics seemed to decline in 1958 from 1957, but then increased in 1959 from 1958?

## ANSWERS

**Hank Aaron Baseball Card Math.** Use the chart below to answer the questions. These are REAL statistics!



Year	At-Bats	Hits	Doubles	Triples	Home Runs	RBI's	Runs Scored	Walks	Stolen Bases
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Questions:

1. How many total at-bats did Hank Aaron have in the three years combined?

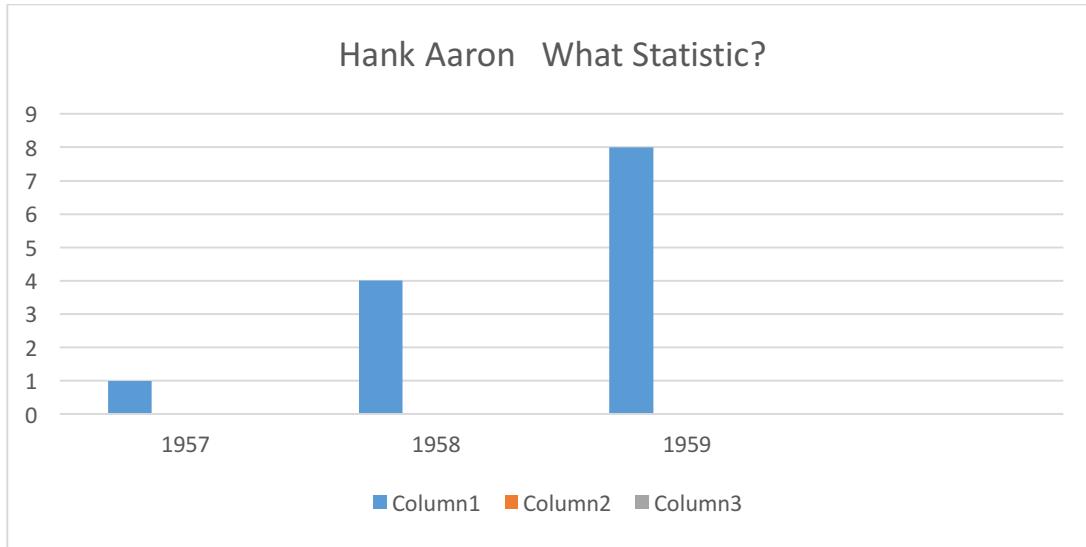
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2. How many SINGLES did Hank Aaron have in 1958? Singles are all of the hits that ARE NOT home runs, doubles, or triples.

128

3. Did Hank Aaron have more RBI's or runs scored in the three years show above? How many more? RBI's – 7 more

4. What does the graph below show?



### Stolen Bases

5. Which statistics seemed to decline in 1958 from 1957, but then increased in 1959 from 1958?

At bats, hits, triples, home runs, RBI's, runs scored.

**Virtual History Teacher**  
**Hank Aaron Test**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: You are playing the role of a history teacher who is grading the test below. See the questions and your “student’s” answers. Grade the quality of the answers on a scale of 1-4, “1” being a poor answer and “4” being a great answer. For each answer you grade, use your knowledge of Hank Aaron, or, reference the [mrnussbaum.com](http://mrnussbaum.com) online biography, to add the missing pieces.

<b>Question 1: What do you think Hank Aaron's most impressive accomplishment was?</b>	Score:
<b>Student Answer:</b> He hit a lot of home runs in his career.	
Your Response:	

<b>Question 2: What are some of the ways in which Hank Aaron is honored for his accomplishments?</b>	Score:
<b>Student Answer:</b> He made the Baseball Hall-of-Fame	
Your Response:	

<b>Question 3: What do you think Hank Aaron might say if you asked him, “What was the biggest disappointment in your career?”</b>	Score:
<b>Student Answer:</b> He had to retire.	
Your Response:	

Answers:

<b>Question 1: What do you think Hank Aaron's most impressive accomplishment was?</b>	Score:
<b>Student Answer:</b> He hit a lot of home runs in his career.	
Your Response: There are many possible answers, but among his most important accomplishments are: hitting 755 career home runs, making 24 all-star games, and having twenty consecutive seasons of hitting 20 or more home runs. He is also the all-time RBI leader.	

