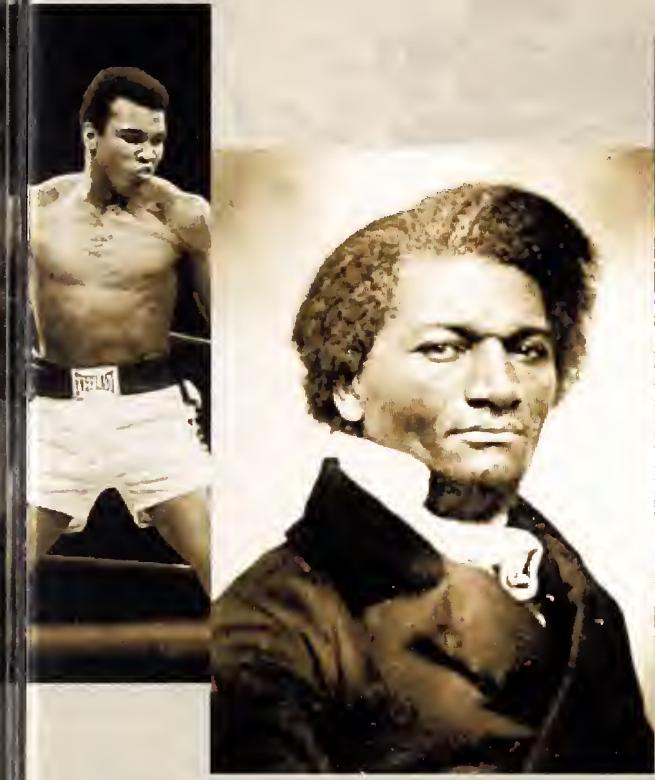


Black History

Facts & Information



New Mexico Office of African American Affairs

2008

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Special Acknowledgement

The New Mexico Office of African American Affairs (OAAA) gives special acknowledgement to the Honorable Bill Richardson, Governor of New Mexico. Governor Richardson has demonstrated his genuine concern and support of diversity, inclusion and multi-culturalism. He declared New Mexico a Multi-Cultural State on February 21, 2006. The OAAA Staff and I appreciate the consistent support from the Office of the Governor.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico is blessed with a true diversity of cultures that have shaped its rich history and unique modern identity; and

WHEREAS, the story of our great state is composed of the stories of generations of our citizens of Native American, Black, Hispanic, Anglo, Asian and other ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the true beauty and character of the Land of Enchantment are found in the beauty and character of its people, and the traditions and experience that their different heritages bring to our common home; and

WHEREAS, in an increasingly interconnected world, it is becoming ever more important to embrace our differences and celebrate the distinctive contributions of each community to our changing cultural landscape; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico honors and cherishes its past, while looking forward to expanded opportunities for its people and the new frontiers that New Mexicans of all ethnic backgrounds are exploring to meet the challenges of the 21st century;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim the great State of New Mexico as a:

“Multicultural State”

and urge all citizens to reflect on the valuable contributions to our state and nation made by New Mexicans of diverse cultures throughout our history, and to appreciate the richness that our blended cultural inheritance brings to our lives every day.

Attest,

The signature of Rebecca Vigil-Giron, Secretary of State of New Mexico.

Rebecca Vigil-Giron
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
21st day of February, 2006.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the Great State of New Mexico

The signature of Bill Richardson, Governor of New Mexico.

Bill Richardson
Governor



Introduction

Black History Facts and Information is a book designed and published by the New Mexico Office of African American Affairs (OAAA). The primary purpose of this project is to provide classroom teachers with a guide book to supplement their efforts to teach students about the African American Experience in America.

Each year, the OAAA receives a significant number of requests from teachers all over the State, asking for specific reading books and related educational materials on African Americans who contributed to the over-all development of our society. These teachers need such materials for Black History Month activities, programs, and research projects. As a former classroom teacher and educator, I clearly understand what the teacher goes through each February. There is a lack of educational reading materials, books, films, videos, DVD's and other related items emphasizing the Black Experience within our public schools systems and charter schools. This particular book will most certainly provide teachers with an extra "teaching tool" that will engage students in meaningful discussions. It is my sincere hope that the information contained in this publication will be integrated into a regular classroom curriculum. Students need to know this information on a consistent basis, and not only during Black History Month.

This text is NOT an original publication. It is merely a compilation of facts and information obtained from many sources, and in some instances already published. Proper credit is given to each author, writer and publisher for information used.

Although the OAAA's entire staff was involved in this project, the person most responsible for the research, concept development, and who put in tireless weeks of consistent work to ensure that all would be proud of this book is Mrs. Karen Stewart. I had an idea of what I wanted for teachers, and I left the creative aspects to her. In my opinion, the end product is magnificent. I feel confident that both teachers and students will be impressed with her work.

Again, I would like to thank my staff; Deputy Director Gary D. Williams, Financial Officer Stella Griffin, Community Outreach Coordinator Hakim Bellamy, and Business Operations Specialist Janna Reyes. I would also like to thank Ms. Joycelyn Pegues Jackson, Coordinator of Multi-Cultural Education for the Albuquerque Public Schools System, for contributing a partial list of reading books for elementary, middle school and high school students contained herein.

Finally, I sincerely hope that this book influences classroom teachers to develop creative strategies and innovative methods to teach the children the TRUTH about African Americans. I also hope that Black History Month will NOT be the only time this book is utilized. Additionally, I hope that Native American, Hispanic American and Asian American histories be included in the overall component of studies. Afterall, New Mexico is a Multi-Cultural State, and students should be aware of this fact.

Respectfully,

Dr. Harold Bailey
Executive Director



Foreword

The following pages are filled with outstanding individuals that paved the way for African American people today. Their stories and their perseverance cannot be told with just words alone. When I think of all of the prejudice and hate that they faced, I often wonder how they persevered. I wonder how they strived to learn when they weren't allowed an education. I wonder how they smiled when they had no hope. I wonder how they lived without any rights. I wonder how they loved when they only saw hate. It was then, that I realized that they did it because they were strong, proud, people that would carry on regardless of their color or the life they had been given. Although they never let their trials and tribulations hold them back, they were an inspiration to all people then, as well as generations to come.

As I researched these individuals, I realized how difficult it was to not get angry about the pain they suffered. Even though times have changed, prejudice still plagues the world today. It is important that we do not focus on the hatred and prejudice our people faced. Breeding racism from scars of the past is no solution to the problem. Rather, being proud of their courage and strength, which still lives in the bloodlines of our people today, is one way to show our gratitude for their sacrifice.



Karen Stewart

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Activists

RALPH BUNCHE



“I am a Negro, but I am also an American. This is my country. I own a share in it, I have a vested interest in it. My ancestors helped to create it, to build it, to make it strong and great and rich.”

Seeking justice and harmony among races and nations was **Ralph Bunche's** passion in life. The son of a barber, he was born August 7, 1903 in Detroit, Michigan. When he was 10 years old, the family moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico to improve his parents' health. However, his parents died two years later, and he was raised in Los Angeles, by his grandmother. He graduated first in his class both in high school and in college at UCLA.

When he witnessed instances of racism, Bunche always tried to mediate a positive solution. Once when he earned a spot on UCLA's freshman basketball team, a prejudiced White player complained to the coach. The coach told the White student that there was an easy solution to the problem: “Just go over and turn in your suit.” The White player balked at leaving the team, so the coach teamed him with Bunche as guards, and the two became good friends.

During World War II, Bunche helped write the charter that founded the United Nations. Just as he believed Blacks and Whites could work together to resolve many of their differences, he also believed nations could discuss problems and work effectively toward peaceful solutions. He became a master negotiator in Middle East disputes and helped the U.N. carve out the nation of Israel. He arranged four peace agreements that stopped the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. For that accomplishment he won the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize. He was the first Black person to be honored in the history of the Prize. In 1963, he received the Medal of Freedom from President John F. Kennedy.

Bunche opposed the Black Power movement in America because its goal was segregation of the races. “There is really no other goal than integration that will make any practical sense,” he argued. “We do not have to become racists to win our struggle,” he told an NAACP youth convention. “In my judgment, Black bigots are no better than the White breed.” He joined forces with **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** and baseball great **Jackie Robinson** to encourage peaceful integration, and an emphasis on character and worth, not government entitlements.

When Ralph Bunche died in 1971, the world lost a force for peace and freedom, whose contribution to harmony between people deserves to be remembered and passed on.

Frederick Douglass

Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey Douglass (Feb. 7, 1817-Feb. 20, 1895) was an abolitionist, and writer who fought against slavery and for women's rights. Douglass was the first Black citizen appointed to offices of high rank in the U.S. government.

Douglass was born into slavery. His mother was a slave and his father was White. He never knew his father and wasn't able to see his mother often. As a young boy, Douglass stayed with his grandparents until he was six-years old. His mother died when he was about seven years old. At eight years of age he was sent to live in Baltimore on the Lloyd Plantation. There, he was taught to read by Sophia Auld (the wife of the slave owner). However, when the owner found out about the reading lessons, he made her stop and forbid any further education for Douglass.

Douglass had a revelation about slavery when he overheard the owner explain to his wife about why she should not teach Douglass to read. He explained to her, that if you taught a slave how to read, there would be no keeping him. He would become uncontrollable, and of no value to his master. Douglass realized and understood how the White man kept his power over the Black man. From that moment, he understood he pathway from slavery to freedom. Douglass realized that there was power in learning to read and write. He would take advantage of opportunities to teach other slaves how to read. As the word spread, the interest grew among the community and he would often have over forty slaves attending lessons. However, once the other plantation owners found out, the lessons ended permanently.

Douglass knew that his ability to read and write would eventually lead to freedom. It was clear to him, that the only way Black people could improve their social and economic status was through education. He studied every chance he got. He learned from White playmates he met on the street. He carried bread with him to give to the poor hungry ones in exchange for their help. He later learned to write by watching carpenters initial wood and timber. Douglass also learned by copying the letters from Webster's Spelling-Book and practiced by using the old writing books.

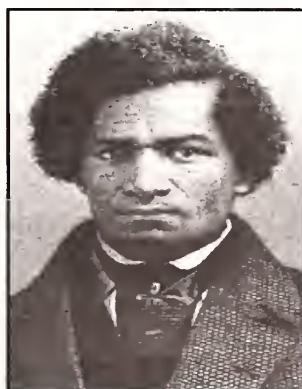
In 1836 he attempted to escape slavery but was captured and sent back to Baltimore. On September 3, 1838 he traveled to New York dressed as a sailor and escaped from slavery. He met and married Anna Murray and they settled in Massachusetts. During their marriage, they had 5 children. After his wife died, he remarried later in life.

In 1841, Douglass began speaking as a public figure. He spoke at the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society about his experience as a slave. He wrote and published "The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave" in 1845. He continued to speak in England, Scotland, and Ireland. When he returned to the United States he moved to New York and published the weekly paper called the "North Star." Douglass also served as a "conductor" on one of the last stops on the **Underground Railroad** before slaves found freedom in Canada.

During the Civil War, Douglass met with U.S. President Lincoln to discuss Lincoln's plans to abolish slavery. In 1863, President Lincoln announced the **Emancipation Proclamation** and claimed that all slaves were free. However, the Proclamation actually freed only a few people. It did not apply to states that belonged to the union, and other states refused to act on the order. It was not until the 13th Amendment to the Constitution (December 18, 1865) that slavery was ended. Douglass and President Lincoln worked together to move freed slaves out of the South.

From 1877 to 1881, Douglass served in numerous government positions. He was appointed U. S. Marshal of the District Columbia from 1877-1881 and recorder of deeds of Washington, D.C. His last government appointment was as the U.S. minister to Haiti (1889-91).

On February 20, 1895, Douglass spoke at the National Council of Women in Washington D.C. He was brought on the stage and given a standing ovation by the audience. He died later that evening in his home. Douglass was a firm believer in the equality of all people. Douglass often said, "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong."



