

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY  
THE FOUNDERS OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
[WWW.ASALH.ORG](http://WWW.ASALH.ORG)

**2020 National Black History Month**

Fontana Unified values the diversity of our students and staff throughout the district. Through this diversity, our students and staff have the opportunity to grow into productive citizens who honor, respect, and value the diversity of others. This month Fontana Unified has the opportunity to explore “African Americans and the VOTE”, the theme for the 2020 National Black History Month. Each school has shared different activities and events occurring throughout the month of February.

The year 2020 marks the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and the culmination of the women’s suffrage movement. The year 2020 also marks the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) and the right of black men to the ballot after the Civil War.

The theme speaks, therefore, to the ongoing struggle on the part of both black men and black women for the right to vote. This theme has a rich and long history, which begins at the turn of the nineteenth century, i.e., in the era of the Early Republic, with the states’ passage of laws that democratized the vote for white men while disfranchising free black men. Thus, even before the Civil War, black men petitioned their legislatures and the US Congress, seeking to be recognized as voters.

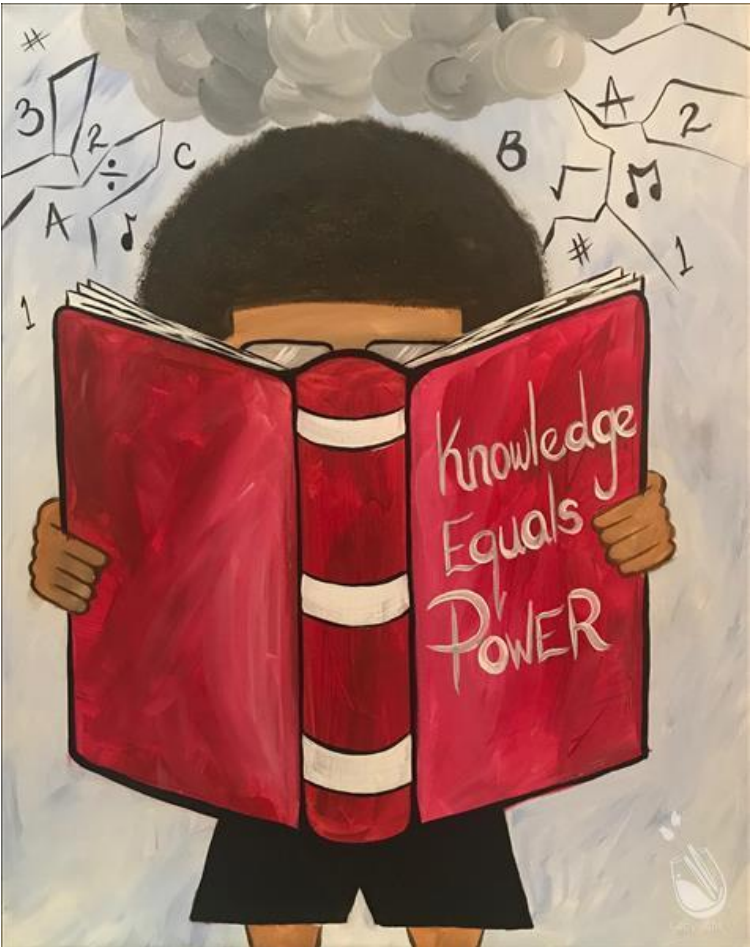
Tensions between abolitionists and women’s suffragists first surfaced in the aftermath of the Civil War, while black disfranchisement laws in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries undermined the guarantees in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments for the great majority of southern blacks until the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The important contribution of black suffragists occurred not only within the larger women’s movement, but within the larger black voting rights movement. Through voting-rights campaigns and legal suits from the turn of the twentieth century to the mid-1960s, African Americans made their voices heard as to the importance of the vote.

Indeed the fight for black voting rights continues in the courts today. The theme of the vote should also include the rise of black elected and appointed officials at the local

and national levels, campaigns for equal rights legislation, as well as the role of blacks in traditional and alternative political parties.

Reprinted from [www.asalh.org](http://www.asalh.org) (Association for the Study of African American Life and History)





# Elementary Schools

## Beech Avenue Elementary

Students at Beech Avenue Elementary school will be celebrating African American History month using primary source materials which illuminate black history and African American scientific discoveries. Using the core curriculum, we will discover our place in history. We will read about great Americans like Martin Luther King Jr, Harriet Tubman, and Ruby Bridges.

After studying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, students create pictures and writing about their dreams for the future. Students will create a short piece of writing to incorporate into a craft. Students read and discuss several short poems by Langston Hughes. They will reflect on their favorite poems.

Older students will read news articles about Harriet Tubman being the new face of the \$20 dollar bill for the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote.

Students will utilize 2 sources in a study of Martin Luther King Jr. They will combine the information from these two sources to answer the prompt, "What did Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. do to help get equality for all Americans?" Students will complete a character analysis of Martin Luther King Jr. They will participate in a gallery walk of quotes from the civil rights era. To conclude, they will participate in discussion of famous Black Americans who have made an impact on American History.

Writing will include character analysis, essays, and reports about pioneers of the civil rights movement. Students will practice speaking skills while presenting their black history gallery walks and participating in class discussion. Social studies will include investigating the Civil Rights Movement and Harriet Tubman's contributions to the Underground Railroad. We will utilize primary source documents and do careful analysis and draft essays to share our new learning. Visual and performing arts will be integrated through picture analysis, poster creation, reader's theater, and opportunities to experience jazz music lessons.

## Kathy Binks Elementary

Teachers at Kathy Binks will discuss with students the history of the African American vote and compare/contrast history to the year 2020.



## Canyon Crest Elementary

Students at Canyon Crest will be integrating Black History month throughout all the grade levels. Various activities include:

- ❖ Kindergarten: The Kindergarten team will listen to a biography about Martin Luther King, Jr. and answer comprehension questions about him. Students will also create a picture of Dr. King using construction paper, glue and scissors.
- ❖ First Grade: Students will learn about important black leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, and George Washington Carver. Students will create thinking maps about what they have learned about each leader. They will also learn about the chosen profession of each leader for career week. Students will also be writing about a profession that they would like to be and what their dreams are.
- ❖ Second Grade: Will watch a video on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They will then have a discussion and then write an essay about the Dr. King and his impact on American History.
- ❖ Third Grade: Students will be watching several videos about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as well as a discussion about Black History Month from Scholastic News. In addition, they will be doing a research project about Dr. King.
- ❖ Fourth Grade: Students will read a different story each day about historic achievements by Black Americans. After each individual story, they will hold class discussions about each story.
- ❖ Fifth Grade: For African American History Month students will do a research project and an art activity on inspiring African American achievers. Students will select an African American achiever from a list. They will research information about

their historical figure, create a poster with information about them along with a drawing of them. They will also create a poem about their historical figure.

### Chaparral Academy of Technology

At Chaparral Elementary there are many exciting things happening at each grade level.

- ❖ Early Childhood Special Day Class: In our EC-SDC classes, we will listen to a poem called “My own two hands” and do an art project that entails painting two hands around quotes from the poem “My own two hands.” We will also listen to and sing a song about Dr. Martin Luther King,
- ❖ Kindergarten: During Black History Month, we will be learning about President Obama through videos, literature, and informational texts. We will research, create a Circle Map Thinking Map, and then do a short writing piece. This will create a valuable connection between Black History Month and Presidents’ Day.
- ❖ First Grade: First grade will be researching (on the Internet and by reading books) famous historical figures, such as: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, George Washington Carver, Harriet Tubman, and Ruby Bridges. They will be writing down interesting facts that they learn about each of these figures.



- ❖ Second Grade: For Black History Month, students will read and answer comprehension questions in Read Works about influential African Americans. Students will also orally present their writing about a famous African American. As a class, they will complete an African American History "Quilt" Poster. Students will learn about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., using Easy Readers from the Social Studies Curriculum. They will use grade level readers from the curriculum to learn about Sojourner Truth, MLK, Harriet Tubman, Maye Jemison, M. M. Bethune, Rosa Parks, and George Washington Carver. They will use these individuals for their writing (two per week). Lastly, they will use a "Holiday" Readers' Theater script for reading. The script honors several different significant African American individuals.
- ❖ Special Day Class: Students will divide into two groups and will create posters about a notable African American historical figure.
- ❖ Third Grade: Each student will pick a famous African American to do a research project on. Students will be reading passages about their famous person, filling out a timeline and graphic organizer, and creating a Sway presentation to present to the class. Research topics will either be on President Barack Obama, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, or Rosa Parks. Students will also be watching Little Rock, Civil Rights Movement, Barack Obama Becomes President, and Harriet Tubman on Discovery Streaming Plus.
- ❖ Fourth Grade: Students will be reading *Our Friend Martin* and discussing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They will also be reading several other children’s books about famous African-Americans or by African-American authors. Afterwards they will be writing biographies. First, they will gather facts on circle maps and write a paragraph to share with their tablemates and their parents about what they learned; significant contributions; and why they should be remembered. Students will then work on a solo project at home: each student is gathering research and writing a five-paragraph essay on a famous African-American of their choice.
- ❖ Fifth Grade: Fifth graders will be working on “Hero Spotlights” by utilizing informational texts; this will cover multiple ELA standards. They will be writing essays about famous African

Americans throughout history. Additionally, they will be working on a section in Wonders that addresses the Civil Rights Movement.