<b>Question 2: What are some of the ways in which Hank Aaron is honored for his accomplishments?</b>	Score:
<b>Student Answer:</b> He made the Baseball Hall-of-Fame	
Your Response: Not only did he make the Hall-of-Fame but both the Milwaukee Brewers and Atlanta Braves retired his jersey number. Finally, Turner Field in Atlanta was built at 755 Hank Aaron Way SE.	

<b>Question 3: What do you think Hank Aaron might say if you asked him, "What was the biggest disappointment in your career?"</b>	Score:
<b>Student Answer:</b> He had to retire.	
Your Response: Everyone has to retire at some point. There were few disappointments in Aaron's career, but he might say that he went 0-5 in his major league debut, or, that he was forced to endure prejudice. He'd probably say, however, that the biggest disappointment was only winning one World Series.	

## **HANK AARON Reading Comprehension**

Hank Aaron was born February 5, 1934, in Mobile, Alabama. He was the third of eight children. When his father took him to hear a speech given by Jackie Robinson, Hank committed himself to playing baseball. Aaron showed an early propensity for sports and played both baseball and football at Central High School in Mobile and Josephine Allen Institute, a private school. Aaron started played semi-pro baseball at age 15 and earned \$10 per day playing for the Mobile Black Bears, an all-black baseball team. In 1951, Aaron was signed by the Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro Baseball League. In 1952, he helped his team to the Negro League World Series.

Aaron became the last Negro League player to make the jump to the Major Leagues when he was signed by the Boston Braves in 1952. By the time that Aaron reached the Majors, the Boston Braves had become the Milwaukee Braves. Aaron played brilliantly in the minor leagues and even became MVP of the South-Atlantic League despite being the constant target of prejudice. In 1954, the Boston Braves called him up to the Major Leagues when left-fielder Bobby Thompson broke his ankle.

Despite going 0–5 in his major league debut (no hits in five at-bats), Aaron was in the Majors to stay. During his first year, he batted .280 (this means he would average 28 hits per 100 at-bats) with 13 home runs. These totals were among the lowest of his amazing career. In 1955, Aaron made his first of 24 All-Star games and batted .314 with 27 home runs. Hank would hit 20 or more home runs for 20 consecutive years. The next year, in Aaron's third year in the Majors, he won the batting title with a .328 average. He was also named the Sporting News National League Player of the Year. 1957 would become one of the best years of his career. After being switched to cleanup (fourth in the batting order), Aaron responded with 44 home runs and 132 RBI's (runs batted in—this means that as a result of something he did with the bat, like get a hit, sacrifice fly, ground out, or walk, a player(s) on his team scored). That year, he led the Milwaukee Braves to their only World Series title. In the years following the World Series, the Milwaukee Braves never again reached the playoffs. Nevertheless, Aaron continued to establish himself as one of the game's great hitters and began amassing impressive batting statistics. In 1962, the Milwaukee Braves moved to Atlanta and became the Atlanta Braves.

Despite the move to Atlanta, the Braves never made another World Series during Aaron's career. Many fans in Atlanta, however, were satisfied by watching Hank's on-field heroics. In 1970, Hank became the first player in history to get 3,000 hits and 500 home runs in a career. By the end of 1973, he had accumulated 713 home runs. He was only two away from eclipsing the most hallowed record in American sports—Babe Ruth's career home run record. On April 4, 1974, at the age of 40, Aaron hit a pitch from Los Angeles Dodger pitcher Al Downing over the left field fence in Atlanta's Fulton County Stadium. He had broken Babe Ruth's record. To this day, one of the most memorable highlights in sports history is the image of Aaron's rounding second base with two fans running after him trying to congratulate him. After the 1974 season, Hank played two more years with the Milwaukee Brewers. He ended his career with 755 home runs (the record still stands but is in jeopardy of being broken by Barry Bonds). He remains the all-time leader in RBIs with 2,297. On August 1, 1982, Hank Aaron was inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. Both the Braves and Brewers retired (which means no one can wear it again) his uniform number "44." Today, Turner Field (Atlanta's new stadium) is located at 755 Hank Aaron Drive SE.