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



"Six Principles of Nonviolence"

Principle One, Nonviolence is a Way of Life for Courageous People

Principle Two, The Beloved Community is the Goal
Principle Three, Attack Forces of Evil, Not Persons doing Evil

Principle Four, Accept Suffering without Retaliation for the Sake of the Cause

Principle Five, Avoid Internal Violence of the Spirit as well as External Physical Violence

Principle Six, The Universe is on the side of Justice

Martin Luther King, Jr., was born in Atlanta, Georgia on January 15, 1929. He was named Michael Luther after his father, but later the Reverend King changed both their names to Martin Luther to honor the great church leader.

Early on, negative racial experiences made a deep and lasting impression on the young Dr. King. One day his father took him to buy new shoes. When they sat down in the store, the clerk asked them to move to the back of the store. His father took Dr. King by the hand and left the store rather than take that kind of treatment. Another time, the parents of boys Martin played with told him that they could no longer come out to play with him because they were White and he was Black. Martin's feelings were hurt. His mother tried to explain about prejudice. She told him that Black people were no longer slaves, but they were not really free.

Dr. King attended segregated public schools in Georgia and graduated at the age of fifteen. He received the B. A. degree in 1948 from Morehouse College, a distinguished Negro institution of Atlanta from which both his father and grandfather had graduated. After three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, he was elected president of a predominantly White senior class, and was awarded the B.D. in 1951.

Always a strong worker for civil rights, King was a member of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In 1955, Dr. King planned the boycott in Montgomery, Alabama after **Rosa Parks** refused to give up her seat on the city bus. Finally, after one year of protest, the US Supreme Court ruled that segregation on buses was against the law. During those days of boycott, Dr. King was arrested, his home was bombed, he was threatened and subjected to personal abuse. No matter what hardship he faced, he still continued to spread his word of peace, equality, and nonviolence. In the eleven-year period between 1957 and 1968, Dr. King traveled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest, and needed action. Dr. King planned drives in Alabama for the registration of Black voters. He directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., where over 250,000 people heard his famous speech, "I Have a Dream." Here he raised public consciousness of the civil rights movement and established himself as one of the greatest orators in U.S. history. In 1964, Dr. King became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end segregation and racial discrimination through non-violent means. Instead of keeping the prize money awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. King turned over the prize money of \$54,123 to the advancement of the civil rights movement.

On the evening of April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, he was shot and killed at the age of 39. He was there to lead a protest march in sympathy with striking garbage workers of that city.

The day before Dr. King was killed he delivered his "I've been to the Mountaintop" address at Mason Temple in Memphis. When he arrived, his flight into Memphis had been delayed by a bomb threat against his plane. In the close of his last speech of his career, in reference to the bomb threat, Dr. King said the following:

"And then I got to Memphis. And some began to say the threats, or talk about the threats that were out. What would happen to me from some of our sick White brothers? Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. And I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

M A L C O M X

Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little on May 19, 1925 in Nebraska. His father, Earl Little, was an outspoken Baptist minister and Black rights supporter. Three of Earl Little's brothers died violently and one of his uncles had been lynched, all at the hands of white men. The family often received death threats for their civil rights activism from a White supremacist organization. In 1929, their home was burned to the ground. Two years later, they found the body of his father, Earl Little, lying dead across the train tracks. The police claimed that the incident was a suicide but Malcolm doubted that his father could "bash himself in the head, then get down across the streetcar tracks to be run over."



Growing up, Malcolm was a smart focused student. He graduated from junior high at the top of his class. However, Malcolm lost interest in school and dropped out to work odd jobs, and eventually traveled to Harlem, New York. There, he began getting into trouble and committing petty crimes. In 1946, he got arrested for burglary charges and was sentenced to serve 10 years in prison.

During this time Malcolm used the time to further his education. It was during this period of self reflection that his brother Reginald would visit and discuss his recent change to the Muslim religious organization, the Nation of Islam. Malcolm was intrigued and began to study the teachings of the Nation of Islam's leader, Elijah Muhammad. Muhammad taught that White society actively worked to keep Black people from empowering themselves and achieving political, economical, and social success. By the time Malcolm was paroled from prison in 1952, he was a devoted follower with the new last name "X." He considered "Little" a slave name, and chose the "X" to indicate his lost African tribal name.

Eventually, because of his intelligence, Malcolm was appointed a minister and national spokesman for the Nation of Islam. Malcolm used newspaper columns, radio, and television to pass the message of the Nation of Islam. By 1963, his drive and determination appealed to thousands of people with increasing membership numbers from 500 to 30,000. On June 29, 1963 Malcolm lead the Unity Rally in Harlem. It was one of the nation's largest civil rights events. At the height of the civil rights movement, Malcolm learned that his mentor and leader was not all what he claimed to be. Deeply hurt by the lies and deception, Malcolm felt guilty about the masses of people he had led to join the organization. In March of 1964, Malcolm ended his relationship with the Nation of Islam and formed his own religious organization, The Muslim Mosque Inc. After his resignation, relations between the two had become unpredictable, and Malcolm was warned that he been marked for assassination.

The same year Malcolm went on a pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia. For the first time, Malcolm shared his thoughts and beliefs with different cultures and found the response to be overwhelmingly positive. When he returned, Malcolm said he had met "blond-haired, blue-eyed men I could call my brothers". He returned to the US with a new outlook on integration and a new hope for the future. Now when Malcolm spoke, he had a message for all races, not just Black people.

On February 21, 1965, Malcolm was at a speaking event in Manhattan. During his speech, he was rushed on stage by three gunmen who shot Malcolm 15 times at close range. He died there at the age of 39-years old. His assassins were convicted of murder in March of 1966. All three men were members of the Nation of Islam.

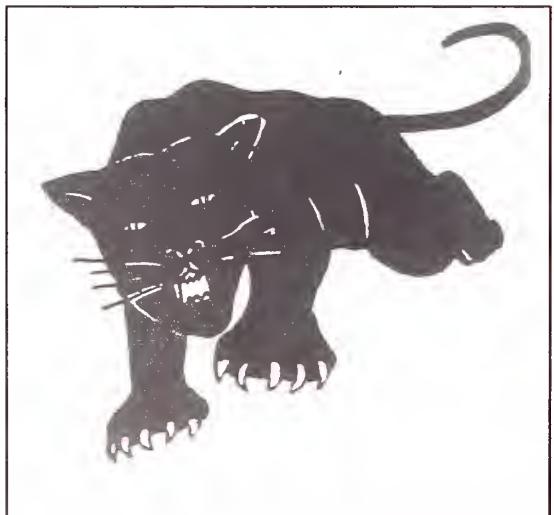
Malcolm's legacy has moved through generations and has been the subject of numerous books and movies. In 1992, director Spike Lee released his movie, "Malcolm X." Malcolm's autobiography, which he worked on for two years with writer Alex Haley, was published in November 1965.

"Human rights are something you were born with. Human rights are your God-given rights that are recognized by all nations of this earth."

"...Early in life, I had learned that if you want something, you had better make some noise."
-Malcolm X



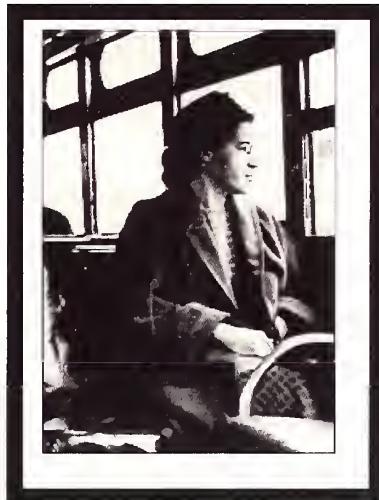
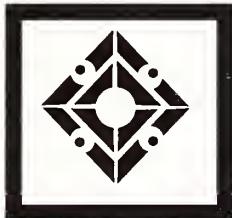
Black Panther Party



The **Black Panther Party** founded in Oakland, California in October 1966, by **Bobby Seale** and **Huey P. Newton**, promoted the idea of militant self-defense for the Black community against police brutality. The Party grew to at least 5,000 members nationwide, with chapters in more than half of America and an international branch in Algeria. Its "survival programs"-such as food giveaways, free health clinics and free breakfast programs for children-were popular fixtures in Black neighborhoods in the early 1970s, but for the White power structure and the vast majority of the White public, the Panthers represented only anti-government militancy which made them victims of police and FBI harassment. Numerous members of the party were killed either in shootout with police or in raids. Some were little more than teenagers when they were killed, like 20-year-old Illinois state leader Fred Hampton, who was gunned down with fellow Panther Mark Clarke, in an early morning raid of the group's Chicago headquarters on Dec. 4, 1969. The attack, aided by the help of an infiltrator, was masterminded by the city's police force and the FBI's powerful counterintelligence program (**COINTEL-PRO**). For those not killed, the threat of being put in jail was ever present. Despite government hostility, the organization flourished for a while, sweeping across Black America and attracting some of the most articulate young Blacks on the revolutionary scene of the 60's. Among them were H. Rap Brown and Stokely Carmichael, both former presidents of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, and activist Angela Davis. Although the Party contained about 3000 members in 1972, it collapsed shortly afterward because of division internally and legal problems. **Elaine Brown** assumed the chairmanship of the party in 1974, when Newton left the United States. Newton was eventually killed in 1989. Decades later, however, the legacy of the Panthers remains vivid in the minds of many; for it is a powerful illustration of the ability of individuals to rise up and join together to fight oppression. Time has not erased the memory of these young revolutionaries. The still potent image of the black-clad Panthers, with their trademark berets testifies to the fact that these were young men and women who were unafraid to take power into their own hands, and defend the rights of their people, whatever the cost to themselves.

Rosa Parks, (February 4, 1913) the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement," was one of the most important citizens of the 20th century. Mrs. Parks was a hardworking seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama. One day in December of 1955, she refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a White passenger. For her act of defiance, Mrs. Parks was arrested, convicted of violating the segregation laws, and fined \$10, plus \$4 in court fees. She was tried and convicted of violating a local ordinance.

After the arrest of Rosa Parks, Black people of Montgomery started a boycott of the city bus line that lasted 381 days. Thousands of courageous people joined the protest to demand equal rights for all people. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was appointed the spokesperson for the Bus Boycott and taught nonviolence to all participants. The boycott resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation on city buses. Over the next four decades, Parks helped make her fellow Americans aware of the history of the civil rights struggle. That moment on the Cleveland Avenue bus also turned a very private woman into a reluctant symbol in the quest for racial equality. Her quiet courageous act changed America, its view of Black people, and redirected the course of history.



Rosa Parks was a pioneer in the struggle for racial equality. She was the recipient of numerous honors, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She was also awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999.

Mrs. Parks spent her last years in Detroit, where she died in 2005 at the age of 92. After her death, her casket was shown at the United States Capitol for two days, so the nation could pay its respects to the woman whose courage had changed the lives of so many. She was the first woman in American history to lie in state at the Capitol, an honor that is usually reserved for Presidents of the United States.

Sojourner Truth 1797-1883



Sojourner Truth was born Isabella Van Wagener in New York. She was born as a slave, owned by a rich Dutch-American family, and grew up speaking Dutch. During that time she had 5 children (2 were sold away as slaves). Later she ran away to find freedom, only to end up with another slave owner. After she was freed in 1827, she would tell stories about how she was treated as a slave. She would suffer beatings while being tied up by the wrists until her back bled. She also spoke of how the slaves were forced to live. Slaves were often crowded together in cabins, overworked, beaten and tortured, and fed scraps to eat. Families of slaves were separated when they were sold to other slave owners. Often times they would never see their children again.

Sojourner Truth's journey led her to be an outstanding spokeswoman and lecturer against slavery. She dedicated her life to fighting for civil and human rights. After becoming a preacher, she pushed for the abolition of slavery and women's rights. During the US Civil War, she helped Black Union soldiers with supplies and support. In 1851, she delivered the famous poem, "Aint I A Woman" to The Women's Convention, Akron Ohio.

"Aint I A Woman?"

Well, children, where there is so much racket there must be something out of kilter. I think that 'twixt the negroes of the South and the women at the North, all talking about rights, the white men will be in a fix pretty soon. But what's all this here talking about?