### Citrus Elementary

At Citrus Elementary each grade level has a separate activity planned for their students:

- ❖ Kindergarten: Students will be creating, coloring and reading a mini book on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- ❖ First Grade: Students will be working on Scholastic News January 2020 Edition 1 which is about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It includes his story, a video about his life and achievements and it has a short video on a portion of his “I have a dream” speech. The activities included with this issue also includes comprehension questions on the time life of events in Dr. Kings life, reading checkpoint questions, and comprehension questions.
- ❖ Second Grade: Students will be creating an African American Mural in the cafeteria and then have a critical thinking discussion in regard to the impact and contributions of famous African American to the country and the world including the personalities featured in the mural.
- ❖ Third Grade: Students will be doing close reading passages for famous Black Americans. These include Barack Obama, MLK Jr., Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, Thurgood Marshall, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, George Washington Carver. In addition, teachers will have a power point that goes into the voting issues faced Black Americans and how it affected voters.
- ❖ Fourth Grade: Each classroom will select one or more texts to analyze and discuss with class. Students will use thinking maps to capture the details, facts, and opinions of the results of this part of our American History.

- ❖ Fifth Grade: Students will be reading an article on MLK and his “I Have a Dream” speech. They will complete a timeline of MLK’s life and watch a video on Discovery Streaming followed by a classroom discussion of the events (March on Washington, passing of the Civil Rights Act, receiving the Nobel Peace prize).
- ❖ Sixth Grade: Students will be reading the poem: Rosa (in our Study Sync curriculum) and then look at the poetic structure of the poem.

### Cypress Elementary

During the month of February, a famous African American quote will be read every Monday during Morning Announcements. A school-wide bulletin board will be created with the theme “People Who Made a Difference”. The bulletin board will be displayed in the main student hallway.

Grade levels have the following activities planned:

- ❖ Kindergarten: Students will develop posters depicting notable African-Americans in History
- ❖ First Grade: Students will watch videos and read books about African Americans who played an important role in the black voting rights movement, completing multiple writing assignments and concluding with an art project.
- ❖ Second Grade: Students will generate writing samples along with presentations using Sway.
- ❖ Third Grade: Students will choose an African American historical figure and create a speech to inform their audience about that person’s contribution to the black suffrage movement.
- ❖ Fourth Grade: Students will complete research projects on the struggles both black men and women endured for the right to vote after the Civil War.
- ❖ Fifth Grade: Students will develop essays focusing on black disfranchisement laws in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

### Date Elementary

Date Elementary has scheduled their events throughout the month of February. These events will be conducted on a weekly base as different school-wide activities, commemorating Black History Month.



- ❖ First Grade: Students will be using a packet that highlights the life and accomplishments of different African Americans. Within these packets, there are opportunities for students to practice close reading skills, create thinking maps, and discuss the text/QAR.
- ❖ Second Grade: Students will be doing close reading with ten informational passages about the Heroes of the Underground Railroad and taking the close reads to writing. Passage topics include the following: The Underground Railroad, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Samul Burris, Levi Coffin, John Fairfield, Thomas Garrett, John Parker, Rev. John Rankin, William Still, and Harriet Tubman.
- ❖ Third Grade: Students will use a PowerPoint presentation titled African Americans and the Vote. The presentation addresses the voting rights legislations and highlights two elected officials and two appointed officials through the use of multimedia. They also have a performance task that addresses these sources. Other activities are scheduled to support this learning.
- ❖ Fourth grade: Students will give weekly class discussions on African Americans and the Vote. They will cover influential African Americans. Time will be given for students to research this topic and come to the discussions prepared with comments, questions, and curiosities. Students and teacher will take turns facilitating the dialogue.
- ❖ Fifth grade: Students will involve students in a research project where students will investigate about non-famous African Americans as it relates to Black history and the vote. Students will participate in Readers' Theater performances on this topic. They will follow-up with art, music, and other theater activities.

### Dolores Huerta International Academy

Scholars at Dolores Huerta International Academy will be focusing on specific groups of influential African Americans throughout history. At the end of the studies, scholars will post their work for display in the Multi-Purpose Room for viewing. Work will be posted in time for viewing at Open House the last week of February

- ❖ Kindergarten: Scholars will focus on Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Ruby Bridges.

- ❖ First Grade: Scholars will be focusing on significant Authors.
- ❖ Second Grade: Scholars will then be researching and learning about historic Artists.
- ❖ Third Grade: Influential leaders will be the focus for the scholars in this grade level.
- ❖ Fourth Grade: Civil Rights Activists who made impressions throughout history.
- ❖ Fifth Grade: Athletes will be the focus for scholars.
- ❖ Sixth Grade: Scholars will be focusing on successful Inventors in sixth grade.

### Dorothy Grant Innovations Academy

Dorothy Grant Innovations Academy will have the honor of participating in the City of Fontana's Black History Month Parade at the end of the month. All students & families are welcomed & encouraged to participate. In addition, some students will be writing essays, creating posters, reciting poetry, creating artwork and reading about monumental figures that have paved the way or made a difference in the history of African Americans.



### Juniper Elementary

Juniper Elementary will pay homage to Black History Month engaging students in several activities.

- ❖ Teachers will work with students on creating an "I Have a Dream" chain. Students will be provided with construction paper strips to write their dream on. These will then be linked together and displayed in the cafeteria. Each grade level will be represented by a different color.
- ❖ A "My Dream is...." wall be designed in the cafeteria.
- ❖ Each Friday students will have weekly facts or about important African American figures shared with them.

### Live Oak Elementary

Students will be involved in writing activities regarding the work of Dr. MLK Jr., - Artistic representations, discussion on what fairness means, and read alouds.

### Locust Elementary

Teachers will be teaching black history month lessons and students will be writing and/or creating art.



### Mango Elementary

Mango Elementary will participate in an interactive voting assembly that provides students with an interactive experience of the injustices African American's endured during their journey "To the Vote".

### Maple Elementary

Students at Maple Elementary will be involved in multiple activities throughout the school site:

- ❖ Kindergarten and First Grade: Students will read/be read to about Martin Luther King Jr. Who was he? Why was he important? What was lifelike back when he was fighting for civil rights? Students will read the poem "Martin's Dream" and be asked if they think his dream was a good one to have? Should we fight for what we believe in? What freedoms do we have today? Students will then discuss laws, rules, equality, voting, using a classifying thinking map...discuss the following and put the ideas onto the thinking map.
- ❖ Second Grade: Students will learn the importance of voting and be able to explain different governmental institutions and practices in the United States and other countries. Ways students will learn this process is by reading and discussing "The Election

Process", "The First Election" and then have a critical conversation about the fact that only white men could vote in the first election, and in elections for nearly 100 years after that. Students will also discuss the 15th Amendment, be given a brief history of the civil war and how Americans were fighting to make everything fair for African Americans

- ❖ Third Grade: Students will read picture book, Papa's Mark, and discuss about voting. They will then create an art Collage of famous people + reading articles about each person + vote on most influential + bar graph for student votes
- ❖ Fourth and Fifth: Students will read and analyze the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and discuss why this act was needed despite the existence of the 15th Amendment. The culminating activity will then be to ask the students to respond to the "What I Know" column on their KWL chart (pdf) about the Voting Rights Act of 1965. After they have completed this task, the teacher will play the We will culminate the videos and activities by creating a one pager that includes drawings and sequential information that led up to and beyond the Voting Rights act.

### North Tamarind Elementary

On the first Monday of February students will come to the MPR at their respective grade level times and participate in an event called African American Read In. This event was created by the Black Caucus for the purpose of introducing literature from black authors to people. Students will enjoy stories read to them by the principal.

### Oak Park Elementary

During announcements Oak Park will share accomplishments of prominent African Americans throughout the month during their morning announcements and Friday assemblies. Each grade level has exciting projects planned for their students.

- ❖ Kindergarten: Student will read "Let's Vote on It", "Rosa Parks". Students will then create Circle Maps and create Flow Charts on the text read in class.
- ❖ First Grade: Students will have a lesson on Martin Luther King, Jr. to "find out how this famous American helped change our country." Follow up with an exercise on "Fairness" in

different situations and write about how he changed life for all Americans.

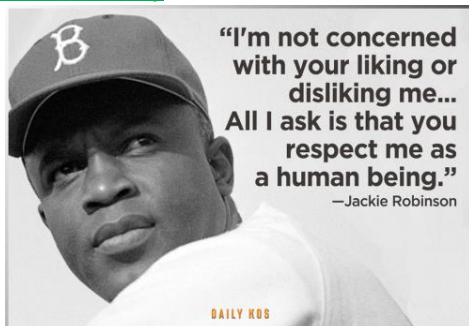
- ❖ Second Grade: Students will read a text about Martin Luther King then create a foldable to organize the information we learned about MLK. Then discuss the role he played to change America including voting rights.
- ❖ Third Grade: Student will read an essay on Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks and compare and contrast the two women. They will sort facts about both women and chart similarities and differences. They will then take the information and make a double bubble map and use this information to write a multi-paragraph essay comparing the two women.
- ❖ Fourth and Fifth Grades: Students will read an excerpt from MLK "I Have a Dream..." speech and watch a video of him when he was younger. Students will then have the opportunity to discuss events in his time that led to his famous speech and then listen to the audio of the speech and discuss similarities of events in his time with those of today. They will write a draft, share, and discuss ideas for their own "I have a Dream..." speech and paint a multi-shaded portrait of MLK that is symbolic of his representation of people of all races.

### Oleander Elementary

Oleander Elementary students will be completing the following:

- ❖ Black History Research Papers
- ❖ Timeline of important Black History events
- ❖ Lapbook Biography Projects
- ❖ African American Hero Puppets
- ❖ MLK writing Projects

### Palmetto Elementary



Palmetto students and teachers have a variety of events scheduled:

- ❖ Kindergarten: Students will engage in read-aloud activities, and do an art project around "I have a dream"
- ❖ First Grade: Students will create a mural of Black Leaders and narrative writing on Martin Luther King, Jr.
- ❖ Second Grade: Students will read on famous African Americans and conduct research on famous African American leaders.
- ❖ Third Grade: Students will read a poetic biography on Martin Luther King, Jr. Create an "I Have A Dream" art project and write a narrative writing piece
- ❖ Fourth Grade: Students will conduct research and have a discussion on civil rights around African Americans. Students will have student led discussions about the topic and collaborative activities about what they learned.
- ❖ Fifth Grade: Research project on famous African American leaders from the 19th-21st century. Presentations on their projects industry. Students will gather information from videos and articles. Students will then write informative essays. interactive museum.