**1.) How many younger brothers and sisters did Hank Aaron have?**

- a.) 3
- b.) 4
- c.) 5
- d.) 6

**2.) Which of the following baseball teams did Hank Aaron not play for?**

- a.) Indianapolis Clowns
- b.) Boston Brewers
- c.) Atlanta Braves
- d.) Milwaukee Brewers

**3.) When Hank Aaron made the major leagues, the Boston Braves had become the...**

- a.) Boston Brewers
- b.) Milwaukee Brewers
- c.) Indianapolis Clowns
- d.) Milwaukee Braves

**4.) What does "debut" mean?**

- a.) His last appearance
- b.) His first appearance
- c.) A bad appearance
- d.) A good appearance

**5.) How many home runs did Hank Aaron hit his first year?**

- a.) 27
- b.) 44
- c.) 32
- d.) 13

**6.) Which of the following must be true?**

- a.) Hank hit at least 20 home runs in 1977.
- b.) Hank hit at least 20 home runs in 1952.
- c.) Hank hit at least 20 home runs in 1960.
- d.) All of the answers are correct.

**7.) What phrase would describe Hank Aaron's batting statistics during his first year in the major leagues?**

- a.) Uncharacteristically low
- b.) Uncharacteristically high
- c.) About average
- d.) Very high

**8.) In 1955, Aaron...**

- a.) made his first All-Star Game.
- b.) batted .314.
- c.) hit 27 home runs.
- d.) All of the answers are correct.

**9.) How many times was Hank Aaron on a team that won the World Series?**

- a.) 0
- b.) 1
- c.) 2
- d.) 3

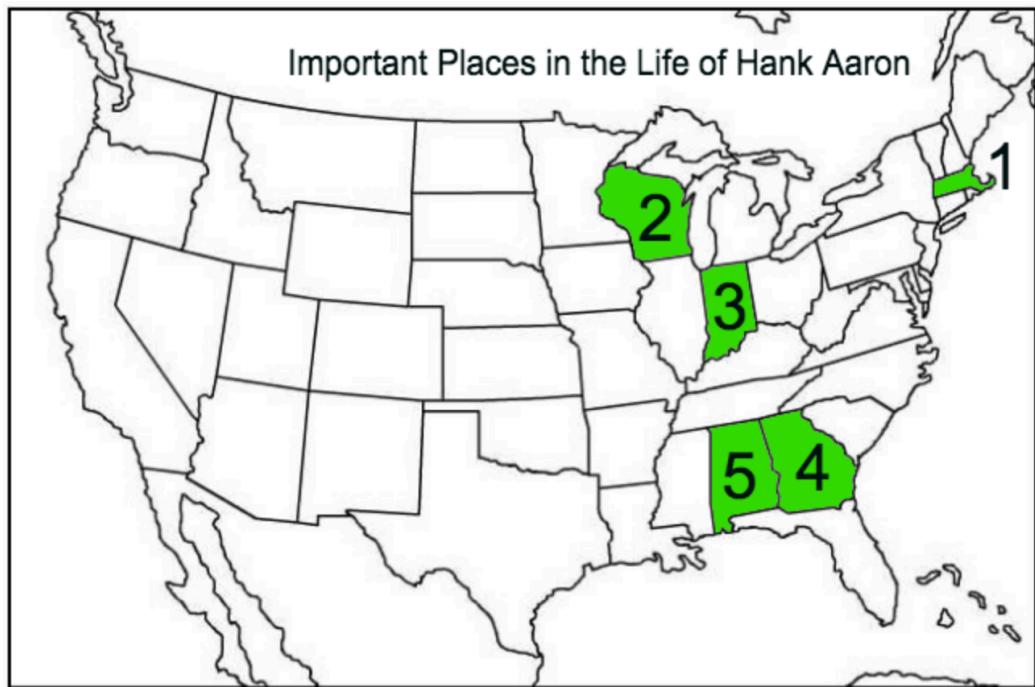
**10.) What happened last?**

- a.) Hank Aaron hit his 755th home run.
- b.) Hank Aaron was elected into the Hall of Fame.
- c.) April 4, 1974
- d.) Hank joined the Milwaukee Brewers.