That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man - when I could get it - and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?

Then they talk about this thing in the head; what's this they call it? [member of audience whispers, "intellect"] That's it, honey. What's that got to do with women's rights or negroes' rights? If my cup won't hold but a pint, and yours holds a quart, wouldn't you be mean not to let me have my little half measure full?

Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him.

If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again! And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them.

Obliged to you for hearing me, and now old Sojourner ain't got nothing more to say.

Stokely Carmichael was born in the Port of Spain, Trinidad. In 1952, he immigrated to New York City. In 1960, he began attending Howard University in Washington, D. C. While a student, he became involved in the civil rights movement. In 1961, he participated in the Freedom Rides campaign, to protest discrimination in public transportation. After graduating from Howard University, Carmichael joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). In 1966, he became the chairman of the SNCC. While leading the organization, he coined the slogan and movement, "Black Power". The movement was more radical than Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s nonviolent stance, but it promoted racial pride, Black unity, self-defense, and political and economic power. In 1966, Carmichael helped organize the independent political group, the Lowndes County Freedom Organization. The chosen emblem for the party was a black panther, which was later adopted by the Black Panther Party. Stokely Carmichael was always inspired to participate in the civil rights movement by the bravery of those who protested segregated service with sit-ins at lunch counters in the South. In an interview with Gordon Parks for Life Magazine he said, "When I first heard about the Negroes sitting in at lunch counters down South, I thought they were just a bunch of publicity hounds. But one night when I saw those young kids on TV, getting back up on the lunch counter stools after being knocked off them, sugar in their eyes, ketchup in their hair –well, something happened to me. Suddenly I was burning."



Octavius V. Catto was an educator, intellectual, and baseball player who gave his life in the struggle for civil rights. Catto founded major civic institutions including, the Banneker Literary Institute, the Equal Rights League, and the Pythian Basebgall Club (one of the earliest Black teams). The turmoil of the Civil War heightened Catto's equal rights and anti-slavery activism. On the military front, he joined with **Frederick Douglass** and other prominent Black leaders to form a Recruitment Committee to convince young Black men to fight for their emancipation. During the first election held after the confirmation of the 15th Amendment, Black people exercised their right to vote. On election day, October 10, 1871, fights broke out among Black and White voters who were trying to intimidate and prevent Black citizens from voting. City police, called on to stop the violence, in many cases aggravated it. On his way to vote, Catto was brutally shot three times and murdered by a Democratic Party Operative.

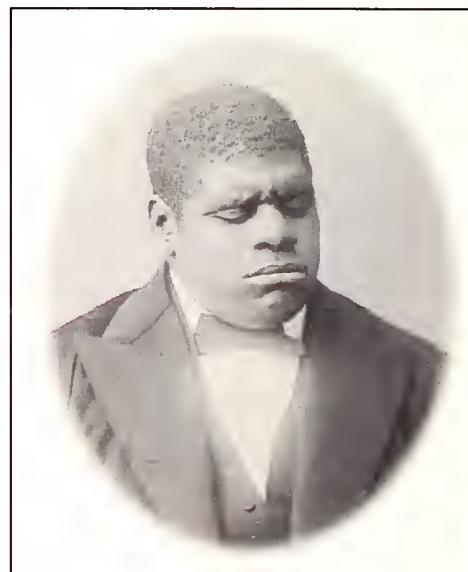


William Edward Burghardt Du Bois (**W. E. B. Du Bois**) was the leading Black intellectual and fighter for civil rights in the Jim Crow period. Born in Massachusetts, educated at Harvard, Fisk and the University of Berlin, Du Bois made groundbreaking contributions in numerous fields. While teaching at Atlanta University, he published his most moving work, "The Souls of Black Folk," in 1903, and then left the university to found the Niagara Movement and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), for which he served as director of research and editor of the "Crisis." After World War II, he committed himself to the cause of world peace, but became a target of government harassment during the cold war for his so-called connection to communists. In 1961, after the State Department was forced to return his passport (which was taken unlawfully) he left the U.S. and settled in the West African nation of Ghana, where he resided until his death in 1963.

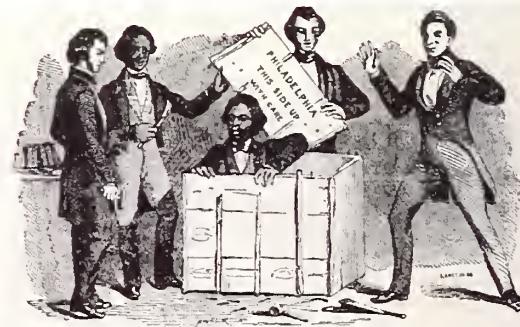


Amazing Individuals

Blind Tom (1849-1908), was born in Georgia as Thomas Wiggins. He and his mother, Charlotte Wiggins, were sold to the Bethune family while he was still a baby. When Tom was 4-years old, the Bethunes got a piano. Tom heard Mrs. Bethune teaching her daughters every day for three years. One day, at the age of seven, he sat down at the piano and played perfectly the tunes he had heard the previous day. Recognizing his genius, the Bethune family decided to hire out Tom to play at activities. Having such a strong memory, Tom developed a huge collection of music without any formal musical training. Tom was such an act between 1857 and 1898, that the Bethunes became wealthy from his talent. After the war, reformers sued the Bethunes to grant Tom his freedom, but Tom objected. He felt that freedom would not help him, given his condition of being blind. He remained a dependant of the Bethune family until his death.



Perhaps the most imaginative method of escaping slavery was that devised by **Henry "Box" Brown**, who mailed himself to freedom. In 1856, Henry Brown, a slave in Richmond, Virginia, ordered a box 3-feet by 2-feet and put in it a jug of water, a few biscuits, and a bar to open the box, just in case. He addressed the box to his friend, James A. Smith's Philadelphia home, and marked the outside, "Handle with Care, This Side Up." Twenty-six hours later, after traveling several miles upside down, Brown arrived in Philadelphia. Abolitionist alerted to the unique cargo had the box picked up from the delivery station and brought secretly to the office of the Anti-Slavery Society. After the men pried off the top of the box, up jumped Mr. Brown who said, "How do you do, my gentlemen?"



RESURRECTION OF HENRY BOX BROWN, AT PHILADELPHIA

Athletes

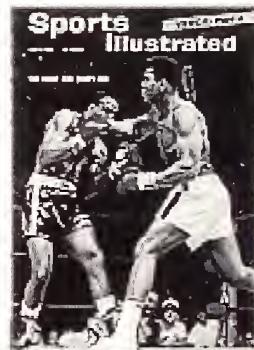
Arthur Ashe was one of the greatest tennis ambassadors both on and off the court. Ashe was awarded a tennis scholarship to UCLA in 1963, and that same year became the first Black person ever selected to the United States Davis Cup Team. Ashe also became the first Black man to win the US Open in 1968, and went on to win 33 titles in his career, including the Australian Open in 1970. Off the court, he devoted countless time and effort to creating tennis opportunities for youth from all backgrounds. In 1983, Ashe was elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Ashe remains the only Black player ever to win the men's singles at Wimbledon, the U.S. Open, or Australian Open. He is one of only two men of Black African ancestry to win a Grand Slam singles title. After his retirement, Ashe took on many new tasks, including writing for Time magazine, commentating for ABC Sports, and founding the National Junior Tennis League.



After completing their 200 meter race of the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City, American athlete **Tommie Smith**, who won the race in a then world record time of 19.83 seconds, with Australia's Peter Norman second with a time of 20.06 seconds and American **John Carlos** in third place with a time of 20.10 seconds, went to collect their medals at the podium. The two American athletes received their medals shoeless, but wearing black socks, to represent Black poverty. Smith wore a black scarf around his neck to represent Black pride. Carlos wore beads which he described "Were for those individuals that were lynched, or killed that no-one said a prayer for, that were hung and tarred. It was for those thrown off the side of the boats in the middle passage." All three athletes wore Olympic Project for Human Rights (OPHR) badges. Sociologist Harry Edwards, the founder of the OPHR, was very influenced by the Black Freedom struggle. Edwards encouraged the boycott in order to expose how the US used Black athletes to project a lie and how little progress had been made to solve racial problems and oppression of Black Americans. On that day Carlos had

forgotten his black gloves, but Norman suggested that they share Smith's pair, with Smith wearing the right glove and Carlos the left. When "The Star-Spangled Banner" played, Smith and Carlos delivered the salute with heads bowed, a gesture which became front page news around the world. As they left the podium they were booed by the crowd, Smith later said, "If I win, I am American, not a Black American. But if I did something bad, then they would say I am a Negro. We are Black and we are proud of being Black. Black America will understand what we did tonight." As a result of their actions, both Smith and Carlos were banned from the Olympic village. Australian runner, Peter Norman (pictured left) wore an OPHR badge in support of the boycott. When he returned to Australia, he was shunned. Despite coming in third, the Australian Olympic track team didn't pick Norman for the 1972 Olympics. He suffered from depression and eventually died at 64 of a heart attack. Both Smith and Carlos were pall-bearers at Norman's funeral.

"Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee," is one of the best known quotes of the "Greatest of all Time" boxer, **Cassius Clay**. Known as **Muhammad Ali**, he changed his name from what he referred to as his slave name, to Muhammad Ali, after becoming a member of the Nation of Islam. He became the first man to win the heavyweight title three times and revolutionized the sport of boxing with a style all his own. His lethal combination of speed and awesome power led him to face many of history's greatest fighters, almost always with a victory. Known for his comical behavior, Ali would put on quite the show. Usually, right before a fight he would make fun of his opponent and come up with some great quotes such as: "I am the greatest"; 'It's just a job. Grass grows, birds fly, waves pound the sand. I beat people up.' In 1967, Ali refused to be drafted into the U. S. Army because of his Islamic religious beliefs. Because of his decline, he was arrested for draft evasion, had his boxing license removed, and stripped of his heavyweight title. This adversity only made Ali stronger, prouder, and more determined than ever to fight for his dignity, and eventually won back his title. On his date of retirement from the sport, Ali had a record of 56 wins (37 by knockout), as the people's champion, a champion of the Civil Rights Movement, and an icon that will forever touch the hearts of all people. His life story was made into a movie in 2001, with actor Will Smith playing the lead role.





Roberto Clemente, born August 18, 1934, was a professional baseball player and former Major League Baseball right fielder. He began his professional career playing in a Puerto Rican Professional Baseball League (LBBPR). After being drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1954, he played 18 seasons from 1955 to 1972, and was awarded the National League's Most Valuable Player Award in 1966. During the course of his career, Clemente was chosen to play in the League's All Star Game on 12 occasions. In his spare time he was involved with charity work delivering baseball equipment and food to Puerto Rico and other Latin American countries. On December 31, 1972, Clemente decided to personally deliver a relief mission to earthquake victims in Nicaragua. Clemente and four others boarded a plane with food and supplies. The plane almost immediately crashed into 30 feet of water in the Caribbean Sea. Clemente's death was not only a loss to his family and friends, but a loss of a hero to the entire nation. Roberto Clemente was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1973.

Josh Gibson was an American catcher in baseball's Negro Leagues. He played for the Homestead Grays from 1930-1931, moved to the Pittsburgh Crawfords from 1932-1936, and then back to the Grays from 1937-1946. Gibson was considered one of the very best power hitters in the history of any league and was known as the "Black Babe Ruth." He never got the chance to play in the Major League Baseball because their policy did not allow Black players during his lifetime.

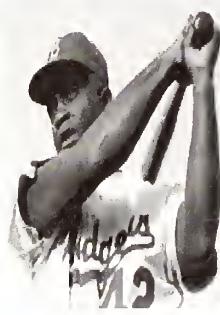


Joe Louis born May 13, 1914, was a boxer that was regarded among the greatest heavyweight champions of all times. Known as the "Brown Bomber," Louis took the heavyweight title from James J. Braddock in 1937, and held it until his first retirement in 1949 (the longest reign of any champion in his weight class). Out of 71 professional fights, he lost only three, and he recorded 54 knockouts. Louis' rematch with Max Schmeling, his most noted fight, lasted only 2 minutes and 4 seconds. As a soldier in World War II, he twice donated large purses to service relief. Louis died April 12, 1981, from a heart attack at the age of 66. Louis, a former Army sergeant, was buried with full military honors. In 2005, Louis was named the greatest heavyweight boxers of all time by the International Boxing Research Organization.