### Poplar Elementary

Grade levels at Poplar Elementary will be focusing on the following activities:

- ❖ Pre- School: Students will be shown a picture next to the calendar displaying African American people and every Friday the teacher will read a book where with African American characters or as the main character.
- ❖ Transitional Kindergarten: Students will be studying several people for black history month including Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson, George Washington Carver just to name a few. Students will do all kinds of activities including read books, find sight words, comprehension activities.
- ❖ Kindergarten: Students will be read to regarding the biography of Dr. Martin Luther King's life and a follow up activity that entails the creation of a paper plate world either by painting or coloring The Earth and on the back a writing prompt, "We learned about Dr. King's dream, tell me what is your dream?"
- ❖ First Grade: Students will be learning about and writing text regarding famous African Americans. The notables include Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, George



Washington Carver, Mae Jemison, Jackie Robinson, and Thurgood Marshall.

- ❖ Second Grade: Students will have books read to them that include, “My Brother Martin” by Christine King Farris, “Martin’s big Words” by Doreen Rappaport, and “I Have a Dream: The Story of Martin Luther King” by Margaret Davidson. Additional resources shared within class include: Videos on Discovery Education, YouTube and quick write that asks students, “Why do you think Martin Luther King, Jr. was a hero?”
- ❖ Third Grade: Students will do a writing and creative art activity on Martin Luther King Jr. This will include a “I wish for the world...” writing based on his famous speech. Also, students will do a research project on a famous African American woman and do a sway presentation on her.
- ❖ Fourth Grade: Students will create a map with the locations of safe houses, the UGRR and to write short biographies identifying the part that important people had in the success of the underground railroad. We are currently doing the Little Rock Nine info to narrative writing, and we will be plotting the underground railroad and writing letters to Harriet Tubman.
- ❖ Fifth Grade: Students will be learning about Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, and Dr. Mae Jemison. Students will also learn about a famous African American musician or singer every day from all genres including jazz, blues, soul, rock, and pop.
- ❖ Sixth Grade: Students will be learning about black Americans (i.e. Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Marian Anderson, Jackie Robinson, Mae Jemison, George Washington Carver) throughout the month of February. Furthermore, during their library period the teacher will read a book about African - Americans (i.e. Ruby Bridges, John H. Johnson) to the Poseidon group.
- ❖ SDC: Students will read their News 2 You article about important African American leaders and contributors and do the accompanying activities, including comprehension questions for the article, a related craft and vocabulary identification.
- ❖ Choir: The Choir will learn and sing songs such as: When the Saints Go Marching In, Wade in the Water, We Shall Overcome, The Ballad of the

Underground Railroad, and Follow the Drinking Gourd.

### Ted Porter Elementary

At Porter Elementary there are many exciting activities



occurring at school wide. Students will be discussing the below themes and completing the following activities throughout all grade levels:

- ❖ Social Justice, diversity, equality
- ❖ Martin Luther King, Jr.
- ❖ Essential Question: What was Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream?
- ❖ Student writing: What is your dream for the world?
- ❖ Create classroom bulletin board “I Have a Dream”.
- ❖ Learning about differences
- ❖ Color mixing for skin tones
- ❖ Read and share stories of other historical figures (Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges, Harriet Tubman, George Washington Carver etc.)
- ❖ View videoclips, read books about historical figures and current figures, classroom discussions, and journal writing.
- ❖ With teacher guidance, students will read and complete a foldable book for each of the following individuals- Harriet Tubman, Garrett Morgan, Booker T. Washington, Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges, Harriet Tubman, George Washington Carver, Oprah Winfrey, Jackie Robinson, Sojourner Truth, Michelle and Barak Obama
- ❖ Students will work in cooperative groups to answer comprehension questions about the articles.
- ❖ Student Writing: “What is your dream for our world?”

- ❖ Students will read two articles on Maya Angelou and Michelle Obama
- ❖ Complete “All About Maya Angelou/Michelle Obama” worksheet
- ❖ With a partner, students will complete a timeline.
- ❖ Novel Study: Elijah of Buxton
- ❖ Mini Bio: Frederick Douglas and The Underground Railroad



### Virginia Primrose Elementary

Students at Primrose Elementary will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of projects throughout the month of February. They include:

- ❖ Kindergarten: Students will discuss Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and discuss the history of how schools were very different many years ago. They will also discuss why Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a such an important part of our history. They will complete an activity packet that the students will do in class and took take home to share with their families.
- ❖ First Grade: Students will create a book. It will take the entire month and will contain 10 African Americans.
- ❖ Second Grade: In Social Studies, we are studying about Martin Luther King Jr. life and the civil rights. We are doing a timeline of his life.
- ❖ Third Grade: Students will create a human timeline portraying the sequence of Civil Rights in regard to voting and laws passed for African Americans.
- ❖ Fourth and Fifth Grade: Students will be doing a research paper on a Black American who had an impact on the STEM field and then make a 2-liter bottle representation of the person.
- ❖ Special Education: Students will be coloring pictures to go along with a paragraph about their contributions to our country. These will be

displayed on their board. Students will also read multicultural stories and create a multicultural art piece. They will focus on how Martin Luther King Jr. helped to see that it is important that we celebrate our differences and learn from the vast varieties of cultures to be a better society.

### Randall Pepper Elementary

Randall Pepper Elementary will be integrating variety of activities into their classroom instruction throughout the month of February. Students will be writing essays, creating stories and illustrations based on their knowledge of the many influential people from the African American community. Biographies will be read and written by students as well. The school’s librarian will have lecture series on famous African American people in history. Students will also have access to resources in the classroom and library to further support their knowledge of the rich history and roles of the African American culture.

### Redwood Elementary

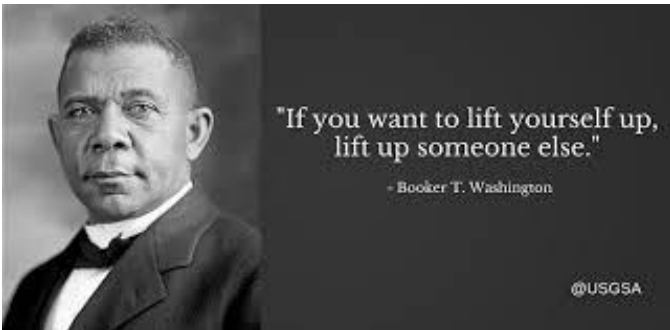
During the month of February, Redwood students will research African American famous inventors. As a culminating project, students will create a display board or visual project representing their chosen inventor. Redwood will then set-up all projects in the Parent Center room #19 as well as in the campus display cases.

### Shadow Hills Elementary

Shadow Hills Elementary has a variety of activities scheduled throughout all their grade levels throughout the month of February.

- ❖ Kindergarten: students will read books about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and will make headbands that say, "I have a dream." Students will have a class discussion on what their dreams will be for the world.
- ❖ First Grade: Students will create a class book based on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. quote: "I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear." Students each write a page in the book.
- ❖ Second Grade: Students will be reading several texts about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and watching a short movie about him. They'll be working on a map of his famous march and a picture sequence of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Finally, they'll write an essay summarizing it all.

- ❖ Third Grade: Students will do reading stations about heroes throughout history. Books include: Ruby Bridges, Martin Luther King, Jr., Civil Rights, Harriet Tubman, Hidden Figures, Jesse Owens, Henry's Freedom Box, The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, and Jackie Robinson, Sisters & Champions: The True Story of Venus and Serena Williams, Chase Space: Young Reader's Edition-Leland Melvin. Then students will write an informational article about a hero who inspires them.
- ❖ Fourth Grade: Students will be making a biography quilt. This will consist of the students reading about an influential African American, such as: leaders, authors, scientist and sports heroes. They will write why that person is influential. They will also take that information and create a PowerPoint and present their information to the class.
- ❖ Fifth Grade: Students will research historically black colleges. Each student will then create a PowerPoint on his/her college and present to others.



### Sierra Lakes Elementary

Sierra Lakes Elementary has integrated activities throughout all their grade levels throughout the month of February.

- ❖ Library: Each week the librarian will be reading a different book, about black people and the right to vote and after reading, there will a different activity.
  - Week 1: Students will watch a brief video on the history channel of the voting rights act of 1965, We will discuss brown vs The Board of Education
  - Week 2: Students will decorate posters supporting that cause.

- Week 3: Students will learn how to fill out a ballot and actually vote.
- Week 4: Students will review and discuss the actual results of Brown vs. Board of education.
- Kindergarten students will be assigned an African American who has made a significant contribution to our society. The project includes:
  - Students will bring a visual display or dress up like their historical figure.
  - Students will use a paragraph structure to demonstrate knowledge of 3 facts about their historical figure. They can answer the questions below as part of their paragraph:
    - Who are you?
    - What did you do to contribute to black history?
    - How did your contribution improve the lives of people?
    - How do we use your contribution today?
  - Students will create a book page detailing their historical figure. The page should contain 2 visuals and the student's paragraph. The page should feature the assigned letter, and paragraph should begin with this letter. The class will create an "ABCs of Black History" Book.
  - Students will present their historical figure to the class. The student should be able to recite 3 facts about their figure.
- ❖ First Grade: Students will concentrate on African American activities that will be literature-based. Among the books that we will be reading include:
  - A Sweet Smell of Roses
  - Amelia to Zora
  - A Picture Book of Sojourner Truth, Freedom on the Menu
  - Free to Fly
- ❖ Second Grade students will be studying African American inventors. These are some of the inventors' students will be reading about and discussing how their inventions changed the world. Each inventor's page includes background information, a description of the invention, and a "Did You Know?" fact.



