Most people today recognize Hank Aaron as the man who took the homerun record from Babe Ruth in the 1970s. What most people do not realize is the hardships that Aaron faced during that time period because he was a black man. This research paper will tell of some of the hardships that Hank Aaron went through along with the why many Americans, in this time period, felt so strongly about the game of baseball and its most beloved record.

For many years now people have been fascinated with homeruns; therefore it is only fitting when looking at America’s Pastime to view the all-time homerun record. This record, now held by Barry Bonds, was once held by Henry “Hank” Aaron who took it from Babe Ruth on August 8, 1974. This was a huge event during this time period where America seemed to be climbing out of such a racist country. The hardships Aaron faced were evidence of how racist America still was as a country. Hank went through so much during his journey to becoming the homerun king; he faced discrimination on and off the field, hate mail, along with threats to himself and his family.

Americans have always seemed to be attracted to the game of baseball for many years now. Baseball has been repeatedly referred to as “America’s Pastime.” It was a game that Americans could identify with. During the earlier half of the 1900s people had to harvest crops and hunt animals for food, industry was not everywhere you looked, and people just appeared to enjoy life instead of rushing everywhere as in the busy world we live in today. That is how the game of baseball is as well. It is not run by a clock the way football and basketball games are. Americans have held this game close for so many reasons, and they did not want to see such a prestigious record be taken from a childhood hero and given to an African-American. Despite all of the hardships he faced, Aaron managed to break the homerun record with so many other monumental feats including being inducted into the Hall of Fame. Hank Aaron would forever be remembered for his many accomplishments and his cultural impact with being the first African-American to hold the all-time homerun record.