

Calendar Connections

Black History Month February

Target Level: grades 3-6

The facts are created at a more advanced level but can easily be used for the entire homeschool family! Young children will soak up the information their older siblings are taught while all together.

Black History Books

Click on the book image to see the [recommended books](#).



Calendar Connections

Helpful Items

~these are the exact products we use~



cardstock



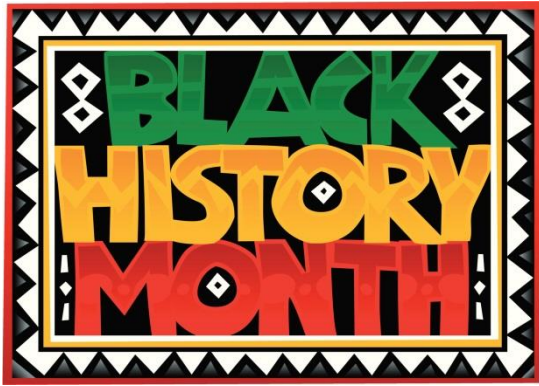
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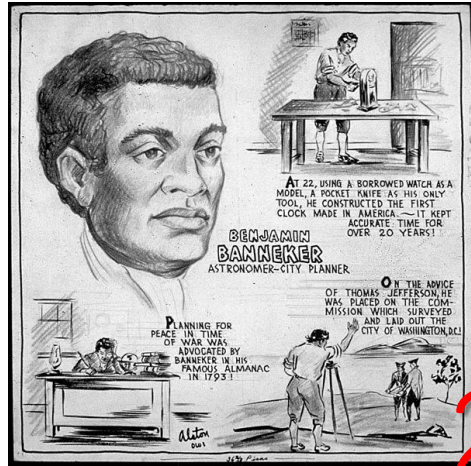
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We use this particular calendar, you can [get it on Amazon here!](#)





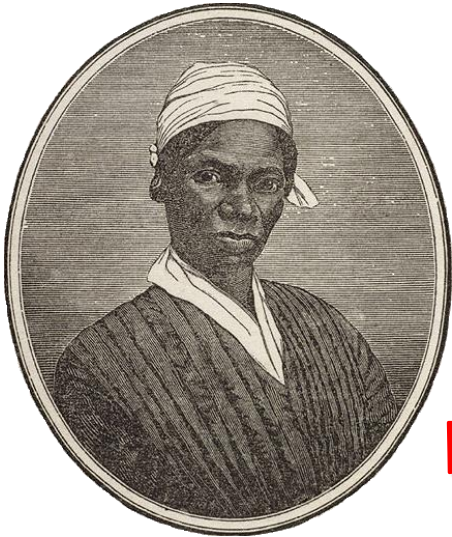
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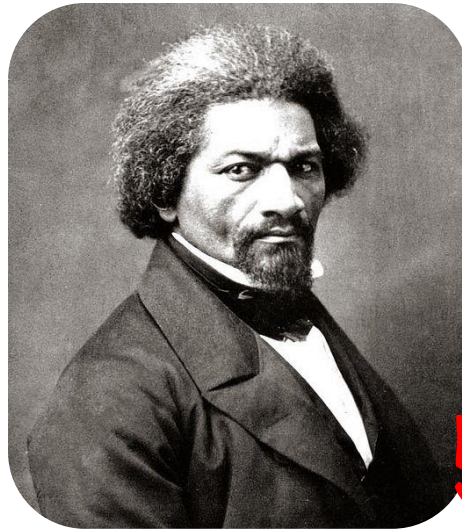
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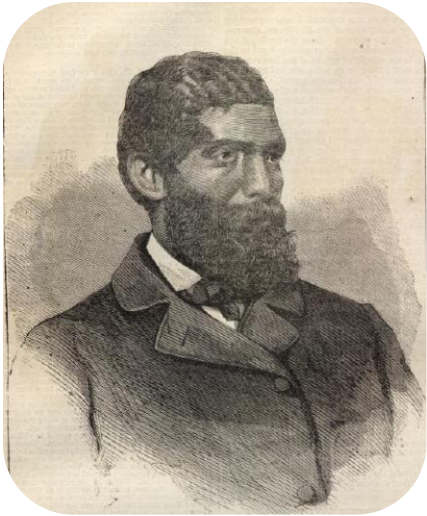


