

**The Yogi Berra
Museum & Learning
Center is right next door!**

Plan an exciting class trip to this interactive education center, located in Little Falls, New Jersey. Go to yogiberramuseum.org to find out about our educational tours and workshops for students.

It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over

A social studies and character development program

Share Yogi Berra's incredible life story with your 3rd through 5th graders. This social studies and character development program will help them discover how a working class kid became an American hero and a role model for millions.

Look inside for:

- Classroom poster
- Lesson plans and student worksheets
- Family materials



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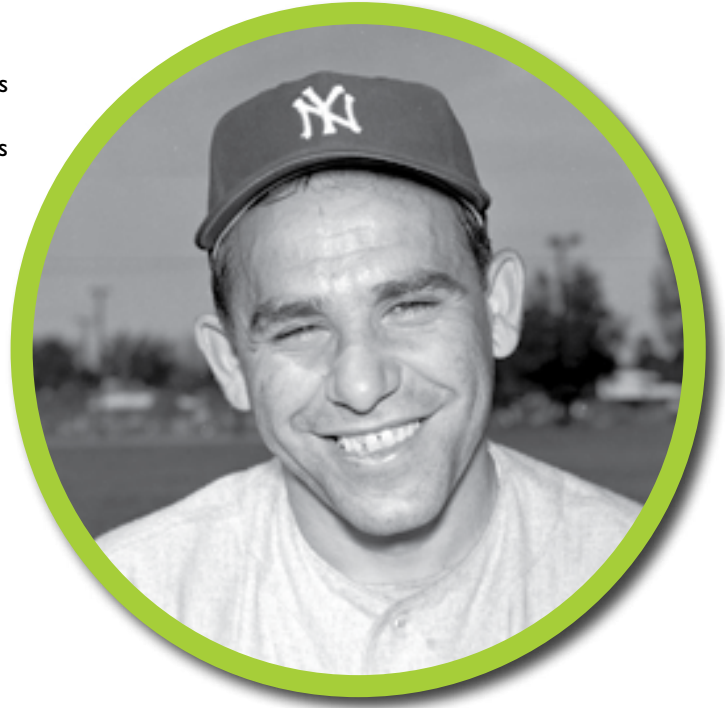
Dear Teachers,

Welcome to **It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over**, a social studies and character development program based on the life of baseball great and American hero Yogi Berra. These lessons and worksheets were developed for grades 3–5 by the Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center.

Throughout the program, students will learn about our shared American heritage and the values that unite us as a country.

They will also learn how far *determination, teamwork, respect, and good citizenship* can take them and find ways to improve these characteristics within themselves.

It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over meets New Jersey state standards in social studies and life skills, and is filled with worksheets, lesson plans, and information for families. We hope that you and your students enjoy this dynamic curriculum and plan a class trip to visit the Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center in person!



Sincerely,

Yogi Berra
Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center

New Jersey Education Standards for Grades 3–5

Standard	Benchmark	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3
21st-Century Life and Career Skills				
Accountability, Productivity, and Ethics	Ethical behaviors support human rights and dignity in all aspects of life.	X	X	X
Creativity and Innovation	The ability to recognize a problem and apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills to solve the problem is a lifelong skill that develops over time.		X	X
	Brainstorming activities enhance creative and innovative thinking in individual and group goal setting and problem solving.	X		X
Social Studies				
Civics, Government, and Human Rights	The United States democratic system requires active participation of its citizens.			X
	In an interconnected world, it is important to consider different cultural perspectives before proposing solutions to local, state, national, and global challenges.			X
History, Culture, and Perspectives	Personal, family, and community history is a source of information for individuals about the people and places around them.	X	X	X
	The study of American folklore and popular historical figures enables Americans with diverse cultural backgrounds to feel connected to a national heritage.	X	X	
	American culture, based on specific traditions and values, has been influenced by the behaviors of different cultural groups living in the United States.	X	X	

Source: 2009 New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards

Lesson Overviews

Lesson One: Our American Heritage

Goals: Explore the common heritage and values that all Americans share

Time required: 40 minutes

Materials required: Yogi Berra (1925–present) Worksheet 1, pen/pencil, paper

Getting Started:

1. Ask: *Do you think that we're all raised with the same set of values?* Discuss the idea that all Americans, regardless of family background and race, share a set of common values (e.g., being nice, working hard, playing fair, being helpful, following rules). On the board, make a list of values that students feel are common to everyone.
2. Ask: *Are you surprised that there are shared values in communities across a state as big as New Jersey? Why do you think this is true?* Point out that Americans share more than just values; they also share traditions and heritage. Define *heritage* (common traditions) and discuss how it connects to shared values.

