

# Louis Sockalexis *Native American Baseball Pioneer*

## A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

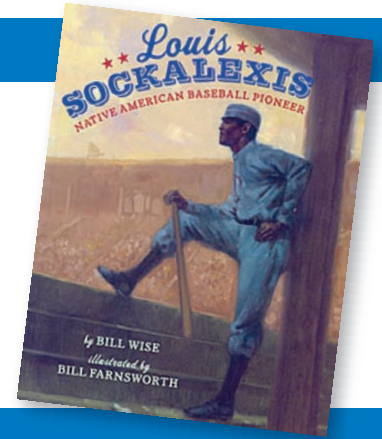
**Themes:** Sports, Perseverance, American Indian History

**Grade Level:** 3rd to 5th grade

**Book Brief:** This book tells the story of Louis Sockalexis, one of the first American Indian players in Major League Baseball.

**Author:**  
Bill Wise

**Illustrator:**  
Bill Farnsworth



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading:** Are any of the kids big baseball fans? Explain that baseball used to be segregated; only white players were welcome in the Major League. Louis Sockalexis was one of the first people to break that color barrier.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### R-E-S-P-E-C-T (AGES 5-12)

Materials: poster board or large sheet of paper, markers or pens

Work with a partner. Make a list of ways that you can show respect to other people, even if you disagree with them or don't like them. Compare your list with other pairs. Make a poster of some of the best ideas.

### STICKBALL (AGES 6-12)



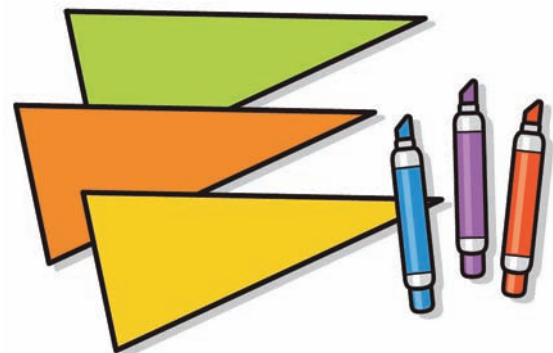
Materials: broomstick or mop handle, tennis or whiffle ball

Set up a game of stickball (rules available online: [www.streetplay.com/rulesheets/stickball](http://www.streetplay.com/rulesheets/stickball)). Bases can be flower pots, corners of the building, manhole covers or whatever else is available. Use a whiffle ball for a safer game. Be sure to monitor children at all times during play.

### PERSONAL PENNANTS (AGES 7-12)

Materials: colored paper cut in the shape of a baseball pennant, markers or crayons

Look at some pennants from famous sports teams. Design your own pennant! Use your favorite colors. Make sure that your name is part of the design. Add a logo or picture that tells something about your interests or strengths. Display your pennant so everyone can see how proud you are to be you!



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT BASEBALL

*Baseball Saved Us*, Ken Mochizuki (1993), *Dirt on Their Skirts*, Doreen Rappaport and Lyndall Callan (2000), *How Georgie Radbourn Saved Baseball*, David Shannon (2000).

### TECHNOLOGY LINK FOR KIDS

[www.rif.org/kids](http://www.rif.org/kids)



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