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<p>1 Black History Month</p> <p>The origins of Black History Month began in 1915, fifty years after the passing of the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Mooreland founded an organization called the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) to study and promote the achievements of black Americans and other peoples of African descent. Known today as the Association of the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the group funded a National Negro Week in 1926. They chose the second week in February to coincide with both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass's birthdays. In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black History Month, calling upon all to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."</p>	<p>2 Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806)</p> <p>Benjamin was born to freed slaves in Baltimore, MD. He learned to read from his mother and attended a nearby Quaker school for a few years, but that was the extent of his formal education. He enjoyed reading and later taught himself literature, math, and history. As an adult he inherited a farm which he worked until his death. At age 58, Banneker became interested in and taught himself astronomy. He began making projections for solar and lunar eclipses and computed ephemerides for an almanac. Maryland and Pennsylvania abolition societies helped print and distribute his almanac as an example of African American work and to validate the equal mental abilities of the races. It was because of these works Banneker became one of the most famous African Americans in early U.S. history.</p>	<p>3 Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784)</p> <p>Phillis Wheatley was snatched at the age of seven from Senegal/Gambia, West Africa. Believing Phillis was near death and wanting at least a small profit, the captain sold her "for a trifle" to Susanna Wheatley. Upon discovering her ability to learn, Phillis was included in the rich education of the children. Phillis began writing poetry at an early age and was first published in 1767 at the age of thirteen. She gained international recognition in 1770 with the publication of a poem remembering Rev. George Whitefield. In 1773 her first collection of poetry, <i>Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral</i> was printed in London as no American publisher would consider supporting an African. Over the next eleven years she would continue to write and publish individual works, but never another volume.</p>
<p>4 Sojourner Truth (1797-1883)</p> <p>Isabella Baumfree was born as a slave in Swartekill, NY sometime during the year of 1797. Isabella desired freedom. New York had begun discussions to abolish slavery in 1799 and finally granted emancipation July 4, 1827. It was a year too late for Belle. In 1826, her owner, John Dumont promised to free her, but reneged. Truth escaped to freedom that same year. June 1, 1843 Isabella changed her name to Sojourner Truth and devoted her life to the abolition of slavery and women's rights. In 1850 she made her first speech at the first National Women's Rights Convention. She then began touring and speaking about slavery and human rights. In May of 1851 she gave her most noted speech which would come to be known as "Ain't I a Woman?" Truth saw the emancipation of slaves in 1865, but never witnessed the success of women's rights. It would be nearly four more decades after her death before that would come to fruition.</p>	<p>5 Frederick Douglass (1818-1895)</p> <p>Born a slave, it was against the law to be taught to read and write. His owner's wife, however, ignored the law and taught Frederick the alphabet at the age of twelve. When his owner forbade the lessons, Frederick traded his food to the neighborhood boys for lessons. In 1838, Douglass escaped to freedom. Shortly thereafter, Douglass became a regular lecturer regarding the abolition of slavery. Over the next 45 years he would write three autobiographies, including the best-selling "The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave." He would also write numerous articles, present speeches, and consult for two presidents, Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. In 1872 he was nominated for vice-president of the U.S. on the Equal Rights Party ticket, marking the first time an African American appeared on a presidential ballot.</p>	<p>6 Harriet Tubman (1820-1913)</p> <p>Araminta (Minty) Harriet Ross was born to a slave family in Maryland around 1820 (slaves birthdates were not recorded). Slave life was difficult and physical violence was a daily occurrence in Minty's. When she was an adolescent a man threw a two-pound weight that struck her head. She suffered from seizures and severe headaches the rest of her life. In 1844, Minty married John Tubman and changed her name to Harriet Tubman. Tubman escaped to freedom in 1849, fleeing 90 miles to Philadelphia via the Underground Railroad. Over the next several years, she would guide her parents, family members and 60 others to safety via the Underground Railroad earning her the nickname "Moses." Tubman remained active serving as a nurse, cook, and spy during the Civil War. She was the first woman to lead an armed expedition in war, the Combahee River Raid, which freed over 700 slaves in South Carolina.</p>