Using the Student Worksheets:

3. Distribute **Yogi Berra (1925–present)** Worksheet 1. Read the article together, then divide students into several small teams.
4. Give each team five minutes to complete the activity on the worksheet.

Wrap-up:

5. Ask: *Do you think that everyday traditions might be important for bringing people together? Why or why not?*
6. Create a list of ways that conflicts might be avoided or overcome by sharing traditions or stories, and reminding others of our shared heritage.

Lesson Two: It Takes Character

Goals: Discuss cultural role models and the importance of character in oneself and others

Time required: 40 minutes

Materials required: It Takes Character Worksheet 2, pen/pencil, paper, art supplies, **It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over** Reproducible Family Page

Getting Started:

1. Ask: *Do you admire any athletes, actors, or musicians?* Discuss why it can sometimes be hard to find a good role model. Ask: *What do you want from a role model?*
2. Explain that Yogi Berra is well known for his positive character traits. Throughout his long career, and into the present, he has demonstrated *determination, sportsmanship, valuing teamwork, respect for himself and others, and good citizenship.*
3. Write these character traits on the board and, as a class and with the help of a dictionary, write definitions of each.

Using the Student Worksheets:

4. Distribute **It Takes Character** Worksheet 2 and read the articles together. Then ask students to select a character trait they would like to have.
5. Divide the class into small teams, according to their selected character traits. Assist teams in completing the activity.

Wrap-up:

6. Provide time for each team to give a short presentation of their poster.
7. Distribute copies of the Reproducible Family Page **It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over** to each student. Encourage them to share what they have learned about Yogi Berra with their families.

Lesson Three: Be an All-Star Citizen

Goals: Explore what it means to be a good citizen

Time required: 40 minutes

Materials required: Be an All-Star Citizen Worksheet 3

Getting Started:

1. Ask: *Do you think it is necessary to support your community, state, and nation? Why or why not?* Discuss the role of citizenship in daily life.
2. Explain that Yogi Berra has always supported not only his family and teammates, but also his community. Yogi is a leader who supports education, youth sports, and many charities. He believes that, as an American citizen, he has important responsibilities.
3. Ask: *What are ways that young people and adults can be good citizens?*
4. If you'd like to explore the topic of citizenship further, discuss *ethics*. Start with a dictionary definition of ethics. Next ask: *What is ethical behavior?*

Using the Student Worksheets:

5. Distribute **Be an All-Star Citizen** Worksheet 3. Divide the class into teams and explain: *Each team will complete a short research project that explores different ways to be a good citizen.* Assign each team a different "community" to focus on: the state of New Jersey, your city, your neighborhood, your school, or your family.
6. Remind students that a good research project is well organized.
7. Encourage them to be thoughtful and creative in their presentations.

Wrap-up:

8. Instruct students to write a schedule for a personal plan. The plan should have specific goals and dates when those goals will be accomplished.

Name : _____



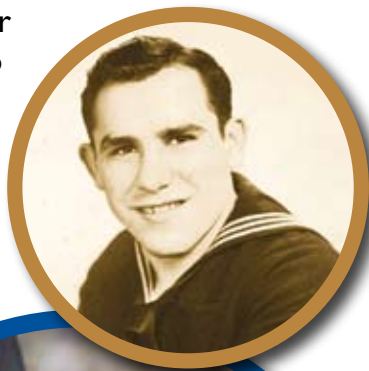
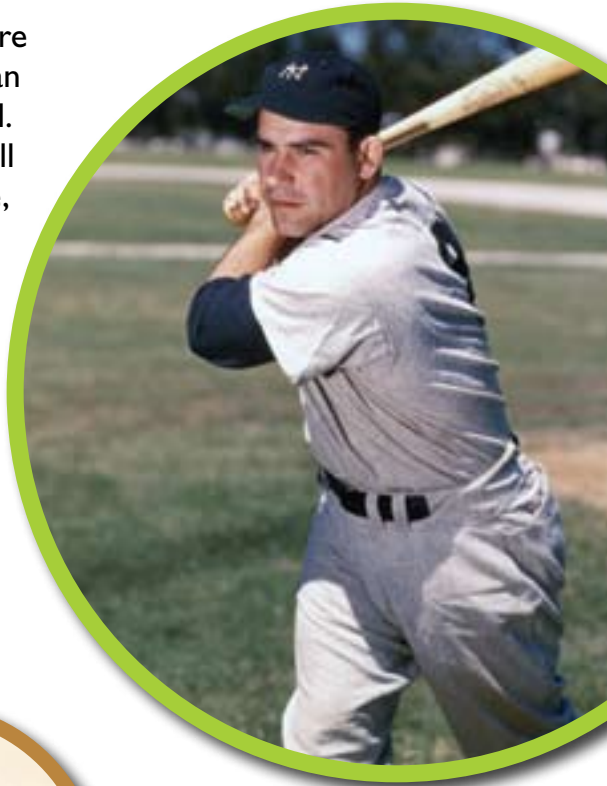
Yogi Berra (1925–present)