- Alexander Miles, who improved the safety of elevators
- Elijah McCoy, the "real McCoy," whose invention allowed trains to run more efficiently
- Lewis Latimer, whose bright invention made the lightbulb more practical
- Jan Ernst Matzeliger, the creator of a shoemaking machine that revolutionized the industry
- Granville T. Woods, the inventor of a train-to-train communication system
- George Washington Carver, an agricultural expert who advised President Theodore Roosevelt
- Madam C. J. Walker, a businesswoman who became one of America's first self-made female millionaires
- Garrett Morgan, the creator of the gas mask and the first traffic signal with three commands
- Dr. Charles Richard Drew, who saved thousands of lives with his invention for improving blood banks
- Otis Boykin, whose work in electronics resulted in a resistor that made electronic devices cheaper and more reliable
- James E. West, who invented microphone technology
- Dr. Patricia Bath, an ophthalmologist whose surgical tool revolutionized eye surgery
- Lonnie G. Johnson, a NASA engineer and the inventor of the world-famous Super Soaker!
- Mark Dean, who co-invented the personal computer

- ❖ Third Grade: Students will be reading using three ReadWorks passages and questions from their Famous African Americans articles. They will be reading about:
  - Thurgood Marshall
  - Jackie Robinson
  - Oprah Winfrey

In addition, students will write short answer responses to questions for each article. Students will also be reading a ReadWorks article about Ruby Bridges' role in the end of

segregation in schools, in 1960.

Students will compare this article to an article about women



getting the right to vote in 1920. In addition, students will also be reading the following picture books during African American History Month:

- Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky by Faith Ringgold
- From Slave to Soldier by Deborah Hopkinson
- More Than Anything Else by Marie Bradby
  - This story is about an African American boy who works in the salt mines from sunup to sundown but because of his determination and dedication, he still manages to fulfill his dream of learning to read.

- ❖ Fourth Grade: Students will be learning about famous African Americans through literature. Some of the famous African American's included in the area of literature and comprehension specifically focus on:
  - Misty Copeland (principal ballerina to ABT)
  - George Washington Carver (scientist)

Students will also view glyphs and listen to songs written by different African Americans such as:

- Scott Joplin (musician)
- Michael Jackson (musician)
- Billie Holiday (musician)
- ❖ Fifth Grade student will be focusing on the following activities:
  - **"The Green Book"**: Use close reading strategies to read the article. Use the information from the green book to plan a

trip as an African American in the early 1900s.

- **Virtual Field Trip:** Students will tour the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Afterwards, they will write an opinion paragraph about the exhibit that they found to be most impactful.
- Work in small groups to create a collage identifying and celebrating African American's lives and contributions.
- Design a door decoration that brings awareness and creativity to the celebrations of Black History month.
- Review informational articles included in Scholastic News and respond to the opinion writing section and watch accompanying videos.

### South Tamarind Elementary

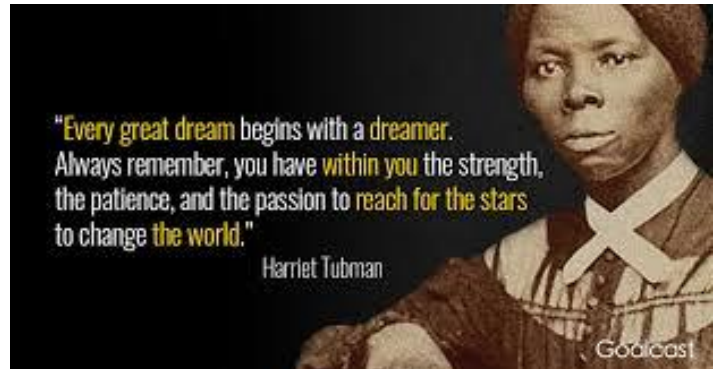
South Tamarind students will be celebrating Black History Month by completing the following activities:

- ❖ The library will have books and posters displayed celebrating the month. The librarian will read a story to each class, during library time, about the significance of Black History Month. The MPR will have posters displayed.
- ❖ TK – First Grade: Students will be read a story about an African American historical figure. They will then create a class circle map and drawing a picture of the person.
- ❖ Second and Third Grade: Students will be creating a poster with a writing piece regarding the African American historical figure chosen. They will present the poster to their class.
- ❖ Fourth and Fifth Grade: Students will be writing an essay using Thinking Maps and Write from the Beginning strategies about an African American Historical figure.

### Tokay Elementary

The school kicked off Black History by having 3rd grade students perform "Ayanna the Great" and sing at our monthly assembly. Students will be analyzing poems, learning songs and having class discussions about prominent African Americans. In addition, many classes will use thinking maps, write informational essays and

give oral presentations to learn about important historical figures and events to celebrate the month. Classrooms will display various art projects and history quilts that students will produce as a result of their learning. Lastly, the student council will highlight a daily



famous African American Person in the morning announcements.

### West Randall Elementary

West Randall will celebrate by honoring the accomplishments of many historical figures. Grade levels also have the following activities planned:

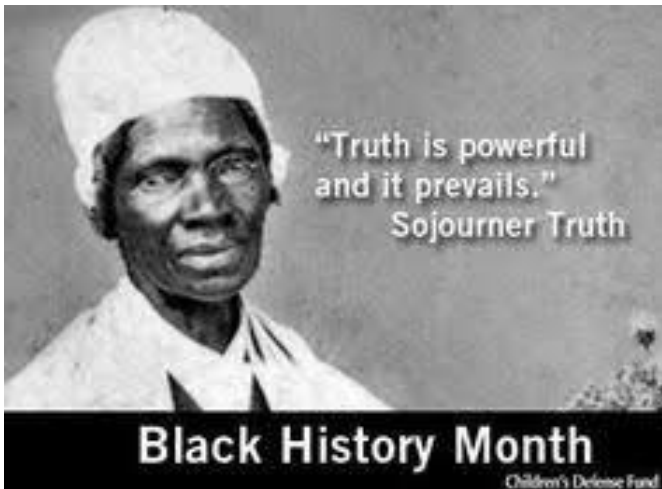
- ❖ Kindergarten: Students will create door display as a group project.
- ❖ First Grade: Students will research Martin Luther King, Jr., using scholastic news and other related text to create a tri-fold informational pamphlet.
- ❖ Second Grade: Students will read and understand Martin Luther King's Jr.'s, I Have A Dream speech. They will then practice and recite parts of the speech.
- ❖ Third Grade: Students will write a biography about a noteworthy African Americans who supported the right to vote. Students will use the Write from the Beginning/Thinking Map Process.
- ❖ Fourth Grade: 4th grade student group will use Close Read strategies to analyze text about Fannie Lou Hamer.
- ❖ Fifth Grade: Students will conduct a research projected about Fredrick Douglas.
- ❖ Sixth Grade: This group of students will participate in a Black History Month writing competition. In addition, sixth grade classes will annotate the I Have A Dream speech and watch a video presentation of the speech, as well. They will then compare/contrast the emotional impact of each mediums.

# Middle Schools

## Alder Middle School

Alder promotes National African American History Month through the implementation of subject specific activities within several departments:

- ❖ ELA: Students will be writing about Civil Rights activists and prominent African American individuals through quick writes and essay writing contests.
- ❖ Social Science: Courses will be covering the Civil Rights Movement through the month of February. Specific culminating presentations and projects will be completed by the students. In addition, some courses will be focusing and highlighting the impact and contributions of African Americans within US and World History.
- ❖ Art: art topics for the month of February include creating artwork of heroes within the African American community and highlighting their contributions.



## Almeria Middle School

Black History Month at Almeria Middle will focus on Leadership, African Americans and the Vote. We will accomplish this by collaborating with each of our POD Leadership teams. Each POD Leadership team will choose a different Black American Leader. Then the POD teams will research their selected individual, finding out as much information about them as they can. Next each POD Leadership team will create a political campaign for this individual. The teams are encouraged to develop

flyers, posters, buttons, be creative, spread the word about how awesome their candidate is, and to display their propaganda all around campus and in the school library. Get the word out to everyone about the wonderful things this individual's done, help to raise awareness. Finally, Almeria's vote will be on Friday, February 28th students will be encouraged to visit the library, or one of the polling booths on campus to vote for their favorite Black American Leader. The votes will be tallied, and the winner will be announced the following school day.

In addition to the above, Almeria has asked our students to volunteer and be part of the Cultural Celebrations Team. The group consists of 19 volunteers who meet weekly to generate student-led activities for students. Students are empowered to work collaboratively, enhance communication skills, and be as creative as possible when developing ideas and planning the execution of the activities. Students will develop 9 to 10 different activities to engage our student body on campus. Each table booth has a display board describing the activity and the history behind it. All the booths are student ran. Some activities include crafts, music, games, and historical/popular ethnic sample beverage and/or sample of a popular ethnic snack. The Cultural Celebration team work collaboratively the ASB students and Renaissance students to make banners, posters, morning announcements, etc. that will also contribute to Black History celebration.