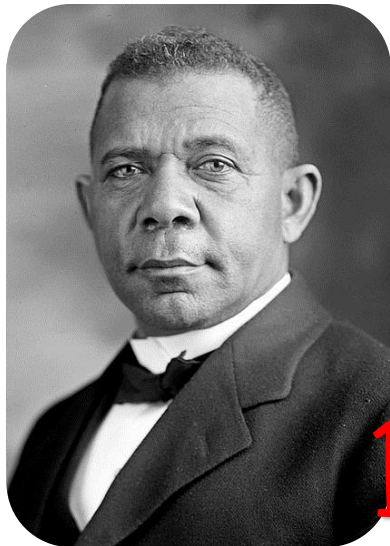
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7 **John Rock** (1825-1866)

Rock was born to free African American parents in Salem County, New Jersey. The common practice of the time was that all children worked to help support the family, but John's parents allowed him to attend school until graduation at eighteen. Due to his love of learning John earned his degree in dentistry at the age of 25 and then a medical degree by the age of 26. In 1852, John married and moved to Boston, MA where he opened a successful dental and medical practice. During this time he began to earn a reputation as a brilliant abolitionist speaker. He is credited with being the first to use the phrase "Black is Beautiful." In 1861 he earned his degree in law and opened a law practice. In 1865, Rock made his greatest mark in history when he became the first African American to be admitted to practice before the Supreme Court.

8 **Hiram Revels** (1827-1901)

Despite being born in North Carolina during a time of widespread slavery, Hiram Revels was a member of a free family. At 18 he was ordained as a minister. During the Civil War, Hiram organized two black regiments for the Union Army and fought in the Battle of Vicksburg. After the war he settled down with his family in Mississippi. He became a well respected member of the community known for his intelligence and speaking skills. Though having little government experience, in 1868 he won the election for the position of alderman. In 1870 the state congress selected Revels to fill a vacant seat in the U.S. Senate. He became the first African American to serve in this position. It was particularly symbolic as the seat he filled had previously belonged to Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy.

9 **Mary Eliza Mahoney** (1845-1926)

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Mary became interested in nursing as a teenager. She worked at the New England Hospital for Women and Children for fifteen years as a cook, washerwoman, janitor, and an unofficial nurse's assistant. At the age of 33, Mary was admitted as one of forty-two students in the hospital's nursing program. Sixteen months later she was one of only four to graduate the rigorous course and the first African American woman. In 1896, Mahoney became one of the first black members of the Nurses Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada. In addition to pioneering nursing for black women, Mahoney is also credited with being one of the first women to register to vote in Boston after the ratification of the 19th Amendment, granting women's suffrage, August 26, 1920.

10 **Booker T. Washington** (1856-1915)

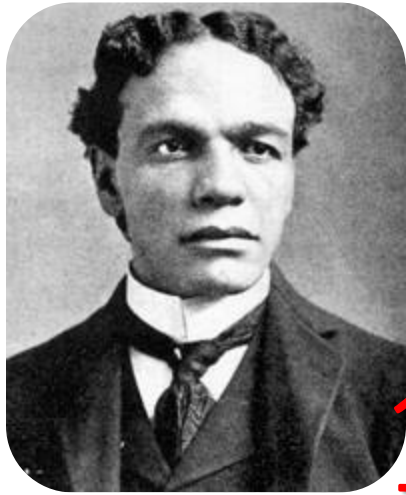
Born to a slave in 1856, Booker's life looked bleak. At age 9, however, the Civil War ended and he and his mother moved to West Virginia. Over the next 16 years, Booker took every opportunity to educate himself. In 1881, Booker was hired as the headmaster of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute (now Tuskegee University) which became a leading school in the country. In 1895, Booker made a controversial speech, "Atlanta Compromise," stating that African Americans should accept exclusion and social segregation as long as they were allowed financial progress, educational opportunities, and justice in the courts. This caused an uproar among those fighting for equality. In 1901, President T. Roosevelt invited Booker to the White House, the first African American to be so honored. He would serve as an advisor on racial matters to both Presidents Roosevelt and Taft.