The vacant lots where Yogi Berra played baseball in his bare feet don't look like the training ground of a great American hero, but they were. From an early age, Yogi loved baseball. He practiced his skills playing games and "sandlot" baseball with his friends. However, he hardly looked like an athlete, and many thought he was too short and awkward to play in the big leagues. But with hard work and determination, Yogi would become one of baseball's greatest success stories.

Growing up during the Great Depression—the tough times of the 1930s—was difficult. Yogi lived in a part of St. Louis, Missouri, called "The Hill," a neighborhood of hardworking Italian immigrants. There was little money, and Yogi left school in the eighth grade to go to work and help his family.

But Yogi kept playing baseball whenever he could, and in 1943 he was signed to a contract by the New York Yankees' minor-league team. However, Yogi made another sacrifice—he joined the U.S. Navy to fight in World War II. One year after the war ended, he joined the Yankees, and would become one of the game's most beloved figures.

Today Yogi continues to help and inspire others. The traditions of hard work and determination that came from Yogi's childhood helped to make him an American hero.



Activity:

Gather your team. Each of you should write a list of 10 traditions practiced by your family or community.

When you're finished, read your lists aloud and compare them. Every time you find a tradition you share with someone else, you both get a point. Compare the point totals from each team.

Name : _____



It Takes Character

ASTOUNDING!

Five Championships in a Row!

October 6, 1953



With their 4–3 win against the Brooklyn Dodgers yesterday the New York Yankees won their fifth World Series championship in a row. Catcher Yogi Berra had another great series.

Mr. Berra has been one of the league's best hitters all season. He is known to swing at any pitch. His fearlessness and

determination are part of what inspires his fans. This latest win adds another championship to his great career.

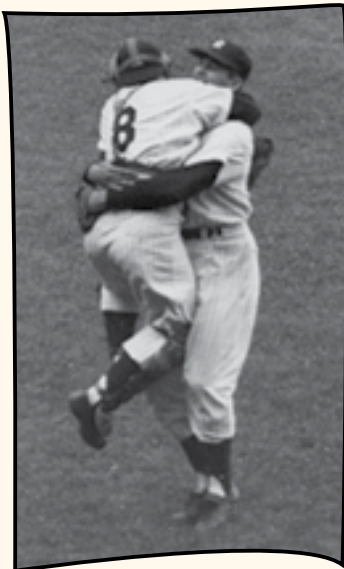
Activity:

Choose a character trait you would like to improve. Discuss different ways to develop this character trait and encourage it in others. Create a poster showing your path to success. The path can include a map, a flowchart, or pictures.

AMAZING!

Yogi Catches Perfect Game in World Series!

October 9, 1956



History was made at Yankee Stadium yesterday. New York Yankees catcher Yogi Berra caught a perfect game from pitcher Don Larsen. The Brooklyn Dodgers didn't reach base once, and Mr. Berra handled every pitch perfectly. This is the first time in history a perfect game has occurred during a World Series.