## Fontana Middle School

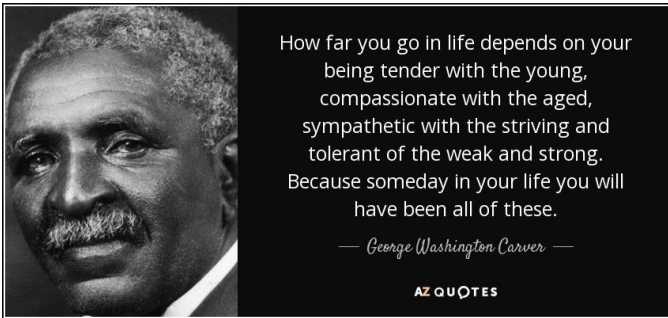
Fontana Middle School will honor Black History Month in the following format:

- ❖ The School Secretary will share a little-known Black History fact daily during morning announcements.
- ❖ The librarian will set up a feature table with African American authors for student to check out.
- ❖ Social Studies teachers will set aside time to discuss elements of Black History Month with their students including, slavery, civil rights, and



important scientists, inventors, entertainers, and athletes that impacted their field.

- ❖ Various teachers will set up thematic bulletin boards commemorating important Black Historical Figures.



### Wayne Ruble Middle School

Wayne Ruble Middle School students are participating in an African American History Museum! During the month of February, students are encouraged to create a project about African American inventors, architects, scientists, doctors, politicians, fashion, sports, food, etc. Our school librarian is promoting research and reading to encourage students to seek out African Americans whose contributions have been less known, but equally as impactful to our world! Social Studies teachers will be highlighting "Black Moments in History" throughout the month of February. Wayne Ruble Middle School will also be hosting the February meeting for the District African American Parent Advisory Committee (DAAPAC) on February 13, 2020 @ 6pm. The meeting will feature our own WRMS Choir singing the Black National Anthem, student dancers from our WRMS & A.B. Miller Dance Academy, a student performing a "Moment in Black History" & sharing of student projects from various schools in Fontana Unified School District.

### Sequoia Middle School

Sequoia Middle School will be integrating variety of activities into the school setting throughout the month of February:

- ❖ The librarian will set up a feature table with African American authors for students to check out and spotlight literatures.
- ❖ Social Studies teachers will be sharing concepts to discuss elements of Black History Month with their students.

- ❖ English Language Arts teachers will also be incorporating Black History elements within their curriculum.
- ❖ During our Eagles time news broadcasts there will also be included elements of Black History content.

### Southridge Tech Middle School

Southridge Tech Middle School will be holding our Annual Black History Celebration and Awards Ceremony, February 28, 2020 during the day. In honor of Black History Month, the awards for each discipline and/or program have been named after prolific African Americans who have made significant contributions to our country. The awards celebrate their persistence, creativity, resilience, knowledge, and diversity. The Southridge faculty has selected students because they have exhibited qualities of one or more of these heroes.

The event will recognize student academic achievement and growth over the first semester. Students will be receiving one or more of the following awards at our mid-year awards:

- ❖ Excellence in English Language Arts
- ❖ Excellence in Artistic Expression
- ❖ Excellence in Mathematics
- ❖ Excellence in Technology
- ❖ Excellence in Social Studies
- ❖ Excellence in Orchestra and Band
- ❖ Excellence in Science
- ❖ Excellence in Academics
- ❖ Excellence in Athletics
- ❖ Excellence in Community Service
- ❖ Excellence in Vocal Music
- ❖ Excellence in Leadership and School Service

We are very excited to recognize the amazing students we have at Southridge Tech Middle School for their hard work, dedication, character, and responsibility.

We are also planning to have Step Teams and Programs visit during lunch time to promote awareness and celebrate African American Culture.

### Harry S. Truman Middle School

Truman Middle School will have the library create a timeline display depicting the progress for African Americans right to vote, including a slide show and books and biographies on the topic selected for browsing.

# High School

## Eric Birch High School

Eric Birch High School is excited to celebrate African American History Month. We have the following learning opportunities planned:

- ❖ Junior English: The focus of the unit is on free market of ideas, journalism, and free press. Students will be reading and analyzing some current event news articles that incorporate the learning targets. For African American History month, students will read an article associated with the celebration of African American History in different places in the nation and how it represents our free press in America.
- ❖ US History: Students will be learning about the U.S. involvement in WWII. During this unit students will learn about topics related to African American History such as the Tuskegee Airmen, Doris Miller, and African American women joining the workforce to help war production. Students will also begin a unit on the Civil Rights Movement which focuses on changes in the United States brought on by African American civil participation. During this unit students will explore how nonviolent protests conflicted with more extreme forms of protest. The main avenue for this will be through evaluating primary source readings from both Malcom X and Martin Luther King Jr. and identifying differences in their philosophies.
- ❖ Physical Science: Students will read and discuss biographies of African American Scientists.
- ❖ Government: Students will have lesson presentations on the history of, "Separate but Equal Civil Rights," including Dred Scott v. Sanford, Jim Crow Laws, Plessy v. Ferguson, and Brown v. Board of Education. Students will also have a presentation on the history of Hip-Hop and African American Inventors.
- ❖ Morning Announcements – Announcements will be read highlighting key figures and events in African American History.

## Citrus High School

Citrus High School will be doing the following activities for Black History Month

- ❖ English classes will be implementing learning activities around the First Amendment and studying Critical Race Theory as a supplemental resource to Othello.
- ❖ Bulletin Announcements – CHS will highlight 14 people throughout the month who broke color barriers to become the first Black Americans to achieve historic accomplishments in politics, academics, aviation, entertainment and more.
- ❖ Social Studies classes will be playing the video and/or audio recordings of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Students will conduct learning activities around influential African American figures in Government and influential African American figures in the area of Economics.
- ❖ ASB activities throughout the month will include trivia questions during lunch for a silicone wrist band and MLK posters will be posted by the ASB/Student Store
- ❖ Art students are working on an abstract- surreal painting that conveys a positive image/ historical person for National African-American History Month



## Fontana High School

Fontana High School has the following events and activities scheduled throughout the month of February:

- ❖ ASB will read the daily bulletin to include quotes, accomplishments, contributions noting the achievements of notable African Americans.
- ❖ The school librarian will gather and display books about influential African Americans to encourage students to learn more about them to celebrate Black History month. In addition, they

will compile a list of additional resources and internet links to further students and staff's knowledge of the impact they have made on our society.

- ❖ Individual classrooms have different assignments on famous African Americans that include essays, posters, projects, etc.



### Jurupa Hills High School

Jurupa Hills has a variety of different events occurring in the month of February. The library staff is in the process of creating small posters of African Americans in each of the United States' wars from the American Revolution to the Global War on Terror. These posters will circle the room, on the end caps of tall bookshelves, in chronological order.

- ❖ English Language Arts & ELD: Historical Presentations will be a part of the upcoming embedded assessment. The theme of the current unit of study is centered around the civil rights movement.
- ❖ Math: Classes will be displaying poster of Black mathematicians throughout the J Building with a small write-up of each one's contribution to society.
- ❖ Social Studies:
  - World Geography will utilize political cartoons and historical quotes (primary sources) to bring about class-wide discussion on the experience of Black-Americans in the month of February. This will highlight how race and socioeconomic status and conflicts for equality are prevalent not just in the US

but also every region of the world, throughout history." During their unit, there will be a lesson that focuses addresses and focuses on those themes.

- In Government students will discuss the 15th Amendment and lessons about the Women's Suffrage Movement and their fight for equality not only for women, but all races.
- In economics students will discuss the income gap among races in America and possible cause and effect which has led to African Americans being the least earning race in the US. Ethnic Studies will be focusing an entire unit on the African American experience in the U.S. including history and the current personal, economic, and political issues facing society.
- World history students will research 3 African American women who worked as engineers for NASA during the 1950s and beyond. Recently they became better known as the "Hidden Figures" ladies who, among other things, helped U.S. astronaut John Glenn orbit the earth during the Cold War-Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Dorothy Vaughan. Students choose 1 of the 3 and report on her challenges and accomplishments at NASA by completing a 12x18 "Character Sensory Map." This assignment is completed from the perspective of the historical figure. Facts incorporated/sentiments expressed must begin in the following way: I see, I feel, or I hear (using 3 of the 5 senses). The assignment includes a hand-drawn image of the historical figure.
- U.S. History will be discussing the Harlem Hellfighters, civil rights leaders, A. Philip Randolph and advances for blacks during this time, executive order 8066 allowing equality in Federal jobs. The unit on World War II will be covered



and will incorporate “minorities in the service”.

- Other classes will be sharing on the military discrimination and the success of the Tuskegee Airman (99<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron)

- ❖ World Language and ELD: Students will be incorporating Black History Month by discussing African culture/heritage in the Americas. Students will then complete a Notable African Americans Infographic project.
- ❖ Art: Students will be creating an American Flag inspired by an influential African American person from the past or present

### Henry J. Kaiser High School

Henry J. Kaiser High School has a variety of different activities for students, teachers, and parents occurring in the month of February. Henry J. Kaiser High School has a variety of whole school activities planned to include:

- ❖ During morning announcements, Kaiser ASB will recite quotes from prominent/influential African American leaders throughout history.
- ❖ ASB will display prominent African American leaders throughout the campus with a brief historical biography.
- ❖ The Kaiser Cat News will interview staff and students are the importance of Black History month and telecast clips during Wednesday’s morning announcements.
- ❖ Kaiser Administration will host our 3rd Annual Black History Month Celebration on February 24 @ 6:00pm in our MPR for Kaiser and feeder school students and parents. It will be a fully catered dinner, guest speakers and raffle prizes

As well as school wide activities, content and core subjects have the following activities planned:

- ❖ U.S. History:
  - Primary Source Lessons: Creation of a Memory Book
    - Historical figure in American history
    - Research relevant information (print/image) of the selected individual and their role historical role

- Identify the individual’s cultural and political impact in history
- Creation of a class memory book

#### ❖ World History

- Primary Source Lesson
  - Civil Disobedience
    - Definition and examples of civil disobedience throughout history
  - Group base activity
    - Read and annotate “Outside the box, Civil Disobedience
    - Complete compare and contrast chart
      - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. vs. Mahatma Gandhi