Jesse Owens born September 12, 1913, was an exceptional track athlete. He participated in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, Germany, where he achieved international fame by winning four gold medals. He disproved for the world, Adolf Hitler's claim of White supremacy by achieving the finest performance in track history. During his trip for the Olympics, ordinary Germans would ask for his autograph when they saw him in the streets. Owens was allowed to stay in the same hotels as White people, where as in the U.S., Black people were denied those rights. When he returned to the U.S., Owens was never invited to the White House, or given any presidential honors. After a New York parade in his honor, Owens had to ride the freight elevator to attend his own reception at the fancy Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower acknowledged Owens' accomplishments by naming him an "Ambassador of Sports." Jesse Owens was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1970. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1976 by President Gerald Ford, and the Congressional Gold Medal after he died in 1980.



Satchel Paige was a professional baseball pitcher whose skill became legendary during his many years in the Negro Leagues. In 1948, he was finally allowed to enter the Major Leagues after the unwritten rule against Black players was removed. He was a tall, right-handed, flexible pitcher with considerable pitching speed, but also a developed mastery of slow-breaking pitches and deliveries. He is rated as one of the greatest players in the history of baseball. On July 9, 1948, Paige became the first Black pitcher to play in the American League. At the age of 42, Paige signed with the Cleveland Indians with a 6-1 record and helped them win the World Series. Over the years he played for many teams and helped the Kansas City Monarchs win four straight pennants from 1939-1942. In 1971, he became the first Black man of the Negro League to be inducted into The Baseball Hall of Fame.



Jackie Robinson (Jack Roosevelt) became the first Black Major League baseball player of the era. Even though he was not the first Black professional baseball player in the US, his entrance into the Major League with the Brooklyn Dodgers ended over 80 years of baseball segregation, known as the baseball color line. The Baseball Hall of Fame inducted Robinson in 1962 and he was a member of 6 World Series teams. He was also awarded the National League MVP Award. In addition to his accomplishments on the field, Jackie Robinson was also a forerunner of the Civil Rights Movement. He was a key figure in the establishment and growth of the Freedom Bank, a Black owned and controlled entity, in the 1960s. He also wrote a newspaper column for a number of years, in which he was an outspoken supporter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and Malcolm X. In recognition of his accomplishments, Robinson was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. On April 15, 1997, the Major League Baseball retired the number 42, the number Robinson wore, in recognition of his accomplishments both on and off the field. In 1950, his biography was the subject of the film, "The Jackie Robinson Story" in which he played himself. Jackie Robinson died in 1972.

Wilma Rudolph born June 23, 1940 was an American athlete who became the first American woman to win 3 gold medals in track and field during the Olympic Games, despite running on a sprained ankle. The powerful sprinter emerged from the 1960 Rome Olympics in Italy, as "The Tennessee Tornado, the fastest woman on earth." She received numerous awards: United Press Athlete of the Year 1960 and Associated Press Woman Athlete of the Year 1960. In 1961, Rudolph won the James E. Sullivan Award as the top amateur athlete in the United States, and visited President John F. Kennedy. She was voted into the National Black Sports and Entertainment Hall of Fame in 1973, and the National Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1974. She was inducted in the Olympic Hall of Fame in 1983, the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1994, and honored with the National Sports Award in 1993.



Wendell Scott had a lot working against him in his career as a race car driver in NASCAR. He was an independent driver racing against backed drivers. This meant he never drove a new car, often buying last year's cars from competitors. He drove without sponsorship, sometimes making the trip to a race hoping to win back the expense of traveling to that race. His biggest obstacle was being Black in a White man's sport. He was blocked from some races, denied the promised prize money, and was sometimes run off the track because of his skin color. Despite the odds, he was an excellent driver. In the 1963 season, he finished 15th in points, and won a race at Jacksonville, Florida on the one mile dirt track at Speedway Park. To date, this was the only top level NASCAR event won by a Black man. Scott's biography is portrayed in the film, "Greased Lightning" starring Richard Pryor.

Did You Know?

Did you know . . .

It is claimed that a Black explorer, Matthew Henson discovered the North Pole with Robert Peary in 1909.

In 1870, Hiram Revels of Mississippi became the first Black U.S. Senator. The second in 1875, Blanche K. Bruce; third in 1967, Edward Brooke; in 1993, Carol Moseley-Braun was the first Black female; Barack Obama elected in 2005, is the fifth.

The year 1952 was the first full year of 71 years without a lynching.

In the 1950's and 1960's statutes known as Jim Crow Laws were designed to prevent Black people from improving their status of equality. One such law was that it was unlawful for a Black barber to cut the hair of White women or girls.

Mark Dean, a Black inventor, is the creator of the IBM personal computer. He is also the Vice President of IBM. Dean is in the National Hall of Inventors, and has more than 30 patents pending.

The U.S. Census of 1880 showed that Black people made up 13.1% of the U.S. population of 50,155,783.

According to Jim Crow Laws, White people had the right-of-way when driving.

Mae Jemison became the first Black woman in space aboard the Space Shuttle in September 1992.

Susic King Taylor was thought to have been the first Black nurse. She contributed to the Civil War efforts by serving the Black soldiers and by teaching them to read and write.

It is thought that at least 12 million African slaves were shipped to North America between the years of 1450 and 1850.

Alexandre Dumas, was a Black writer in France best known for his numerous historical novels including "The Count of Monte Cristo," "The Three Musketeers," and "The Man in the Iron Mask."

Alexia Irene Canada became the first Black neurosurgeon in the U.S. in 1984.

Educators

Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955), was an African American teacher and one of the great educators of the United States. Born in 1875 to former slaves, Bethune was one of 17 children. In 1904, she founded the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls, which is now Bethune-Cookman College. She served as president from 1904-1942 and from 1946-47. She was a leader in the Black Women's Club Movement and served as president of the National Association of Colored Women. In 1932, she founded and organized the National Council of Negro Women. As their president, this organization had a membership of 800,000 by 1955. Bethune was a delegate and advisor to national conferences on education, child welfare, and home ownership. In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Bethune director of African American Affairs in the National Youth Administration and a special adviser on minority affairs. She also served as Vice-president of the NAACP. Bethune was a leader of women, a distinguished adviser to several American presidents, and a powerful champion of racial equality.



As a child, **Dr. Allison Davis** felt that he had to do something about the discrimination towards African Americans. He devoted his life to making a difference in the equal treatment of children of different races. He graduated from Williams College, in Massachusetts in 1924. He received a Masters in English from Harvard in 1925, and a Masters in Anthropology from Harvard in 1932. Dr. Davis was deeply troubled by the fact that children from poor families had to attend understaffed and poorly equipped schools. He spent most of his career promoting better education for American children. Dr. Davis published many studies on education, including a report that pointed out the lack of intelligence tests for accurately measuring the educational ability of children from low income families. He believed that standardized tests reflected middle and upper-class values and emphasized concepts that had meaning only for those children. His studies helped to create programs such as Head Start and other developmental programs for disadvantaged children. Dr. Davis developed the Davis-Ellis Intelligence Test, a measure of mental development that was relatively free of class unfairness. Allison Davis has had many amazing accomplishments in his life. In 1965, he became a member of the Conference to Insure Civil Rights, and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1967, as the first educator. A year later, Davis was on the White House Task Force for the Gifted.



Born May 31, 1924, **Patricia Roberts Harris** was a supporter of civil rights and worked to promote peace and justice for all. She achieved many firsts, among them: the first Black female cabinet member, first Black female ambassador, first Black person to serve in the United Nations, first Black female on major corporate boards, first Black female to chair a national political party committee, first Black female to participate in a presidential nomination, first female to serve as dean of a law school, and the first Black person (and the only woman) to serve in three cabinet level positions.



Booker T. Washington was born a slave, possibly in the year 1856, to an unknown White father, and his mother named Jane. As a slave he was deprived of any early education. Later he became the first teacher and principal of the Tuskegee Institute (now known as Tuskegee University) in Alabama, a school for African Americans, where he championed vocational training as a means for Black self-reliance. Washington also served as an advisor for Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Taft on race relations. He played a major role in motivating Black people on self-improvement through the development of work skills. In a famous speech called "The Atlanta Compromise," Washington urged Black people to agree with segregation in exchange for economic improvement. He was often criticized by other Black civil rights activists for his political ideas and practices. His autobiography, "Up from Slavery," describes his social views as he made the change from slavery to a world famous educator.



In 1926, **Carter Godwin Woodson** (1875-1950) originated Negro History Week, which has since been declared Black History Month. It has been said that the month of February was selected because both Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln were born in that month. However, he chose February because the 13th Amendment, that abolished slavery, was signed in January and slaves did not start to hear the good news until February.



Dr. Carter Woodson was a distinguished Black author, editor, publisher, and historian. He believed that Black people should know their past in order to participate intelligently in the affairs of our country. He strongly believed that Black History is a firm foundation for young Black Americans to build on, in order to become productive citizens of our society. Woodson has also been referred to as the “Father of Black History.”

Woodson was born the son of a slave in New Canton, Virginia on December 19, 1875. Because of the close relationship with his family and strong sense of responsibility, Woodson worked throughout his school years to help support his family. By the time he was able to attend high school he was 20-years old. He then proceeded to study at Berea College, the University of Chicago, the Sorbonne, and Harvard University, where he was the second Black man to earn a Ph.D. in 1912.

“Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.”

Carter Godwin Woodson

In 1915, Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History to train Black historians and to collect, preserve, and publish documents on Black life and Black people. In 1916, he founded the Journal of Negro History, (which is still in existence) Associated Publishers (1922), and the Negro Bulletin (1937). Woodson spent his life working to educate all people about the vast contributions made by Black men and women throughout history.

During his life, Dr. Woodson developed an important philosophy of history. He insisted that history was not just the gathering of facts. The object of historical study is to arrive at a reasonable understanding of the facts. History is more than political and military records of people and nations. It must include some description of the social conditions of that time.

Dr. Woodson’s concepts gave a profound sense of dignity to all Black Americans. His message was that Black people should be proud of their heritage, and that other Americans should also understand that.

Explorers



NEW MEXICO EXPLORER
ESTEVANICO THE MOOR (1503-1539)
AZAMOR, MOROCCO

One of the most important African American explorers of America was **Estevanico the Moor** (also known as Stephen Dorantes, Estevanico, and Esteban), the first foreigner said to discover New Mexico and Arizona. Born in Morocco around 1500, Estevanico left Spain in 1527, as the slave of Spanish explorer, Andres Dorantes. They sailed with a 500-man expedition to explore the Gulf of Mexico. Estevanico was the go between for the explorer Cabeza de Vaca, and a scout for Father Marcos De Niza. Because of his ability to learn new languages quickly, Estevanico became the spokesperson of the group, and negotiated for food, shelter, and directions. Once the group reached Mexico City, Estevanico was rewarded by appointing him to another expedition, led by Father Marcos Niza, to travel northward to find the legendary “Seven Cities,” (later called the Seven Cities of Cibola or Gold). Although Marcos later claimed to be the first to discover New Mexico, he had in fact sent Estevanico ahead of him as a scout.

In May 1539, Estevanico reached the ridge of the Huachuca Mountains, and surveyed much of southern Arizona. But upon reaching his destination, the city of Cibola, Estevanico was killed near Gallup, New Mexico, by the Zuni Indians.