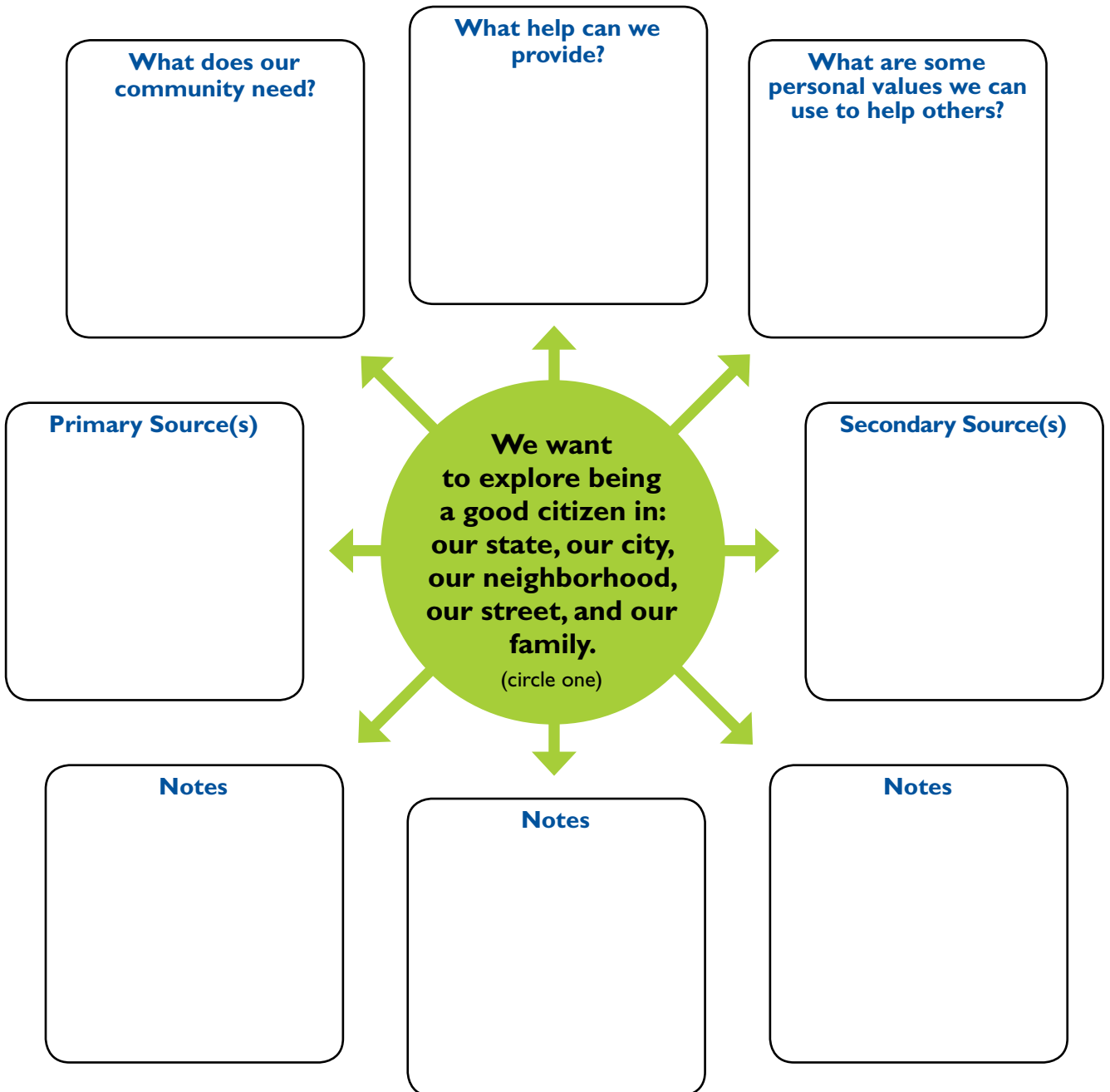
Mr. Berra showed great determination and focus in every inning. Despite the heavy pressure of the World Series, he stayed calm and worked with his pitcher. It was clear yesterday that Mr. Berra values teamwork and helping his fellow players.

Name : _____



Be an All-Star Citizen

Yogi Berra was an all-star citizen, and you can be, too! Choose a community that your team would like to help. Then create a specific plan showing how you can make a difference!



Not enough room? Just copy this organizer onto another sheet of paper.

Yogi Berra in the Classroom



Yogi Berra came from modest beginnings and worked hard to become one of the greatest baseball players of all time and a model citizen. Through personal sacrifice, a positive mind-set, and strong values, he became a role model for generations of Americans.

Yogi Berra was born in 1925 in “The Hill” section of St. Louis, Missouri, an enclave of hard-working Italian immigrants trying to realize the American dream. His life story is a guided tour of some of the most important events of the 20th century, including:

- The Great Depression
- World War II
- The golden age of television
- The civil rights movement of the 1960s
- The digital revolution of the 1980s through the present

Yogi Berra’s life experience and exemplary character can teach us all something about being a good citizen to both our nation and our neighbors.