**Geo-Discovery**  
**Hank Aaron**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

These are the important states in Hank Aaron's Life. Identify each state on the numbered blanks below. The names of the states are listed above.

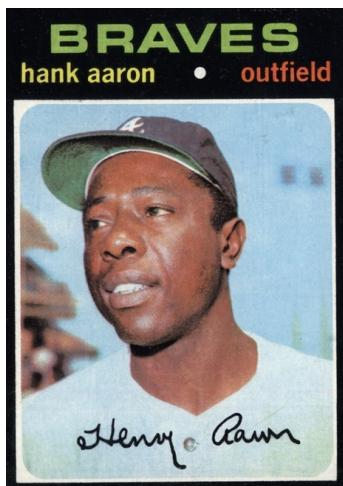


States
Indiana
Wisconsin
Massachusetts
Alabama
Georgia
What state is it?
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Read the Hank Aaron biography. What important things happened in Hank's life in each state?

Indiana (Indianapolis)	
Wisconsin (Milwaukee)	

Massachusetts (Boston)	
Georgia (Atlanta)	
Alabama (Mobile)	



## Early Life

Hank Aaron was born February 5, 1934, in Mobile, Alabama. He was the third of eight children. When his father took him to hear a speech given by Jackie Robinson, Hank committed himself to playing baseball. Aaron showed an early propensity for sports and played both baseball and football at Central High School in Mobile and Josephine Allen Institute, a private school. Aaron started played semi-pro baseball at age 15 and earned \$10 per day playing for the Mobile Black Bears, an all-black baseball team. In 1951, Aaron was signed by the Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro Baseball League. In 1952, he helped his team to the Negro League World Series.

## Called up to the Majors

Aaron became the last Negro League player to make the jump to the Major Leagues when he was signed by the Boston Braves in 1952. By the time that Aaron reached the majors, the Boston Braves had become the Milwaukee Braves. Aaron played brilliantly in the minor leagues and even became MVP of the South Atlantic League despite being the constant target of prejudice. In 1954, the Milwaukee Braves called him up to the Major Leagues when left fielder Bobby Thompson broke his ankle. Despite going 0-5 in his Major League debut (no hits in five at bats), Aaron was in the majors to stay. During his first year, he batted .280 (this means he would average 28 hits per 100 at bats) with 13 home runs. These totals were among the lowest of his amazing career. In 1955, Aaron made his first of 24 All-Star games and batted .314 with 27 home runs. Hank would hit 20 or more home runs for 20 consecutive years. The next year, in Aaron's third year in the majors, he won the batting title with a .328 average. He was also named the Sporting News National League Player of the Year. 1957 would become one of the best years of his career. After being switched to cleanup (fourth in the batting order), Aaron responded with 44 home runs and 132 RBIs (runs batted in—this means that as a result of something he did with the bat, like get a hit, sacrifice fly, ground out, or walk, a player(s) on his team scored). That year, he led the Milwaukee Braves to their only World Series title. In the years following the World Series, the Milwaukee Braves never again reached the playoffs. Nevertheless, Aaron continued to establish himself as one of the game's great hitters and began amassing impressive batting statistics. In 1962, the Milwaukee Braves moved to Atlanta and became the Atlanta Braves.