Artist Rendition and Source: Marianne Gendron

James Beckwourth was born a slave in Virginia. He ran away from his master and headed West, where he worked for several years for the Mountain Fur Company and learned the ways of the fur trapper. Always an aggressive, resourceful individual, Beckwourth had his first big break when he stumbled into a Crow village and was claimed by one of the women as her son. Quickly adopting the Crow identity, he also had a Crow wife, and thereafter led the Crows in numerous wars against the Blackfeet Indians. His greatest contribution came in 1850, when he located a pass through the Sierra Nevada, and led the first wagon train through it. Located north of Reno, Nevada, Beckwourth's Pass still exists as an example of the intelligence of this Black warrior-explorer.



The well-known expeditions of 1804, led by Lewis and Clark, rarely mentions the important role of **York**, the only person to serve in the expedition without a choice in the matter. York was the slave of William Clark. On their journeys, York was the first Black man that many of the Native Americans had seen. York would patiently allow the Indians to examine his skin to see if the color would rub off. As one Indian explained, his dark skin inspired respect: "Those who had been brave and fearless, the victorious ones in battle, painted themselves in charcoal. So they thought, the Black man had been the bravest of his party." York also entertained the Indians with athletic stunts. His tricks helped ease the hostility and communication difficulties between the Indians and the exploration group. Clark recorded in his diary that York "amused the crowd very much, and somewhat astonished them, that so large a man should be active." It is believed by some, that York was freed by Clark after the expedition. However, others say that York asked Clark for his freedom based upon his good services during the expedition, but Clark refused and his future after the expedition remained unknown.

Inventors

Early African American Inventors

Name	Invention	Date(s) of Invention
Alexander, Nathaniel Bailey, Leonard C.	Alexander invented a folding chair with a book rest for use in schools, churches, and auditoriums. Truss and folding bed (July 1899).	July 4, 1911 Sept. 25, 1883
Banneker, Benjamin	In 1753, Banneker built a wooden clock that kept accurate time and struck for 20 years. During his lifetime he succeeded in becoming a well respected mathematician, scientist, astronomer, writer, and publicist. Banneker was also known for inventing the almanac.	1753-1797
Beard, Andrew Jackson	Created the double plow, cultivator, and rotary engine. His Jenny Coupler invention was made to hook railroad cars together. Having only one leg from an accident attaching railroad cars together, his invention saved many lives and prevented major accidents.	1881-1897
Boone, Sarah	Invented a narrow wooden board with legs that fold under, known as the ironing board.	April 26, 1892
Burr, John Albert	Invented an improved rotary blade lawn mower.	May 9, 1899
Carver, George Washington	Developed many uses for agricultural products such as the peanuts, soybeans, sweet potatoes, pecans, and edible grass. He made paints and stains for wood, but his main focus was on plants, biology, and chemistry. Carver was the first Black man to be inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.	1896-1943
Dickinson, Joseph Hunter	Created the Reed Organ, an improved Player Piano, phonograph, Talking machine, the rewind and multiple record phonographs.	1899-1931
Drew, Charles Goode, Sarah E.	Developed a blood bank and became the first director of the American Red Cross Blood Bank. Designed a folding cabinet bed that led to the invention of the sofa bed patent.	1938 1885
Harney, Michael C.	Invented the lantern or lamp.	Aug. 19, 1884
Jackson, Benjamin F.	Invented an automobile (April 30, 1901). Steam boiler, gas boiler, and furnace.	1898-1907
Latimer, Lewis Howard	Lewis Latimer was known for his light bulb break through, electric lamp, manufacturing carbons, locking racks for coats, hats, and umbrellas. He drafted drawings that led to the patent invention of Alexander Graham Bell's telephone. Latimer was also an engineer, author, poet, and musician.	1874-1910
Matzeliger, Jan Ernst	The Lasting Machine created March 20, 1883, was a machine that attached the upper part of a shoe to the sole in one minute. His invention made the shoe making process much faster. He also invented an improved tack and nail machine.	1883-1891
Miles, Alexander	Invented an improved elevator.	Oct. 11, 1887
Moore, Charles C.	Invented an improved toilet.	Dec. 26, 1922
Morgan, Garrett A.	Invented a breathing device now known as the gas mask, and the 3-way electric traffic light. He sold the invention rights to the General Electric Company for \$40,000.00.	1907-1923
Purvis, William B.	The improved fountain pen, hand stamp, electric railway system, and paper bag machine.	1882-1897
Reed, Judy W.	The first known Black woman to receive a patent for her dough kneading machine.	1884
Stanard, John	The improved refrigerator and oil stove.	1889-1891
Stewart, Thomas W.	Invented the new type of mop that could wring the water out with the use of a lever. Stewart also invented the metal bending machine and a railroad street crossing indicator.	June 13, 1893
Temple, Lewis	Developed the Toggie harpoon to catch whales.	1848
Walker, Madame C. J. (Sarah Breedlove)	Developed a conditioning treatment for straightening hair. In 1905, she opened her own cosmetics business. She became one of the first women of any race to become a millionaire.	1905
Woods, Granville T.	Granville Woods invented a railway telegraph, galvanic battery, railway brakes, telephone system, and steam boiler furnace. The railway telegraph allowed communication with the train station and moving trains.	1884-1903

Ladies First



Phillis Wheatley wrote poems and was the first Black woman to ever publish a book. Born in Africa in 1753, Phillis Wheatley was only seven years old when she was kidnapped and sold at a slave auction to a rich Boston family, the Wheatley's. The Wheatley family allowed Phillis to have an education and tutored her. Phillis learned English with remarkable speed, but had never attended a formal school. She also learned Greek and Latin. In 1773, the Wheatley family sent Phillis to London to meet Selina Hasting, the Countess of Huntingdon. The Countess helped Phillis publish a book of poetry called "Poems on Various Subject, Religious and Moral" (Sept. 1, 1773). Once she returned home, the Wheatley family gave Phillis her freedom. As a free woman, she published a letter and poem on antislavery to President George Washington.



Bessie Coleman became the first Black woman to receive a license to fly an airplane. Since she was not allowed to attend flight school in the United States, she earned her license in France. Coleman would perform in air shows as a stunt flyer. She had set goals to open a flight school for Black students, but died in a plane crash April 30, 1926, before her goal was obtained.



Hattie McDaniel was famous for her part in "Gone With the Wind." In 1939, Hattie McDaniel won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress, and became the first Black person to ever win an Academy Award. Not only did she win the Oscar, she also became the first African-American person to attend the Academy Awards as an honored guest, not a servant.



Althea Gibson was the first Black tennis player to compete in the U. S. Open Tournament. She won the tournament in 1957 and 1958. In 1956, she won the French Open Tournament, and the next year she won single titles at both Wimbledon and the U.S. Championships. Gibson also succeeded in playing golf. She played on the LPGA tour from 1964-71. Gibson was inducted into the Tennis Hall of Fame in 1971.



Marian Anderson was born February 27, 1897, in Philadelphia, PA. In April 1939, she sang in the legendary open-air concert at the Lincoln Memorial. The concert was arranged by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt after Anderson was refused at Constitution Hall because she was Black. Anderson broke many other color barriers, such as becoming the first Black woman to sing at the White House and at New York's Metropolitan Opera. After the concert at the Lincoln Memorial, Anderson refused to sing in any place that was segregated.

Military



Of the many African-American regiments that served the Union Army during the American Civil War, the **54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment** may be the most famous. The regiment (troop) was the first in the Union Army to enlist Black soldiers. The 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment was made up of free Blacks including the sons of **Frederick Douglass**.

On July 18, 1863, the regiment won undying glory by leading the bloody assault on Fort Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina. In the attack, nearly half the regiment was killed, wounded or captured. For his bravery in the battle, Sergeant William H. Carney became the first African American to earn the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award. The survivors of the 54th went on to participate in the eventual capture of Fort Wagner several weeks later.

The 54th continued to serve throughout the remainder of the war. They fought at Olustee, Florida; Honey Hill, South Carolina; and finally at Boykin's Mills, South Carolina.

In addition to the 54th's participation in several battles, it was equally notable that even though they were paid less than White soldiers, they remained loyal to their commitment. They did their best despite the inequality that existed. At the time, Black soldiers were paid \$7 a month while White soldiers were paid \$10 a month. This was soon changed with the passage of the congressional bill, which guaranteed equal pay for Black soldiers.

The example of steadfast courage and heroism set by the 54th Massachusetts, paved the way for the enlistment of over 200,000 African Americans in the Union Army and Navy. This troop was depicted in the 1989 motion picture "Glory."



BUFFALO SOLDIERS NATIONAL MUSEUM

Although many African American troops were raised during the Civil War to fight alongside the Union Army (including the famous **54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment**), the **Buffalo Soldiers** were established by Congress as the first peacetime all-Black regiments in the regular U. S. Army.

For more than 20 years, the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments served on the frontier from Montana to Texas, along the Rio Grande in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and the Dakotas. They built forts and roads, strung telegraph lines, protected railroad crews, escorted stages and trains, protected settlers and cattle drives. They fought Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache warriors, among others. The Buffalo Soldiers should be remembered as free African Americans who worked hard to build a community through service in the U.S. Military.

The reason for their name is uncertain. One view is that the Native Americans called the Black troops “Buffalo Soldiers” because of their dark hair which resembled a buffalo’s coat. Another view is when a buffalo was wounded or cornered, it fought ferociously, displaying unusual stamina and courage. This was the same fighting spirit that the Indians saw in combat with the Black cavalrymen. Since Indians held the buffalo in such high regard, it was felt that the name was not given in contempt. Other sources mention that it is a combination of both legends. Regardless of how the name originated, the term Buffalo Soldiers became a term for all African American soldiers whose bravery earned them an honored place in U.S. history.

At least 18 Medals of Honor were presented to the Buffalo Soldiers during the Western Campaign. They also participated in The Spanish-American War, The Philippine Insurrection, and The Mexican Expedition.

The famous musician, **Bob Marley**, wrote a song titled “Buffalo Soldier.” Marley identified with the Buffalo Soldiers as an example of prominent Black men who performed with courage, honor, and bravery in a field dominated by White people. Regardless of the racism and prejudice they faced, they still persevered.

The Tuskegee Airmen

In 1941, the Army Air Force created the 99th Pursuit Squadron with a condition that Black pilots would be strictly segregated from the rest of the Army Air Force. The Tuskegee program officially began with the formation of the 99th Fighter Squadron at the Tuskegee Institute, a highly regarded university founded by **Booker T. Washington** in Tuskegee, Alabama. The Airmen were placed under the command of Capt. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., one of the few Black West Point graduates. His father, **Benjamin O. Davis Sr.**, was the first Black general in the U.S. Army. On June 2, 1943, the 99th Fighter Squadron conducted its first mission in Italy, and scored its first air victory with shooting down a German fighter plane.

Three more all-Black fighter squadrons were formed - the 100th, the 301st, and the 302nd. By October 1942, these units were activated for duty. Combined with the 99th, they became the 332nd Fighter Group that was later deployed over Italy in January 1944, where they supported the invasion at Anzio. The 332nd became a famous flying escort for heavy bombers. Known as Red Tails because the tails of their planes were painted bright red, the 332nd was the only Army Air Force fighter group that never lost an escorted bomber to enemy planes. By the end of the war, the 332nd had completed nearly 1600 missions, destroyed over 250 enemy air craft and damaged another 148. The squadron earned 95 Distinguished Flying Cross medals.

The last class of Tuskegee Airmen graduated June 1946. Nearly 1000 Black pilots, also known as "Black Eagles," earned their commissions and wings at Tuskegee from 1941 to 1946.

The proven ability of the Tuskegee Airmen was an important factor in the decision to remove racial discrimination in the military. On July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, to end discrimination in the armed forces. By 1952, the personnel of the last all-Black unit in the U. S. Air Force had been distributed throughout other units.

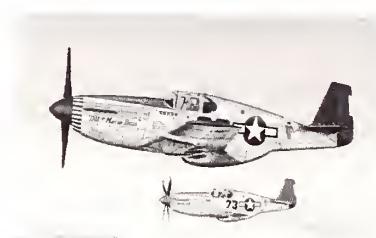
Despite isolation and prejudice, The Tuskegee Airmen persevered earning their wings and eventually the respect of the nation.