#### ❖ AP Human Geography:

- Questions:
  - Describe the current distribution of African Americans in the United States.
  - Discuss how interregional and intraregional migration has affected the distribution of African Americans
  - Explain the impact of segregation laws upon African Americans in the U.S. and blacks in South Africa.
  - Important vocabulary:
    - U.S. Civil War/Post-World War I
    - Sharecropper
    - Ghettos
    - White flight
    - Blockbusting
    - Jim Crow laws
    - Apartheid

#### ❖ CP/AP Government:

- AP government's lesson will center around Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham jail. We will:
  - read the document

- discuss the document in historical perspective
  - identify elements of American political culture Dr. King uses to make his points
- ❖ World Language: Spanish
- In relation to our current themes (and current events), students will be analyzing, investigating and presenting on the following prompts:
    - What did the Civil Rights Movement of African Americans in the South have to do with Mexican American students in Los Angeles?
    - How did the Civil Rights Movement of Martin Luther King, Jr. compare to that of Cesar E. Chavez?
    - After watching PBS segment on the plight of Blacks in Latin America (Henry Louis Gates)
      - Think Pair Share
      - Connection to modern day in USA
- ❖ Science: All sciences Do It Now Activities (DNA) to focus on African American Scientists:
- George Washington Carver
  - Percy Lavon Julian
  - Mae Jemison
  - Katherine Johnson
  - Marie Maynard
  - Neil deGrasse
  - Roger Arliner Young
  - Lloyd Hall
  - W.E.B. Du Bois
  - Walter McAfee
- ❖ VAPA:
- Jazz Band will play at 3rd Annual Black History Month Celebration
  - Art classes will team to create artwork for the 3rd Annual Black History Month Celebration
  - Host Kaiser High Paint Night, February 4<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 pm
    - Paint 2-dimensional images onto canvas based on historical images, symbols or characters in Black American history

### AB Miller High School

A.B. Miller promotes National Black History Month through the implementation of subject specific activities within several departments. Activities by content areas are as follows:

- ❖ US History: U.S. History will be covering the entire Black Civil Rights Movement through the month of February. Specific culminating presentations and projects will be completed by the students.
- ❖ ASB will be sponsoring a Black History Month door decorating contest.
- ❖ English classes will be conducting a Black History Month essay contest for all students.

### Summit High School

Throughout the month of February, ASB will showcase Black History Trivia on the morning announcements. The school will be holding a school-wide writing & art contest. All students may submit writing piece or artwork which celebrates Black History Month. The school librarian will be displaying selected books and poster on the lives and accomplishments of famous African Americans in History. The Black Student Union will be hosting a multiple lunchtime activity.

### Adult Education

Teachers and students at the Fontana Adult School have the following activities and events planned:

- ❖ Pictures of prominent Black leaders will be on display around 2 central areas of the school.
- ❖ School-wide writing contest related to African Americans who have had an impact.
- ❖ Teachers will do their own activities tied to Black History month in their classrooms
- ❖ The school will send a message via email and phone call to all our students about Black history month and why it's important to learn about African Americans and the vote
- ❖ A large gallery in the MPR over a course of 2 days will be available for teachers to bring their students to see displays on contributions made by African Americans in relation to sports, sciences, education, music, food, etc.



# District Resources

## Twitter Facts to Share Out

- ❖ **The Real McCoy:** Summertime fun in the sprinkler. The next time you are running through the sprinkler, remember that it was invented by Elijah McCoy (1843-1929). Ever heard the expression “the real McCoy”? It comes from another invention by McCoy that allowed trains and other machines to be lubricated while running. When many imitations showed up, people insisted on the real McCoy.
- ❖ **Love Peanut Butter?** Peanut Butter was invented by a Black man, George Washington Carver (1864-1943), who discovered 400 uses for peanuts, soybeans, sweet potatoes, and pecans. In the process, he transformed lunchtime sandwiches forever. Yum!
- ❖ **Red light, green light.** The next time you are waiting at a red light, tell the kiddies it was invented by Garrett Morgan (1877-1963). Morgan’s other invention, the gas mask, also saves lives. Many soldiers survived the First World War thanks to the gas mask, which prevented deadly mustard gas from entering their lungs.
- ❖ **A lifesaving discovery.** While researching blood transfusions, Dr. Charles Richard Drew (1904-1950) realized that blood, like other liquids, could be preserved. His method, now known as blood banking, revolutionized medicine and changed the way doctors work in remote areas or during times of war. Dr. Drew went on to form the Red Cross Blood Bank.
- ❖ **Black History inside your TV. And maybe your grandma.** There is a lot of Black history inside your television. Otis Boykin (1920-1982) created over 28 different electronic devices, including electrical resistors that are used in home computers, television sets, radios, and guided missiles. He also invented the pacemaker.
- ❖ **The World-Famous Super Soaker.** Sure, he is an aerospace engineer, but Lonnie G. Johnson (born 1949) is best known for creating the world-famous Super Soaker water gun, which has earned more than \$200 million in sales. Perhaps you have contributed to that number every summer. When he is not adding to summertime fun, Johnson spends most of his time inventing mechanical and electrical systems for NASA rockets, and has earned more than 40 patents for his work.
- ❖ **Music, please.** Kids love music. What better way to teach Black history than by introducing some of the great African-American music legends? Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong (1900-1971) was one of the most influential artists of all time. He transformed jazz into an art form, and his trumpet style is still imitated today. His two international hits, “Hello Dolly” and “What a Wonderful World,” are still often heard today.
- ❖ **Jackie Robinson.** Tell your baseball buffs about Jackie Robinson (1919-1972), the first Black player in Major League Baseball. Robinson did not have it easy, often getting bottles and insults hurled his way, but he became Rookie of the Year, and in his second season, League MVP. I just read my children the book, Promises to Keep, How Jackie Robinson Changed America, written by his daughter, Sharon Robinson.
- ❖ **Take it to the moon.** John Christian was working as an Air Force, Materials Research, Engineer, when he invented and patented new lubricants, used in highflying aircraft and NASA space missions. The lubricants worked well under a wider temperature range than previous products, from minus 50 to 600 degrees. They were used in the helicopter fuel lines, astronaut’s backpack life support systems, and in the four-wheel drive of the “moon-buggy.”
- ❖ **A woman called Moses?** You bet. Harriet Tubman (1820-1913) was born a slave but later escaped to Philadelphia, only to return to Maryland to rescue her family. But she did not stop there. She earned the name Moses because she risked her life traveling at night helping hundreds of Southern slaves escape to the north and Canada through a network of safe people and safe houses called the Underground Railroad.
- ❖ **From mischievous kid to the Supreme Court.** Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) is a must-know figure in Black history. He was the first African-American to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. But as a kid, he was mischievous, and was once forced to write copies of the Constitution as punishment for his misbehavior. He later said that punishment piqued his interest in the Constitution (are you thinking what I am



thinking???) . As a young adult, he applied to his hometown law school at the University of Maryland but was denied entrance because of being Black. He later sued the school and won. And before he became a judge, he was a successful attorney who, most famously, won the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education case, which ended school segregation.

- ❖ **The Rockettes should thank him.** Black inventor, David Crosthwait holds 39 patents for heating systems and temperature regulating devices. He is most well-known for creating the heating system for New York City's famous Radio City Music Hall. Kick it up for that!
- ❖ **White House:** In 2009, Barack Obama became the first African-American president in U.S. history. He occupied the White House for two consecutive terms, serving from 2009 to 2017.
- ❖ **Into Space:** In 1992, Dr. Mae Jemison became the first African American woman to go into space aboard the space shuttle Endeavor. During her eight-day mission, she worked with U.S. and Japanese researchers, and was a co-investigator on a bone cell experiment.
- ❖ **Oscar Winner:** In 1940, Hattie McDaniel was the first African-American performer to win an Academy Award—the film industry's highest honor—for her portrayal of a loyal slave governess in *Gone with the Wind*. He occupied the White House for two consecutive terms, serving from 2009 to 2017.
- ❖ **Self-Made Millionaire:** Madame C.J. Walker was born on a cotton plantation in Louisiana and became wealthy after inventing a line of African-American hair care products. She established Madame C.J. Walker Laboratories and was also known for her philanthropy and was also known for her philanthropy. He occupied the White House for two consecutive terms, serving from 2009 to 2017.
- ❖ **Heavyweight Champ:** Jack Johnson became the first African-American man to hold the World Heavyweight Champion boxing title in 1908. He held onto the belt until 1915.
- ❖ **Black History Month:** The celebration of Black History Month began as "Negro History Week," which was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, scholar, educator, and publisher. It became a month-long celebration in 1976. The month of February was chosen to coincide with the

birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

### Important Dates to Share Out in February

#### **February 1**

- ❖ 1920 b. - Langston Hughes, World renowned Harlem Renaissance writer
- ❖ 1929 - Roland Hayes, Acclaimed tenor performed at Florida A&M College (FAMC)
- ❖ 1960 - Greensboro, NC, first "Sit-in" protest initiated by four North Carolina A&T students
- ❖ 1865 – The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery, was adopted by the 38<sup>th</sup> Congress.

#### **February 2**

- ❖ 1776 - General George Washington, answered letter from famous Negro poetess Phillis Wheatley, who wrote a tributary poem to him
- ❖ 1862 - District of Columbia abolishes slavery
- ❖ 1914 - Ernest Just, genetic biologist, wins the Spingarn Medal. He received this same medal on this day in 1915 for his pioneering in cell division and fertilization.

#### **February 3**

- ❖ 1903 - Jack Johnson, Boxing pioneer became the first heavyweight champion
- ❖ 1920 - Negro Baseball League, Founded
- ❖ 1965 - Geraldine McCullough, sculptor, wins the Widener Gold Medal Award.