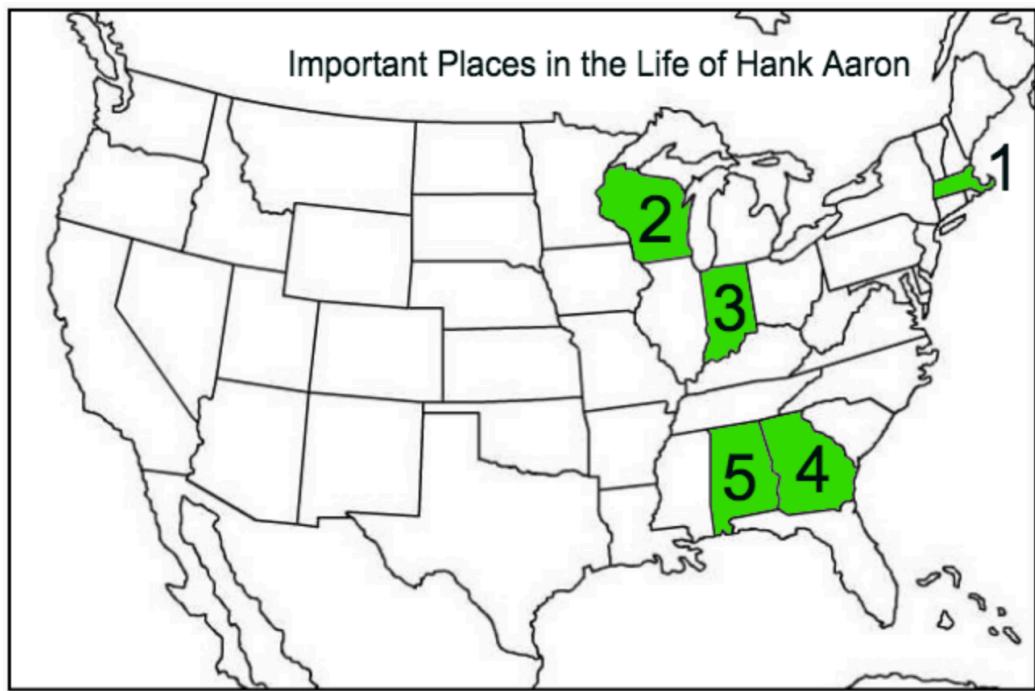
## Home Run Record

Despite the move to Atlanta, the Braves never made another World Series during Aaron's career. Many fans in Atlanta, however, were satisfied by watching Hank's on-field heroics. In 1970, Hank became the first player in history to get 3,000 hits and 500 home runs in a career. By the end of 1973, he had accumulated 713 home runs. He was only two away from eclipsing the most hallowed record in American sports - Babe Ruth's career home run record. On April 8, 1974, at the age of 40, Aaron hit a pitch from Los Angeles Dodger pitcher Al Downing over the left field fence in Atlanta's Fulton County Stadium. He had broken Babe Ruth's record. To this day, one of the most memorable highlights in sports history is the image of Aaron rounding second base with two fans running after him trying to congratulate him. After the 1974 season, Hank played two more years with the Milwaukee Brewers. He ended his career with 755 home runs (the record has now been eclipsed by Barry Bonds). He remains the all-time leader in RBIs with 2,297. On August 1, 1982, Hank Aaron was inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. Both the Braves and Brewers retired (which means no one can wear it again) his uniform number "44." Today, Turner Field is located at 755 Hank Aaron Drive SE.

## Geo-Discovery Hank Aaron

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Cities, States
Indiana
Wisconsin
Massachusetts
Alabama
Georgia
What state is it?
1. Massachusetts
2. Wisconsin
3. Indiana
4. Georgia
5. Alabama

Read the Hank Aaron biography. What important things happened in Hank's life in each state?

Indiana (Indianapolis)	Indianapolis was where Hank Aaron's professional baseball career started. He was signed by the Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro Leagues in 1951. He led the team to the Negro League World Series
Wisconsin (Milwaukee)	The Milwaukee Braves was Hank's first professional baseball team. He played on the Milwaukee Braves until 1962, when the team moved to Atlanta. It was in Milwaukee where Aaron won his only World Series title. He would eventually play again in Milwaukee when he played for the Milwaukee Brewers at the end of his career.

Massachusetts (Boston)	The Boston Braves was the first major league team to sign Hank Aaron. The team signed him in 1952, but by the time Hank was in the major leagues, the team had become the Milwaukee Braves.
Georgia (Atlanta)	Hank played many seasons in Atlanta for the Atlanta Braves. It was here, where he broke Babe Ruth's career home run record. Today, Turner Field in Atlanta is located at 755 Hank Aaron Way SE.
Alabama (Mobile)	Hank Aaron was born in Mobile, Alabama, in 1934. He played baseball and football in Mobile.