Shield of the
332d Fighter
Group



99th Fighter
Squadron
Patch



The "Redtails" P-51C Bomber
escort, built in the 1940's



Color poster
of a Tuskegee
Airman



100th Fighter
Squadron

Musicians



Louis Armstrong (August 4, 1901 - July 6, 1971) was famous for his musical talents. He was a great jazz trumpet player, composer, and singer. He was nicknamed Satchmo because people said that his mouth was like a satchel (shoulder bag). Armstrong was born in New Orleans, Louisiana and soon became a well-known cornet player in clubs and on riverboats on the Mississippi River. Armstrong was featured in numerous recordings, television shows, and movies.

Count Basie (William) was a renowned jazz pianist, bandleader, and composer. Sometimes called "The Count," he brought the sound of jazz into the swing era during the 1930's and 1940's. He was noticed when he joined Bennie Moten's Kansas City Band. Together they developed a new sound in big band jazz. Count Basie eventually developed his own band. His included some of the greatest musicians of all times.



John Coltrane was born September 23, 1926, in Hamlet, North Carolina. In 1945, he was inducted in the Navy and afterwards worked a variety of jobs. His music career really spans between the years of 1955 and 1967. Coltrane died at only 40 years of age in 1967. During his short lifetime, he reshaped modern jazz and influenced generations of other musicians. He is well known for his free-form solos on the saxophone. He performed with renowned musicians such as Miles Davis and Thelonious Monk.



Duke Ellington (Edward K.) born April 29, 1899, is sometimes called "The Duke." Ellington is one of the greatest jazz composers and conductors of his time. He formed his first band, The Duke Serenaders, in 1917. The group played at different dance halls for \$5.00 a night. In 1923, they moved to New York City, and received their first big break. They were offered an opportunity to play as the house band for the prestigious Cotton Club. By 1931, Ellington left the Cotton Club as one of the best known Black celebrities of that time. During his lifetime, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1969), and the Legion of Honor from France (1973). Both are the highest civilian honors of each country.

Erroll Garner born June 15, 1921, was one of the most popular jazz musicians of the 1950's. He was a self-taught pianist that composed over 200 works without ever learning how to read music. His most memorable tune, "Misty" was re-recorded in 1971, for the Clint Eastwood movie, "Play Misty for Me."



Billie Holiday is considered one of the greatest jazz singers of all times. Known as "Lady Day," she became the very first Black woman to work with a White orchestra. One of her most memorable songs was "Strange Fruit," an anti-racism song in which she paints the terrifying picture of lynched Black bodies hanging from trees. Holiday died a premature death in 1959. Diana Ross played the part of Holiday in the autobiographical film "Lady Sings the Blues" (1972). Perhaps it was her own heartbreak life story that helped produce her captivating and extraordinary singing style.



Mahalia Jackson was born on October 26, 1911, in New Orleans, Louisiana. She became a leading singer in Gospel music, known for her rich, powerful voice. Jackson has been referred to as the “Queen of Gospel Music.” Jackson was an active participant in the civil rights movement, and was asked to sing at the March on Washington by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in 1963. She also sang at Dr. King’s funeral. Jackson has been inducted into the Christian Music Hall of Fame (2007), the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (1997), and the Gospel Music Hall of Fame (1978).



Leadbelly (Huddie Ledbetter), born Jan. 21, 1885(?) in Mooringsport, Louisiana, was an American folk-blues singer, songwriter, and guitarist. He was made a legend because he had the ability to perform a vast range of songs, relating to his notoriously violent life. Sometimes known as the “King of the 12-String Guitar,” Leadbelly played the accordion, 6 and 12-string guitar, bass, and harmonica. He led a wandering life, and in 1918, was imprisoned for murder. After serving six years, the governor of Texas gave him a pardon after he had visited the prison and heard him sing. In 1930, Leadbelly was again put in jail for attempted murder and assault. He was put to work as a prisoner on the chain gangs. However, in 1933, he was released once he was discovered by folklorist, John Lomax. He then published 48 songs and set off on a concert tour. Leadbelly died penniless in 1949, but his trademark song “Goodnight, Irene” became a popular hit by other artists.

Thelonious Monk was a brilliant and unconventional pianist and composer. He is famous for his contributions to the birth of a new kind of jazz in the early 1940's, which was at the time called “bebop.” He worked at a jazz club in Harlem called Minton’s Playhouse, as the house pianist. He is most famous for his song “Round Midnight,” recorded in 1968. Monk appeared on the cover of “Time” Magazine in 1964.



Jelly Roll Morton (Ferdinand Morton) born in 1890(?) into a Creole community in New Orleans, Louisiana. He is famous for being one of the pioneer ragtime piano players in the early 1900's. He was an important figure between the transition of ragtime and jazz piano styles. Morton was sometimes known to boast by claiming to be the inventor of jazz in 1902. As a jazz composer, Morton is best remembered for “Black Bottom Stomp,” “King Porter Stomp,” “Shoe Shiner’s Drag,” and “Dead Man Blues.”

Leontyne Price was famous as being an American lyric soprano and the first Black singer to achieve an international reputation in opera. As a girl, she sang in her church choir, and both of her grandfathers had been ministers in Black churches in Mississippi. Price was one of the most frequently recorded opera singers, and was the recipient of more than 20 Grammy Awards. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1964, the National Medal of the Arts in 1985, and a lifetime achievement award in 1989.



Muddy Waters (McKinley Morganfield) was born April 1915(?), in Mississippi. He was a blues legend generally considered “The Father of Chicago Blues.” He is deemed to be one of the most influential musicians of all times. Water’s greatest recordings were released during the 1950’s, and his first album, “The Best of Muddy Waters” was released in 1958. The 1960’s had Waters performing to younger audiences that set the foundation to the link between the blues and rock and roll.



In 2004 Muddy Waters was ranked #17 on “Rolling Stone” Magazine’s list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time. Waters was honored with the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and is in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Poets



Paul Laurence Dunbar was born in 1872 in Dayton, Ohio, and was the son of ex-slaves. Although he lived to be only 34 -years old, Dunbar was creative. He wrote short stories, novels, plays, songs and essays, as well as the poetry for which he became well known. He was popular among Black and White readers of his day. He was known for having two styles of poetry. The standard English of the classical poet and the suggestive dialect of the Black community in America. He was gifted in using language to express character. Among the many poems Dunbar wrote were, "Oak and Ivy" (published 1892), "Majors and Minors" (published 1895), "We Wear the Mask," "He Had His Dream," "When Dey Listed Colored Soldiers," "Negro Love Song," "The Poet and His Song," "Ode to Ethiopia," and "Little Brown Baby."

"The Uncalled" (1898) and "The Sport of the Gods" (1902) were his first novels. His book of "Complete Poems" was published seven years after he died, in 1913.

"The Poet" by Paul Laurence Dunbar

He sang of life, serenely sweet,
With, now and then, a deeper note.
From some high peak, nigh yet remote,
He voiced the world's absorbing beat...

He sang of love when earth was young,
And Love, itself, was in his lays.
But, ah, the world, it turned to praise
A jingle in a broken tongue.

Langston Hughes (James) was born February 1, 1902, in Joplin, Missouri. His parents divorced when he was a small child, and he was raised by his grandmother until he was thirteen when he moved to Lincoln, Illinois. Eventually the family settled in Cleveland, Ohio. It was in Lincoln, Illinois, that Hughes began writing poetry. In November 1924, he moved to Washington, D.C., and wrote his first book of poetry, "The Weary Blues" published in 1926. In 1930, he wrote his first novel, "Not Without Laughter," and won the Harmon Gold Medal for literature. In addition, Hughes wrote eleven plays such as the well-known "Simple" books: "Simple Speaks His Mind," "Simple Stakes a Claim," "Simple Takes a Wife," and "Simple's Uncle Sam." In 1949, Hughes was the co-editor with Arna Bontemps on "The Poetry of the Negro" and "The Book of Negro Folklore."

Hughes, is known for his perceptive and colorful representation of Black life in America from the 1920's through the 1960's. He wrote novels, short stories and plays, as well as poetry. His life and work were very important in shaping the artistic contributions of the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920's. Hughes wanted to tell the stories of his people in ways that reflected their actual culture.

Langston Hughes died on May 22, 1967, in New York. As a tribute to his contributions, his home at 20 East 127th Street in Harlem, New York City, has been given landmark status by the New York City Preservation Commission. East 127th Street has been renamed "Langston Hughes Place."



"I, too, sing America." by Langston Hughes

I am the darker brother.

They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I'll sit at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed.--

I, too, am America.



Nikki Giovanni was born on June 7, 1943, in Knoxville, Tennessee. She is a world known poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator. In the past thirty years, Giovanni's outspokenness in writing has produced numerous books and volumes of poetry. Giovanni consistently remains determined and committed to the fight for civil rights and equality. She always insists on presenting the truth as she sees it. Her work has the ability to reach an audience of any age, race, gender, or social class. She has been known as a strong voice of the Black community. Her focus is on the individual person who has the power to make a difference in oneself and in the lives of others.

Her book, "Racism 101," includes bold essays about the situation of Americans from all sides, on various race issues. She has received nineteen honorary doctorates and a host of other awards, including "Woman of the Year" awards from three different magazines, as well as Governors' Awards in the Arts from both Tennessee and Virginia. Her two most recent volumes of poetry, "Love Poems and Blues: For All the Changes," were both winners of the NAACP Image Award, in 1998 and 2000.

Giovanni believes that change is necessary in order to grow. She is considered a leader in the Black poetry movement. Her collection of poetry, "Black Feeling, Black Talk, Black Judgement," captures the attitude of the civil rights and Black Art Movements of that time.

Giovanni is currently a distinguished professor at Virginia Tech University. She continues to be a devoted and passionate writer, teacher, and speaker, and inspires not only her students, but people nationwide.



Sonia Sanchez was born September 9, 1934, in Birmingham, Alabama. Her mother died when Sonia was only a year old. After her mother's death, Sonia and her older sister went to live with their grandmother. At six-years old, her grandmother died leaving Sonia drifting between family members. After high school she attended Hunter College, where she took creative writing courses.

Eventually, Sanchez became active in the civil rights movement. She was a member of the New York activist group CORE (Congress of Racial Equality). During this time she met **Malcolm X**, also an activist working in Harlem. Sanchez states that she learned a lot about language from Malcolm X and applied it to her poetry. She also learned how to present her poetry and keep the attention of the audience. Sanchez writes of social issues of modern and past times. Many of her poems are blunt, passionate, and painfully truthful. She addresses the history of African-American people from slave times to modern oppression.

She is currently a Professor of English and Women's Studies at Temple University in Philadelphia. She travels to spread her brilliance with lectures, workshops, and poetry readings. She has traveled to read her poetry in Cuba, England, the West Indies, China, and many other countries. Sanchez is the winner of numerous awards for her work as an activist and a poet. She received the 1985 American Book Award for her book, "Homegirls & Handgrenades." She is also the author of children's fiction books and plays.

To Anita (Sonia Sanchez)

high/yellow/black/girl
walken like the sun u be.
move on even higher.
those who
laugh at yo/color
have not moved
to the blackness we be about
cuz as Curtis Mayfield be sayen
we people be darker than blue
and quite a few
of us be yellow
all soul/shades of
blackness.
yeah. high/yellow/black/girl
walk yo/black/song
cuz some of us
be hearen yo/sweet/music.

Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad was a freedom trail that slaves in the United States used to escape bondage into states where they could live free. It was called "underground" because it was an undercover or hidden operation. And the term "railroad" was used for the many trails, roads, and highways that led travelers north. It was a secret network of aid and assistance. Those who most actively helped slaves in their escape were members of the free Black community, northern abolitionists and religious groups, particularly the Quakers. Escape routes of the Underground Railroad extended to the Northern states and to Canada. Fugitives usually traveled secretly at night, and were hidden in safe houses, barns, and haylofts during the day. Thousands of anti-slavery campaigners, both Black and White, risked their lives to operate the railway. However, the risk of running away was high due to the danger of being captured. Often times, slaves would have to face consequences such as being sold away, suffering severe beatings, and even being lynched, if they were caught trying to run away. Slaves would walk over 500 miles in a journey that could last months. The fact that they would risk their lives and endure the hardship of such a long journey, can only be attributed to their courage and bravery in their pursuit of freedom.

