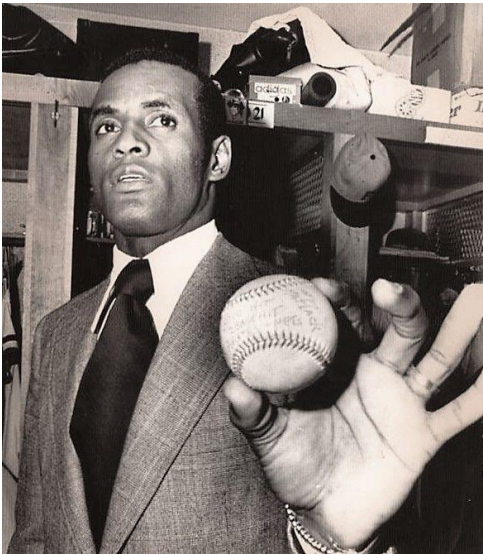


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Biographies: Roberto Clemente Walker*



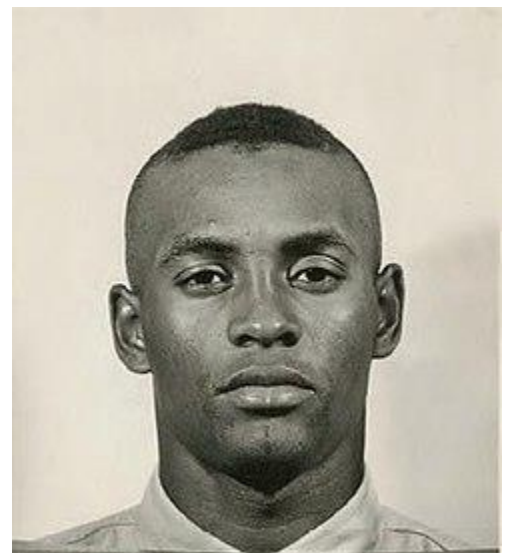
Roberto Enrique Clemente Walker was born on August 18, 1934, in Barrio San Anton, Carolina, Puerto Rico. His father, Melchor Clemente, was the foreman of a sugar plantation, and his mother, Luisa Walker, ran a small grocery store. Roberto was the youngest of seven children.

When he was young, Roberto excelled in sports, throwing the javelin, and running in track, but baseball was his favorite. After high school, Roberto played for the Cangrejeros de Santurce in Puerto Rico. During that time, he caught the attention of the major league scouts.

In 1954, Roberto signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers and played on their minor league with a bonus of \$10,000. Because of a rule the major league had at that time, Roberto could be drafted by another team the next season. The Pittsburgh Pirates watched the young talent, and on November 22, 1954, drafted him for only \$4,000 and put his name on the roster.

When Roberto was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates, they were in last place in the National League, with over 100 losses in the 1954 season. During his first 5 years on the team (1955 - 1959), Roberto improved his batting skills. In 1960, the Pittsburgh Pirates faced the New York Yankees in the World Series and defeated the Yankees in the seventh game.

While on the Pittsburgh Pirates team, Roberto Clemente proved his skills by making 200 hits in four seasons and achieving his 3000th hit in 1972, the last year of his career. Only ten other players had achieved that milestone at that time. Roberto also stood out for his amazing catches, jumps, and throws.





His achievements are even more remarkable considering the discrimination Roberto Clemente overcame in a society in which he had to eat in restaurants and stay in hotels that were for people of his skin color.

Sometimes, the Puerto Rican was mocked because of his strong Spanish accent while speaking English. Roberto was proud of his heritage. He did not like being called Bob; he preferred to be called Roberto. Roberto was always a defender of equality in the treatment of

Latin American players.

Roberto Clemente played with the Pittsburgh Pirates for 18 seasons until his death in 1972. His record with that team 2433 games, with 9454 at-bats; scored 1416 runs; he made 3000 hits and 250 home runs. He played in two World Series, in 1960 and 1971. He was named batting champion four times, Most Valuable Player of the National League in 1966, won the Gold Glove twelve times, and was Most Valuable Player of the 1971 World Series.

On December 23, 1972, the city of Managua, capital of Nicaragua, was shaken by an earthquake. This motivated Roberto to carry a shipment of aid for those affected. He decided to go personally because of news reports that the Nicaraguan military had poorly managed other international shipments.

Unfortunately, Roberto met a tragic death when the plane he had chartered to take aid to the victims of the earthquake crashed into the sea a few minutes after taking off from the airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on December 31, 1972, (New Year's Eve). Roberto Clemente was 38 years old.

The Roberto Clemente Award, an award renamed in his honor, is given every year to the player who shows great baseball skills and does community work.

Roberto showed his humanitarian beliefs when he said, "When you have the opportunity to improve any situation, and you do not, you are wasting your time on Earth."

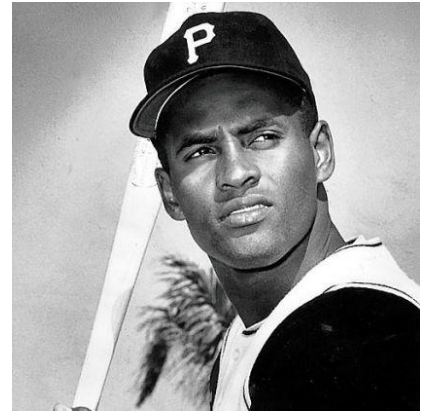


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Which team did Roberto play for his entire major league career?

- a. Cangrejeros de Santurce
- b. Brooklyn Dodgers
- c. Pittsburgh Pirates
- d. New York Yankees

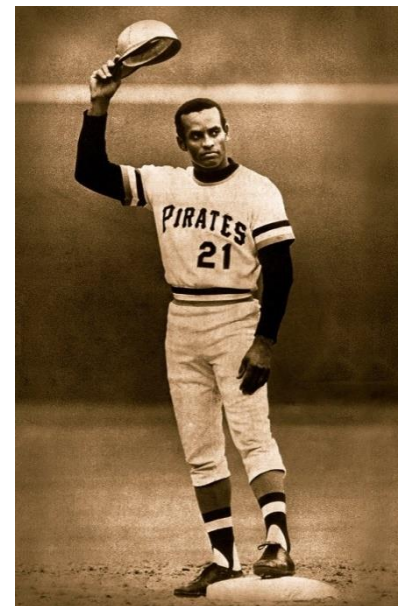


2. How many hits did Roberto make until 1972?

- a. 200
- b. 250
- c. 2433
- d. 3000

3. How many runs did Roberto score with the Pittsburgh Pirates?

- a. 1416
- b. 1972
- c. 2433
- d. 3000



4. Roberto Clemente died while trying to take a shipment of humanitarian aid to Nicaragua.

- a. True
- b. False

5. How much did the Pittsburgh Pirates pay for Roberto in 1954?

- a. \$2,000
- b. \$4,000
- c. \$8,000
- d. \$10,000