#### **February 4**

- ❖ 1913 b. - Rosa Parks, Mother of the Civil Rights Movement
- ❖ 1947 - Dr. Charles Drew, internationally famous Negro surgeon, served as chief consultant for the Annual FAMC Medical and Dental Clinics
- ❖ 1996 - J. C. Watts becomes the first Black selected to respond to a State of the Union Address.

#### **February 5**

- ❖ 1934 b. Hank Aaron, Baseball sensation and home run king (755 career home runs), known as "Hammering Hank"
- ❖ 1964 - 24th Amendment, Eliminated the poll tax in federal elections

#### **February 6**

- ❖ 1867 - Peabody Fund, established to support African American education in the South
- ❖ 1993 d. - Arthur Ashe, Tennis player, activist, humanitarian

- ❖ 1867 - Robert Tanner Jackson becomes first African American to receive a degree in dentistry.

#### February 7

- ❖ 1923-1979 d. - Gwendolyn Cherry, FAMU alumna, lawyer, author, educator, and first African-American woman to serve in the Florida House of Representatives
- ❖ 1951 - FAMU Hospital, officially dedicated

#### February 8

- ❖ 1863 - 54th Massachusetts Regiment, Organized
- ❖ 1986 - Oprah Winfrey, Became the first African American woman to host a nationally syndicated television talk show

#### February 9

- ❖ 1906 d. - Paul Lawrence Dunbar, One of America's greatest poets
- ❖ 1944 b. - Alice Walker, Author of prize-winning novel The Color Purple
- ❖ 1995 – Bernard Harris Jr. becomes first African American to walk in space.

#### February 10

- ❖ 1927 b. - Leontyne Price, Internationally famous opera singer
- ❖ 1989 - Ronald H. Brown, Elected chairperson of the Democratic National Committee

#### February 11

- ❖ 1920 b. - General Daniel "Chappie" James, Pensacola, Florida native, first African-American four star general and at one time the highest ranking African-American officer in the U.S. military
- ❖ 1990- Nelson Mandela, released from a South African prison after serving twenty-seven years

#### February 12

- ❖ 1809 b. - Abraham Lincoln, "The Great Emancipator" and the 16th President of the United States
- ❖ 1909 - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Founded in New York

#### February 13

- ❖ 1926 - Negro History Week, Initial celebration started by noted historian and author Dr. Carter G. Woodson, "The Father of Black History"
- ❖ 1960 - Beginning of FAMU Student Sit-Ins, first sit-in protests held in Florida. Initiated by FAMU and local high school students and other community members
- ❖ 1970 - The New York Stock Exchange admits its first black member, Joseph Searles.

#### February 14

- ❖ 1817 b. - Frederick Douglass, World renowned abolitionist, statesman and orator
- ❖ 1914 - John Hope, President of Morehouse College, lectured at FAMU
- ❖ 1949 - John Hope Franklin, Famous historian and author spoke at Lee Hall at 10 am as a part of Lyceum Series

#### February 15

- ❖ 1820-1906 b. - Susan B. Anthony, Abolitionist and leader of the women's suffrage movement, among the first white Americans advocating Negro suffrage after the Civil War
- ❖ 1935 - FAMC Federal Credit Union, Founded
- ❖ 1957 - Southern Leadership Conference (SCLC), Founded
- ❖ 1968 - Henry Lewis becomes the first black to lead a symphony orchestra in the United States.

#### February 16

- ❖ 1897 - P. Walker, Negro inventor patents machine for cleaning seeds from cotton
- ❖ 1940 - Augusta Savage, Famous African-American sculptor

#### February 17

- ❖ 1942-1989 b. - Huey P. Newton, Co-founder of the Black Panther Party
- ❖ 1963 b. Michael Jordan, NBA superstar, sports icon and one of the greatest athletes to ever play the game of basketball

#### February 18

- ❖ 1688 - Quakers in Germantown, PA, Staged the first formal protest against slavery in Colonial America
- ❖ 1931 b. - Toni Morrison, first black woman to win Nobel Prize in Literature
- ❖ 1947 - Dr. William E. B. DuBois, Author, historian and sociologist, spoke at FAMC during a special on-campus lecture series

#### February 19

- ❖ 1887-1983 d. - John Matheus, FAMC faculty member and administrator, author, educator, scholar and member of the Harlem Renaissance
- ❖ 1992 - Boyz N the Hood director John Singleton becomes first black director to be nominated for an Academy Award

#### February 20

- ❖ 1895 d. - Frederick Douglass, Editor of the abolitionist paper, The North Star
- ❖ 1960 - Tallahassee, FL, first "Jail-in" protest initiated by eight FAMU students who were

arrested for boycotting segregated businesses in downtown Tallahassee

#### February 21

- ❖ 1965 d. - Malcolm X, Revered African-American leader assassinated in New York. Founder of the Organization of African-American Unity

#### February 22

- ❖ 1819 - Adams-onis Treaty, signed as a result of Andrew Jackson's invasion of East Florida in his campaign against the Seminole Indians, who were close allies with runaway slaves

#### February 23

- ❖ 1868 b. - W.E.B. Dubois, Famous African-American educator, editor, philosopher and civil liberties leader

#### February 24

- ❖ 1811 b. - Daniel A. Payne, Reformer, Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and first president of Wilberforce University
- ❖ 1864 - Rebecca Lee became the first black woman to receive an M.D. degree.

#### February 25

- ❖ 1870 - Hiram Revels, took oath of office becoming the first African-American U.S. Senator
- ❖ 1948 - Martin Luther King was ordained as a Baptist minister.

#### February 26

- ❖ 1869 - 15th Amendment, which gave African-American males suffrage, proposed in Congress
- ❖ 1928 b. Fats Domino, Rock and roll superstar
- ❖ 1930 - The Green Pastures, A pioneering play with an all-black cast, opened in New York City and ran continuously for 16 months

#### February 27

- ❖ 1897-1993 b. Marian Anderson, World famous African-American singer
- ❖ 1988 - Debi Thomas, Became the first African-American to win a medal in the Winter Olympics (figure skating)

#### February 28

- ❖ 1984 - Michael Jackson, Musical genius international entertainment icon, and "King of Pop" won eight Grammy Awards

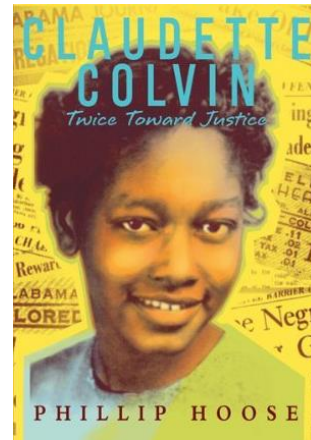
#### Little Known Facts

Taken From: <http://www.pbs.org/black-culture/explore/10-black-history-little-known-facts/#.WnSJWqinG70>

#### Before there was Rosa Parks, there was Claudette Colvin.

Most people think of [Rosa Parks](#) as the first person to refuse to give up their seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. There were actually several women who came before her; one of whom was Claudette Colvin.

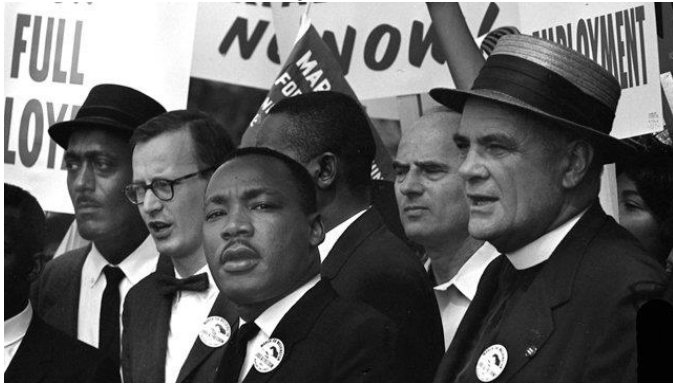
It was March 2, 1955, when the fifteen-year-old student refused to move to the back of the bus, nine months *before* Rosa Parks' stand that launched the Montgomery bus boycott. Claudette had been studying Black leaders like Harriet Tubman in her segregated school, those conversations had led to discussions around the current day Jim Crow laws they were all experiencing. When the bus driver ordered Claudette to get up, she refused, "It felt like Sojourner Truth was on one side pushing me down, and Harriet Tubman was on the other side of me pushing me down. I couldn't get up."



Claudette Colvin's stand did not stop there. Arrested and thrown in jail, she was one of four women who challenged the segregation law in court. If *Browder v. Gayle* became the court case that successfully overturned bus segregation laws in both Montgomery and Alabama,

why has Claudette's story been largely forgotten? At the time, the NAACP and other Black organizations felt Rosa Parks made a better icon for the movement than a teenager did. As an adult with the right look, Rosa Parks was also the secretary of the NAACP, and was both well-known and respected – people would associate her with the middle class and that would attract support for the cause. But the struggle to end segregation was often fought by young people, more than half of which were women.

**Martin Luther King Jr. improvised the most iconic part of his “I Have a Dream Speech.”**



On Wednesday, August 28, 1963, 250,000 Americans united at the Lincoln Memorial for the final speech of the March on Washington. As Martin Luther King Jr. stood at the podium, he eventually pushed his notes aside.

The night before the march, Dr. King began working on his speech with a small group of advisers in the lobby of the Willard Hotel. The original speech was more political and less historic, according to Clarence B. Jones, and it did not include any reference to dreams. After delivering the now famous line, “we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream,” Dr. King transformed his speech into a sermon.