Why visit the Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center?

Yogi Berra’s values, extraordinary accomplishments, and lifelong commitment to the education of young people are the inspiration and foundation of the **Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center (YBMLC)**. Since officially opening its doors on December 4, 1998, the **YBMLC** has become a hugely popular destination for sports fans and educators alike.

Like Yogi Berra himself, the **YBMLC** appeals to all generations. It’s a nostalgic return to a time when baseball was just a game. And it’s a stimulating learning environment for thousands of students, the leaders of tomorrow, who are taught the tenets of character development—respect, responsibility, and integrity.

The **Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center** is located on the campus of Montclair State University. Its exhibits and educational programs promote such values as good character, sportsmanship, peer leadership, and citizenship.

To schedule a class trip or for more information, visit yogiberramuseum.org.

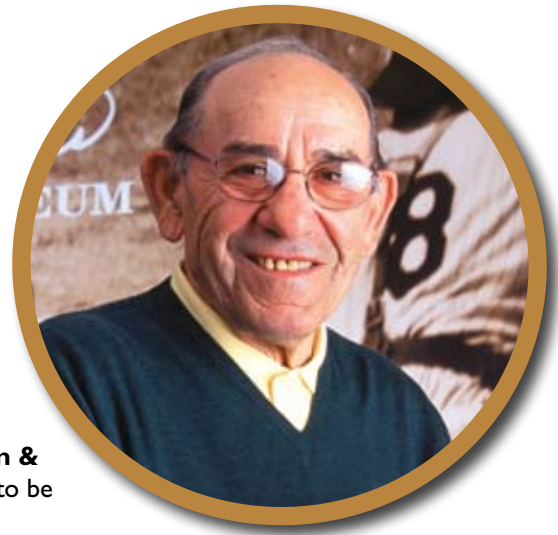


It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over

Dear Families,

In school your child has been learning about citizenship and good character by looking at the life of one of New Jersey's great heroes, Yogi Berra. Created by the **Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center**, this curriculum has been specially made for New Jersey students and families.

Located on the campus of Montclair State University, the **Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center** is a great place for your family to talk about what it means to be an American hero. Plus, it's right next door!



The Great Yogi Scavenger Hunt

Instructions:

Yogi Berra was a great champion *and* a great citizen.

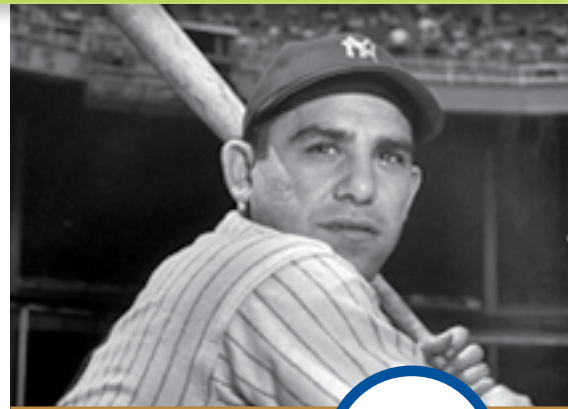
When your family visits the **Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center**, carry this sheet with you and hunt for the following items. Make check marks next to the images of Yogi Berra that you find.

When you're finished, add up your number of check marks. Check the scoring table to see if your "box score" wins!

Keep your eyes peeled and remember what Yogi says: "It ain't over 'til it's over!"

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> in Navy uniform | <input type="checkbox"/> celebrating a victory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> in Yankees uniform | <input type="checkbox"/> with a U.S. president |
| <input type="checkbox"/> catching | <input type="checkbox"/> working with young people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hitting | <input type="checkbox"/> with teammates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> golfing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bowling | |

Find out more about the **Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center** at yogiberramuseum.org.



My box score:



Scoring chart:

- 9–10 check marks = grand slam!
- 7–8 check marks = home run!
- 5–6 check marks = double!
- 1–4 check marks = keep swinging!

Guess what! You can also go to www.yogiberramuseum.org to do this scavenger hunt online.



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**“When you come to a fork
in the road...take it!”**

Yogi Berra

**Be determined.
Be a team player.
Respect yourself and others.
Be a good citizen.**

***The choices you make today
will shape your future.***

Visit the Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center to discover
more about baseball great and American hero Yogi Berra.

yogiberramuseum.org

**Yogi Berra Museum
& Learning Center™**

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