The Underground Railroad is a prominent symbol of freedom in Black history.

- It is estimated that between 40,000 to 100,000 slaves escaped on the Underground Railroad between the years 1830-1865.
- To keep operations a secret, means of communication were established. Terms that were used were items associated with actual railroads of the time. Some of the terms were: Lines (routes from safe-house to safe-house) Stations (Stopping places along the lines) Conductors (Those who helped escaped slaves) Packages/Freight (What the fugitive slaves were called) Stockholders (Those that contributed money or goods)
- Fugitive slaves were told to look for a hanging lantern on a hitching post or lit candles in a window, which was a secret indication of a safe house.
- Some abolitionists built secret rooms in their houses to hide fugitive slaves.



The Underground Railroad

Faces of Freedom:



William Still, served the Railroad for over 14 years. He interviewed fugitive slaves and kept records of activities. He used his records to publish a book in 1873. On one occasion, while interviewing a fugitive, he discovered that it was his long lost brother. In 1867, he campaigned to end segregation on Philadelphia trolley cars.



Susan B. Anthony, gave Harriet Tubman the use of her home as a safe station. She spoke out on women's rights and the abolition of slavery. She was also the first woman pictured on the one dollar coin.



Jermain Loguen was an escaped slave who was called the "Underground Railroad King." He was an ordained minister who helped 1500 slaves and started Black schools in New York.



Lucretia Mott organized the Female Anti-Slavery Society in 1833. She assisted Harriet Tubman and helped many escaping slaves through the Underground Railroad from 1849-1860.



Jonathan Walker was sent to prison for helping seven slaves sail from Florida bound for the Bahamas. He was branded on the hand with the letters "SS" for "Slave Stealer."

Harriet Tubman (1820?-March 10, 1913) was born a slave in Maryland. After escaping from captivity, she made rescue missions from the South to free slaves using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the **Underground Railroad**. Over a ten year span, she escorted over 300 slaves to freedom.

As a child she was beaten and whipped by her slave owners. Early in life she received a traumatic head wound caused by an angry slave owner that threw a metal weight, intending to hit another slave. The injury caused seizures, headaches, visionary problems, and powerful spells in which she would fall into a deep sleep.

In 1849, Tubman escaped to Philadelphia, but returned immediately to rescue her family. She brought relatives with her out of state and eventually guided dozens of other slaves into freedom. Traveling at night and in extreme secrecy, she never lost a passenger. However, once the Fugitive Slave Law was passed in 1850, she still led slaves even further north into Canada. She also helped newly freed slaves find work.

Eventually Tubman's reputation spread rapidly among the slaves. How such a large number of runaway slaves successfully avoided capture remained a mystery. Not only did these groups of self liberators escape, but how they took with them children (several of whom were infants), made their escapes even more remarkable. Tubman would sometimes give the infants a sedative to make them sleep and to avoid causing unwanted attention. Tubman had led so many people to freedom from the South, she became known as "Black Moses." This angered the White slave owners who then posted a reward for Tubman's capture.

Harriet Tubman became an icon of American courage and freedom. In her lifetime, she led many people to freedom and helped to weaken the institution of slavery. She built the Harriet Tubman Home for Aged and Indigent Colored People in 1908. During WWII, a liberty ship was christened the "Harriet Tubman" in her honor. Harriet Tubman was buried in Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn, New York with military honors.



Tubman with
escaped slaves at
an Underground
Railroad Station.

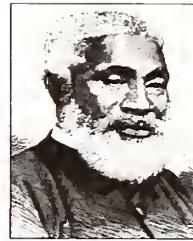
This was taken from the autobiography of Josiah Henson. He describes how, as a child, he saw his father punished for attempting to protect his wife against the plantation overseer.

The day for the execution of the penalty was appointed. The Negroes from the neighbouring plantations were summoned to witness the scene. A powerful blacksmith named Hewes laid on the stripes. Fifty were given, during which the cries of my father might be heard a mile away, and then a pause ensured.

True, he had struck a white man, but as valuable property he must not be damaged. Judicious men felt his pulse. Oh! he could stand the whole. Again and again the throng fell on his lacerated back. His cries grew fainter and fainter, till a feeble groan was the only response to the final blows. His head was then thrust against the post, and his right ear fastened to it with a tack; a swift pass of a knife, and the bleeding member was left sticking to the place. Then came a hurrah from the degraded crowd, and the exclamation, "That's what

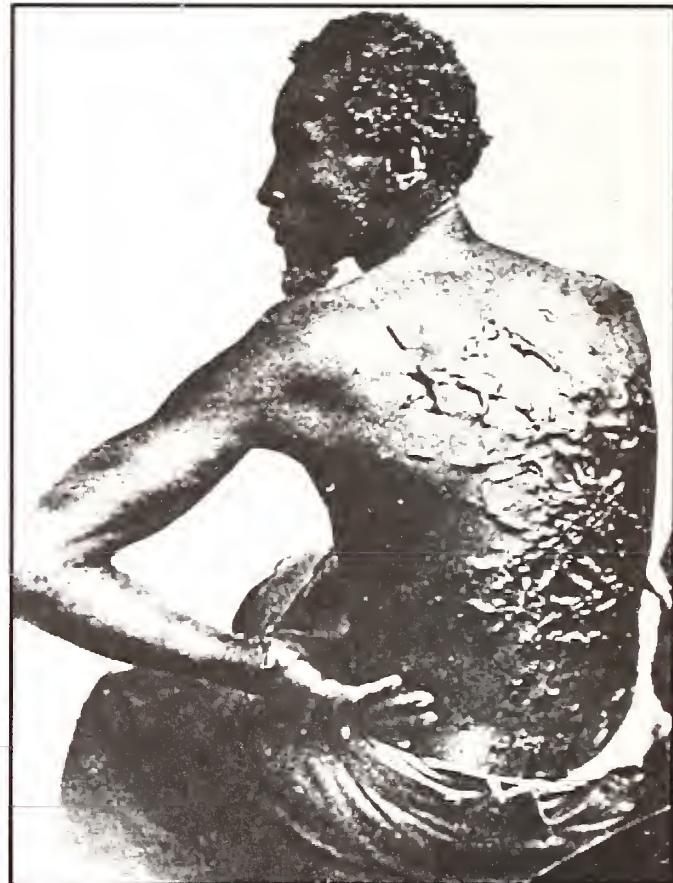
he's got for striking a white man."

Previous to this affair, my father, from all I can learn, had been a good-humoured and light-hearted man. His banjo was the life of the farm. But from this hour he became utterly changed. Sullen, morose, and dogged, nothing could be done with him. He brooded over his wrongs. No fear or threats of being sold to the far south - the greatest of all terrors to the Maryland slave - would render him tractable. So off he was sent to Alabama. What was his fate neither my mother nor I have learned.



Josiah Henson was born a slave June 15, 1789, in Maryland. He was sold three times before he reached the age of eighteen. It was said that by 1830, Henson had saved up \$350 to buy his freedom. After giving the money to his master he was told that the price had been raised to \$1,000.

Cheated of his money he decided to escape with his wife and four children. After reaching Canada, Henson formed a community where he taught other ex-slaves how to be successful farmers. He served the **Underground Railroad** helping hundreds of slaves to freedom in Canada. He founded The Dawn Institute, a settlement for fugitive slaves near Ontario. In his autobiography, *The Life of Josiah Henson (1849)*, Henson was considered a trustworthy slave, in his past life, and was made to be an overseer by his owner. His book inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe to write her best-selling novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, thus, prompted the stereotypical term "Uncle Tom" amongst the Black community.



(Example of punishment)

Known only as **Gordon** (lifedates unknown), he escaped from a Louisiana plantation and found security among Union troops stationed at Baton Rouge. Before enlisting in a Black regiment, he was examined by military doctors who discovered the terrible scarring on his back, the result of a brutal whipping by his former owner. Gordon's portrait became one of the most powerful images in the abolitionist cause.

Source: <http://www.ngp.si.edu/exhibit/motto/index.html>

Source:

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USAShenson.htm>

Test Your Knowledge

Word Search

ABOLITIONIST
BOYCOTT
CIVIL RIGHTS
COURAGE
EQUALITY
ESTEVANICO
FREEDOM
INTEGRATION
MALCOLM X
PERSEVERE
PRIDE
ROSA PARKS
YORK



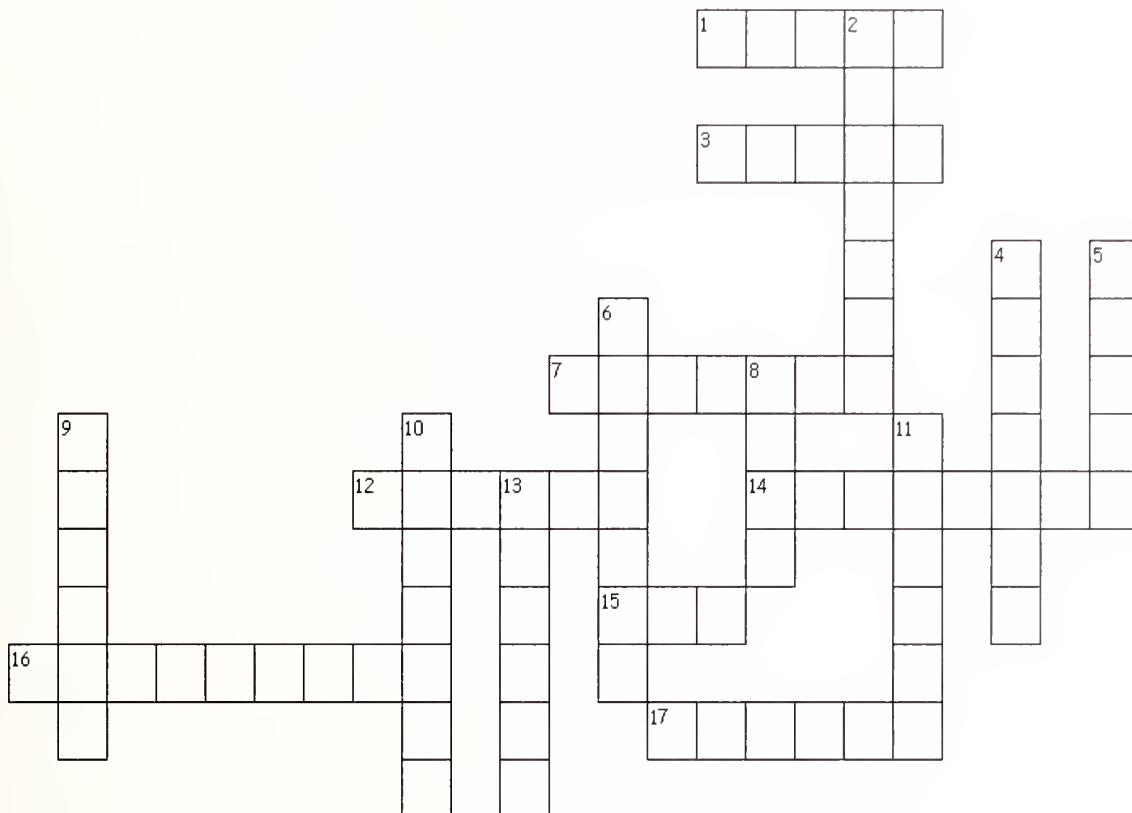
Fill in the Blanks:

Segregation Lynching Harriet Tubman Stockholders Emancipation Proclamation

Nikki Giovanni Tommie Smith Jim Crow Henson Tuskegee Airmen

- Born a slave, _____ made rescue missions from the South to free slaves using the network of activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad.
- The world known poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator known as _____, is still committed to the fight for civil rights and equality.
- John Carlos and _____ boycotted the 1968 Summer Olympics, to show how little progress had been made to solve racial oppression of Black Americans.
- The North Pole was discovered in 1909, by Matthew _____, a Black explorer.
- _____ is the practice of keeping groups separate and usually discriminating against a minority group.
- Those that contributed money or goods to the Underground Railroad were called _____.
- Black people were sometimes murdered by _____, usually hanging from a tree, as a cruel, hateful, punishment.
- _____ Laws were designed to prevent Black people from improving their status of equality.
- The all-Black Air Force fighter pilots in 1941, were known as the _____.
- In 1863, President Lincoln announced the _____, that claimed that all slaves were free.