Onstage near Dr. King, singer Mahalia Jackson reportedly kept saying, “Tell ‘em about the dream, Martin,” and while no one will know if he heard her, it could likely have been the inspiration he needed. Dr. King then continued, “Even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream....” And then the famous Baptist preacher preached on, adding repetition and outlining the specifics of his dream. And while this improvised speech given on that hot August day in 1963 was not considered a universal success immediately, it is now recognized as one of the greatest speeches in American history. For more information on the 1963 March on Washington, visit [pbs.org/marchonwashington](https://www.pbs.org/marchonwashington).

Image: National Archives and Records Administration

**Inoculation was introduced to America by a slave.**



Few details are known about the birth of Onesimus, but it is assumed he was born in Africa in the late seventeenth century before eventually landing in Boston. One of a

thousand people of African descent living in the Massachusetts colony, Onesimus was a gift to the Puritan church minister Cotton Mather from his congregation in 1706.

Onesimus told Mather about the centuries old tradition of inoculation practiced in Africa. By extracting the material from an infected person and scratching it into the skin of an uninfected person, you could deliberately introduce smallpox to the healthy individual making them immune. Considered extremely dangerous at the time, Cotton Mather convinced Dr. Zabdiel Boylston to experiment with the procedure when a smallpox epidemic hit Boston in 1721 and over 240 people were inoculated. Opposed politically, religiously and medically in the United States and abroad, public reaction to the experiment put Mather and Boylston’s lives in danger despite records indicating that only 2% of patients requesting inoculation died compared to the 15% of people not inoculated who contracted smallpox.

Onesimus’ traditional African practice was used to inoculate American soldiers during the Revolutionary War and introduced the concept of inoculation to the United States.





**The earliest recorded protest against slavery was by the Quakers in 1688.**

Quakers, also known as “The Society of Friends,” have a long history of abolition. But it was four Pennsylvania Friends from Germantown who wrote the initial protest in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. They saw the slave trade as a grave injustice against their fellow man and used the Golden Rule to argue against such inhumane treatment; regardless of skin color, “we should do unto others as we would have done onto ourselves.” In their protest they stated, “Pray, what thing in the world can be done worse towards us, then if men should rob or steal us away, & sell us for slaves to strange Countries, separating husband from their wife and children....”

Their protest against slavery and human trafficking was presented at a “Monthly Meeting at Dublin” in Philadelphia. The Dublin Monthly Meeting reviewed the protest but sent it to the Quarterly Meeting, feeling it to be too serious an issue for their own meeting to decide. The four Friends continued their efforts and presented at the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, but it was not until 88 years later that the Society of Friends officially denounced slavery.

Over the centuries, this rare document has been considered lost twice. Most recently it was rediscovered in 2005 and is now at Haverford College Special Collections.

Photo: 1688 Germantown Quaker Petition against Slavery

**Of the 12.5 million Africans shipped to the New World during the Transatlantic Slave Trade, fewer than 388,000 arrived in the United States.**



In the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, the advancement of seafaring technologies created a new Atlantic that would change the world forever. As ships began connecting West Africa with Europe and the Americas, new fortunes were sought, and native populations were decimated. With the native labor force dwindling and demand for plantation and mining labor growing, the transatlantic slave trade began.

The Transatlantic Slave Trade was underway from 1500-1866, shipping more than 12 million African slaves across the world. Of those slaves, only 10.7 million survived the dreaded Middle Passage. Over 400 years, the majority of slaves (4.9 million) found their way to Brazil where they suffered incredibly high mortality rates due to terrible working conditions. Brazil was also the last country to ban slavery in 1888.

By the time the United States became involved in the slave trade, it had been underway for two hundred years. The majority of its 388,000 slaves arrived between 1700 and 1866, representing a much smaller percentage than most Americans realize.

Image: African Renaissance Monument, Senegal

**The diverse history of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.**



While Jewish and African American communities have a tumultuous shared history when it comes to the pursuit of civil rights, there is a chapter that is often overlooked. In the 1930s when Jewish academics from Germany and Austria were dismissed from their teaching positions, many came to the United States looking for jobs. Due to the Depression, xenophobia and rising anti-Semitism,

many found it difficult to find work, but more than 50 found positions at HBCUs in the segregated South.

Originally established to educate freed slaves to read and write, the first of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities was Cheyney University in Pennsylvania, established in 1837. By the time Jewish professors arrived, the number of HBCUs had grown to 78. At a time when both Jews and African Americans were persecuted, Jewish professors in the Black colleges found the environment comfortable and accepting, often creating special programs to provide opportunities to engage Blacks and whites in meaningful conversation, often for the first time.

In the years that followed, the interests of Jewish and African American communities increasingly diverged, but this once-shared experience of discrimination and interracial cooperation remains a key part of the Civil Rights Movement.

Image: Melrose Cottage, built in 1805, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania.

### **One in four cowboys was Black, despite the stories told in popular books and movies.**



In fact, it is believed that the real “Lone Ranger” was inspired by an African American man named Bass Reeves. Reeves had been born a slave but escaped West during the Civil War where he lived in what was then known as Indian Territory. He eventually became a Deputy U.S. Marshal, was a

master of disguise, an expert marksman, had a Native American companion, and rode a silver horse. His story was not unique, however.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Wild West drew enslaved Blacks with the hope of freedom and wages. When the Civil War ended, freedmen came West with the hope of a better life where the demand for skilled labor was high. These African Americans made up at least a quarter of the legendary cowboys who lived dangerous lives facing

weather, rattlesnakes, and outlaws while they slept under the stars driving cattle herds to market.

While there was little formal segregation in frontier towns and a great deal of personal freedom, Black cowboys were often expected to do more of the work and the roughest jobs compared to their white counterparts. Loyalty did develop between the cowboys on a drive, but the Black cowboys were typically responsible for breaking the horses and being the first ones to cross-flooded streams during cattle drives. In fact, it is believed that the term “cowboy” originated as a derogatory term used to describe Black “cowhands.”

Image: Bass Reeves, The first African-American US Deputy Marshal

### **Esther Jones was the real Betty Boop!**



The iconic cartoon character Betty Boop was inspired by a Black jazz singer in Harlem. Introduced by cartoonist Max Fleischer in 1930, the caricature of the jazz age flapper was the first and most famous sex symbol in animation.

Betty Boop is best known for her revealing dress, curvaceous figure, and signature vocals “Boop Oop A Doop!” While there has been controversy over the years, the inspiration has been traced back to Esther Jones who was known as “Baby Esther” and performed regularly in the Cotton Club during the 1920s.

Baby Esther’s trademark vocal style of using “boops” and other childlike scat sounds attracted the attention of actress Helen Kane during a performance in the late 1920s. After seeing Baby Esther, Helen Kane adopted her style and began using “boops” in her songs as well. Finding fame early on, Helen Kane often included this “baby style” into her music. When Betty Boop was introduced, Kane promptly sued Fleischer and Paramount Publix Corporation stating they were using her image and style. However, video evidence came to light of Baby Esther performing in a nightclub and the

courts ruled against Helen Kane stating she did not have exclusive rights to the “booping” style or image, and that the style, in fact, pre-dated her.

Baby Esther’s “baby style” did little to bring her mainstream fame and she died in relative obscurity but a piece of her lives on in the iconic character Betty Boop.

Image: Esther Jones ("Baby Esther"), late 1920s by James VanDerZee

**The first licensed African American Female pilot was named Bessie Coleman.**



Born in Atlanta, Texas in 1892, Bessie Coleman grew up in a world of harsh poverty, discrimination and segregation. She moved to

Chicago at 23 to seek her fortune but found little opportunity there as well. Wild tales of flying exploits from returning WWI soldiers first inspired her to explore aviation, but she faced a double stigma in that dream being both African American and a woman.

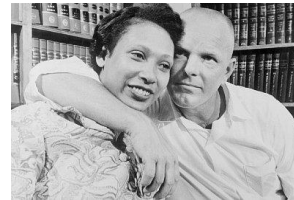
She set her sights on France in order to reach her dreams and began studying French. In 1920, Coleman crossed the ocean with all of her savings and the financial support of Robert Abbott, one of the first African American millionaires. Over the next seven months, she learned to fly and in June of 1921, the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale awarded her an international pilot's license. Wildly celebrated upon her return to the United States, reporters turned out in droves to greet her.

Coleman performed at numerous airshows over the next five years, performing heart-thrilling stunts, encouraging other African Americans to pursue flying, and refusing to perform where Blacks were not admitted. When she tragically died in a plane accident in 1926, famous writer and equal rights advocate Ida B. Wells presided over her funeral. An editorial in the "Dallas Express" stated, "There is reason to believe that the general public did not

completely sense the size of her contribution to the achievements of the race as such."

Image: Bessie Coleman and her plane in 1922, Monash University

**Interracial marriage in the United States was banned in 1664 and not overturned until 1967.**



During the seventeenth and early eighteenth century, the growing number of interracial marriages (also known as miscegenation) between

Blacks and whites led to the passage of this new law. The first anti-miscegenation law enacted was in the colony of Maryland in 1664 and additional colonies quickly followed suit. These marriages were prohibited, and penalties included the enslavement, exile or imprisonment of the white perpetrators. These laws grew and evolved over the years and attempts were even made to modify the Constitution to ban interracial marriage in all states.

It would take three hundred years for this law to be overturned. In 1967, Richard Loving, a white man, and Mildred Jeter, a Black woman, were married in the District of Columbia. When they returned home to Virginia, they were arrested and convicted of violating the state’s anti-miscegenation law. They each faced a year in jail and their case went to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court found in favor of the Lovings in the famous trial *Loving v. Virginia*. They ruled that prohibiting interracial marriage on state and local levels was unconstitutional; this meant that marriages between the races were legal in the country for the first time since 1664.

In 2000, Alabama became the last state to officially legalize interracial marriage by removing the unenforceable ban that was still contained in their state constitution. [Read more](#) famous cases about interracial relationships that changed history.