

# Roberto Clemente, A Hero On and Off the Baseball Field

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*Roberto Clemente*

Roberto Clemente was a star baseball player. He was born in Puerto Rico and was the youngest of five children. As a child, he worked alongside his father in the sugar fields. His family soon realized he had talent. Clemente began on baseball. In 1955, the Pittsburgh Pirates selected him to be a part of their Major League Baseball team. He would go on to play for them for 18 seasons!

Clemente was an on the baseball field. He played right fielder and won 12 Gold Glove Awards for his excellence in the outfield. One of his most memorable saves was crashing into the right field wall to catch a ball. Bob Stevens, a

baseball writer, said the catch was “ranking with the greatest of all time ... .”  
This catch helped the Pirates win the game!

Clemente would continue to make amazing saves for his team. He was also an incredible batter and hit several home runs throughout his career. In 1971, the Pirates went to the World Series, the most important game series in Major League Baseball. They played the Baltimore Orioles, a team that was heavily favored to win. Clemente hit a home run and saved many balls in the outfield. The Pittsburgh Pirates won the title!

When he wasn't playing baseball, Roberto Clemente would often fly to Puerto Rico and other parts of Latin America. He would bring all sorts of supplies to these places. He would also teach young children techniques for playing baseball. Many people in Puerto Rico view him as a hero. Clemente died in a plane crash while he was delivering supplies to Nicaragua after an earthquake. He had said, “I want to be remembered as a ball player who gave all he had to give.”

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## Comprehension Questions

1. Who was Roberto Clemente?

- A. a star baseball player from Puerto Rico
- B. a star football player from Puerto Rico
- C. a star baseball player from California
- D. a star swimmer from Puerto Rico

2. What does the author describe in the second paragraph of this text?

- A. Clemente's favorite meal to eat before a game
- B. Clemente's family and their history
- C. Clemente's skill as a right fielder
- D. Clemente's interest in other sports

3. Clemente was good at different parts of playing baseball, which made him such a valuable player overall.

What evidence from the passage supports this conclusion?

- A. "In 1955, the Pittsburgh Pirates selected him to be a part of their Major League Baseball team. He would go on to play for them for 18 seasons!
- B. "[Clemente] played right fielder and won 12 Gold Glove Awards for his excellence in the outfield...He was also an incredible batter and hit several home runs throughout his career."
- C. "Roberto Clemente was a star baseball player. He was born in Puerto Rico and was the youngest of five children."
- D. "In 1971, the Pirates went to the World Series, the most important game series in Major League Baseball."

4. How would you describe Clemente's role on the Pittsburgh Pirates, based on the author's description?

- A. Clemente was an important player for the Pirates because he made many catches that won them games.
- B. Clemente was not an important player for the Pirates because he did not get to play that often.
- C. Clemente was disliked by many fans of the Pirates because he often dropped catches that were important.
- D. Clemente was a quiet but respected player on the Pirates because he didn't speak much but was talented.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Roberto Clemente was a talented baseball player from Puerto Rico who played many successful seasons for the Pittsburgh Pirates.
- B. Roberto Clemente played as a right fielder, which meant that he stood way out in the baseball field to catch balls.
- C. Roberto Clemente was born in Puerto Rico, where he began to focus on baseball at a young age.
- D. The Pittsburgh Pirates won the World Series, the most important game in baseball, against the Baltimore Orioles in 1971.