Cross Word Puzzle



Across

1. Wrote the "Three Musketeers" and "The Count of Monte Cristo" (last name)
3. NASCAR driver; "Greased Lightning" (last name)
7. Wrote "Strange Fruit," and "Lady Sings the Blues" (last name)
12. The 1950, Noble Peace Prize winner for negotiations with the Middle East (last name)
14. The first Black woman to sing in the NY Opera; refused to sing in segregated places (last name)
15. Greatest of all times boxer, born Cassius Clay (last name)
16. Creole ragtime musician, also a name of a pastry (2 words, first name)
17. Invented the gas mask and the 3-way traffic light (last name)

Down

2. A conductor of the Underground Railroad and pictured on the one dollar coin (last name)
4. The founder of Black History Month, educator, and historian (last name)
5. He mailed himself to freedom in 1856 (last name)
6. The first Black woman to receive a license to fly a plane (last name)
8. Inventor of the personal computer and Vice President of IBM (last name)
9. Known for his perceptive, colorful poetry of Black life in America from the 1920's-1960's (last name)
10. First woman to win 3 gold medals during the Olympic Games (last name)
11. Co-founder of the Black Panther Party, Huey P. (last name)
13. Agriculturist, and the first Black man inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame (last name)

Cryptogram

***Fill in the missing letters of the names. Each name is separated by a comma and may be continued on the next line.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
10	25	8		7		9		5	15	14	17	19		26		23	24	16		13	12		1		

C	N	T	B	S	.	B	L	L	H	L	D	y	.																
25	20	22	19	16		10	21	24	6	4	10	6	14	14	6	4	9	20	14	6	8	21	1						
B	F	F	L	S	L	D	R	S	H	T	T	.																	
10	22	7	7	21	14	20	24	20	14	8	6	4	23	24			9	21	16	16	6	4							
M	C	D	N	L	.	P	H	L	L	S	W	H	.	T	L	y	.	B											
17	25	8	21	19	6	4	14	26	9	6	14	14	6	24	12	9	4	21	16	14	4	1		10					
N	J	M	N	B	N	N	K	R	.	J	M	S	B	C	K	W	.												
4	19	5	21	17	6	19	10	21	19	19	4	15	4	23	5	21	17	4	24	10	4	25	15	12	20				
R	T	H	.	S	S	.	K	N	.	T	y	L	R	.	R	B	R	.											
22	23	16	9	24	22	24	6	4	15	6	19	2	16	21	1	14	20	23	23	20	10	4	23						
T	C	L	M	N	T	.	R	T	H	R	.	S	H	.	H	N	R	.											
16	20	25	14	4	17	4	19	16	4	21	23	16	9	22	23	21	24	9	4	9	4	19	23						
y	B		B	R	W	N	.	C	T	V	.	S	C	T	T	.	M	.											
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R	T	N	L	T	H	R	K	N	.	F	R	D	R	C	K	.													
21	23	16	6	19	14	22	16	9	4	23	15	6	19	2	7	23	4	8	4	23	6	25	15						
D	L	S	S	.	J	S	H	H	N	S	N	.																	
8	20	22	2	14	21	24	24		5	20	24	6	21	9	9	4	19	24	20	19									

Solutions

Word Search:

+ + + + + + + I + B + Y + + P + M P + +
+ + + + + + + N + O T T E + O + R + +
C I V I L R I G H T S Y R I D + + I + X
C O U R A G E + + I E S C E L + + D + M
+ + + + + + + N + E G E O + A + E + L
+ + + + + + O + V + R R + T + U + + O
+ + + + + + I + E + F + + A + T + Q + C
+ + + + + T + R + + + + + T + + + E L
+ + + + I + E + + + + + + + I + + S A
+ + + L + + + + + + + + + + O + T M
+ + O + + + + + + + + + + + + N E +
+ B + + + + + + + + + + + + + + V +
A + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + A +
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+ + R + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +
+ K + S K R A P A S O R + + + + + + +
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Fill in the Blanks:

1. Harriet Tubman
2. Nikki Giovanni
3. Tommie Smith
4. Henson
5. Segregation
6. Stockholders
7. Lynching
8. Jim Crow
9. Tuskegee Airmen
10. Emancipation Proclamation

Cryptogram:

Count Basie
Billie Holiday
Buffalo Soldiers
Hattie McDaniel
Phillis Wheatley
Benjamin Banneker
James Beckwourth
Susie King Taylor
Roberto Clemente
Arthur Ashe
Henry Box Brown
Octavius Catto
Martin Luther King
Frederick Douglass
Josiah Henson

Cross Word Puzzle:

| <u>Across</u> | 1. Dumas | Down | 2. Anthony |
|---------------|------------|------|-------------|
| | 3. Scott | | 4. Woodson |
| | 7. Holiday | | 5. Brown |
| 12. | Bunche | | 6. Coleman |
| 14. | Anderson | | 8. Dean |
| 15. | Ali | | 9. Hughes |
| 16. | Jelly Roll | | 10. Rudolph |
| 17. | Morgan | | 11. Newton |
| | | | 13. Carver |

Suggested Reading

Elementary School

The Underground Railroad, Raymond Bial
Through My Eyes, Ruby Bridges
Jackie Robinson and the Story of All-Black Baseball, Jim O'Connor
Moja Means One, Muriel Feelings
Orphan Boy, Tololwa M. Mollel
The Day Gogo Went to Vote, Eleanor Batezat Sisulu
Marriage of the Rain Goddess: A South-African Myth, Olivia Wolfson
My Dream of Martin Luther King Jr., Faith Ringgold
I Love My Hair, Natasha Anastasia Tarpley
The Real McCoy, Wendy Towle

Middle School

I Was Born a Slave: The Story of Harriet Jacobs, Jennifer Fleischner
The Year They Walked, Beatrice Seigel
A Girl Named Disaster, Nancy Farmer
Beyond Safe Boundaries, Margaret Sacks
If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks, Faith Ringgold
Secret of Gumbo Grove, Eleanora E. Tate
Song of the Trees, Mildred Taylor
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, Mildred Taylor
Let the Circle Be Unbroken, Mildred Taylor
The Road to Memphis, Mildred Taylor
The Well, Mildred Taylor

Other

Our America: Life and Death on the South Side of Chicago, LeAlan Jones & Lloyd Newman
The Autobiography of Malcolm X, Alex Haley
Roots: The Saga of an American Family, Alex Haley
Waiting for the Rain, Sheila Gordon
Like Sisters on the Homefront, Rita Williams-Garcia
The Dear One, Jacqueline Woodson
Brown Angels, Walter Dean Myers
Harlem, Walter Dean Myers
Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush, Virginia Hamilton
Long Journey Home, Julius Lester
This Strange New Feeling, Julius Lester
1001 Things Everyone Should Know About African American History, Jeffrey C. Stewart
The Inventive Spirit of African Americans, Patricia Carter Sluby
I Gave It My Best Shot, Willie Fordham
Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story, Ben Carson, Cecil B. Murphrey
Models for Success, Supporting Achievement and Retention of Black Males, A Publication of the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, Inc.
Black Fathers, An Invisible Presence in America, Michael E. Connor and Joseph L. White
Growing Up Black in New Mexico, No Challenge-No Change, Charles E. Becknell, Sr.

Suggested Reading

And This Too Shall Pass, E. Lynn Harris
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou
The Heart of a Woman, Maya Angelou
Some Love, Some Pain, Some Time: Stories, J. California Cooper
Homemade Love, J. California Cooper
In Search of Satisfaction, J. California Cooper
The Wake of the Wind, J. California Cooper
Disappearing Acts, Terry McMillan
Waiting to Exhale, Terry McMillan
How Stella Got Her Groove Back, Terry McMillan
Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison
Native Son, Richard Wright
Black Boy: (American Hunger), Richard Wright
2nd Time Around, James Earl Hardy
A Raisin In The Sun, Lorraine Hansberry
Sister, Sister, Eric Jerome Dickey
Friends and Lovers, Eric Jerome Dickey
Kindred, Octavia Butler
The Parable of the Sower, Octavia Butler
A Lesson Before Dying, Ernest Gaines
Flyy Girl, Omar Tyree
A Do Right Man, Omar Tyree
Tumbling, Dianne McKinney-Whetstone
Tempest Rising, Dianne McKinney-Whetstone
Blessings, Sheneska Jackson
For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/when the Rainbow Is Enuf: A Choreopoem, Ntozake Shange
A Little Yellow Dog, Walter Mosley
Devil in a Blue Dress, Walter Mosley
Black Betty, Walter Mosley
Invisible Life: Fifth Anniversary Edition, E. Lynn Harris
Just as I Am, E. Lynn Harris
Possessing the Secret of Joy, Alice Walker
The Color Purple, Alice Walker
The Third Life of Grange Copeland, Alice Walker
In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens, Alice Walker
Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man in America, Nathan McCall
The Wedding, Dorothy West
Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe
Breath, Eyes, Memory, Edwidge Danticat
Lil' Mama's Rules, Sheneska Jackson
Caught Up In the Rapture, Sheneska Jackson
One Better, Rosalyn McMillan
Knowing, Rosalyn McMillan
Your Blues Ain't Like Mine, Bebe Moore Campbell
Sula, Toni Morrison
Jazz, Toni Morrison
Beloved, Toni Morrison
The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison
Song of Solomon, Toni Morrison
Paradise, Toni Morrison
Tar Baby, Toni Morrison
Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination, Toni Morrison

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- A Gathering of Old Men, Ernest Gaines
My Soul to Keep, Tananarive Due
The Between, Tananarive Due
The Selected Poems of Nikki Giovanni (1968-1995), Nikki Giovanni
The Secret, Ann Petry
Cane, Jean Toomer
The Souls of Black Folk (Modern Library Series), W.E.B. DuBois
Ugly Ways, Tina McElroy Ansa
The Hand I Fan With, Tina McElroy Ansa
Baby of the Family, Tina McElroy Ansa
Black Gold, Anita Richmond Bunkley
Only Twice I've Wished for Heaven, Dawn Turner Trice
Go Tell It On the Mountain, James Baldwin
The Fire Next Time (Modern Library Series), James Baldwin
Another Country, James Baldwin
Just Above My Head, James Baldwin
Giovani's Room, James Baldwin
The Piano Lesson, August Wilson
The Spook Who Sat By the Door, Sam Greenlee
Big Girls Don't Cry, Connie Briscoe
The Best of Simple, Langston Hughes
Bailey's Café, Gloria Naylor
Mama Day, Gloria Naylor
The Women of Brewster Place, Gloria Naylor
The Isis Papers: The Keys to the Colors, Dr. Frances Cress Welsing
Mama Black Widow, Iceberg Slim
Miss Ophelia, Mary Burnett Smith
Billy, Albert French
Manchild in the Promised Land, Claude Brown
Their Eyes Were Watching God, Zora Neale Hurston
Novels and Stories of Zora Neale Hurston (Library of America), Zora Neale Hurston
Bessie, Chris Albertson
Magic City, Jewell Rhodes Parker
Scenes From a Sistah, Lolita Files
The Color of Love, Sandra Kitt
What a Woman's Gotta Do, Evelyn Coleman
The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother, James McBride
Corregidora, Gayl Jones
I Been in Sorrow's Kitchen and Licked Out All the Pots, Susan Straight
Middle Passage, Charles Johnson
Sounder, William H. Armstrong
The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man, James Weldon Johnson
Push, Sapphire

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