11 **The 54th Massachusetts Infantry**

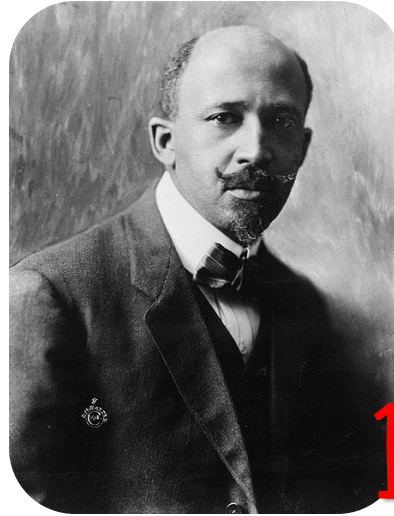
At the start of the Civil War in 1861, African Americans were not permitted to join the battle. It wasn't until January 1, 1863 when the Emancipation Proclamation decreed "such persons [that is, African-American men] of suitable condition, will be received into the armed services of the United States" they could join. February 1, 1863, Massachusetts governor John A. Andrew issued the first call for African American soldiers. More than 1,000 answered. May 28, 1863 the 54th's 1,007 soldiers and 37 white officers were sent to the battlefields of the South despite the announcement by the Confederate Congress that every captured black soldier would be sold into slavery and every white officer in command of black troops would be executed. Over the next two years, the 54th participated in a series of successful siege operations in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

12 **Matthew Henson** (1866-1955)

Matthew lost both parents at a young age and was raised by relatives in Washington D.C. At twelve he left home to work as a cabin boy on a ship. Over the next six years, under the tutelage of Captain Childs, Henson learned literacy and navigational skills. Upon Childs' death, Henson moved back to Washington D.C. to work in a store. While here he met explorer Robert Peary who hired him as a valet for his travel expeditions. Over the next eighteen years Henson would help explore Greenland and make several attempts to reach the North Pole. On April 6, 1909 Peary, Henson, four Eskimos, and 40 dogs finally reached the North Pole. Henson, as an African American, was not recognized. In 1937, at the age of 70, Henson finally received the acknowledgment he deserved: the highly regarded Explorers Club received him as an honorary member. In 1946 the U.S. Navy awarded him a medal and the Chicago Geographic Society awarded him a gold medal.



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13 William Henry Lewis (1868-1949)

Lewis was the son of former slaves. He attended and played football at Amherst College and Harvard Law School. He was elected team captain, a first for African Americans, at both institutions. Upon graduation he was hired as a coach for Harvard. Though he was never their head coach, he was their first paid coach. Lewis' chief interests, however, were civil rights, law, and government service. In 1903 he was appointed as an Assistant United States Attorney, the first African American to hold that post. From 1907-1911 he was appointed as Chief of the Naturalization Bureau for six New England states. From 1911-1913 Lewis served as the United States Assistant Attorney General, a sub Cabinet appointment which was then the highest post ever held by an African American. In 1911 he was the first African American admitted to the American Bar Association (ABA), but was ousted the following year.

14 W.E.B. DuBois (1868-1963)

William Edward Burghardt DuBois was born and raised in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. He freely attended schools with whites and was encouraged in his studies by his white teachers. In 1885 he moved to Tennessee to attend Fisk University where he first experienced Jim Crow laws. For the first time he began examining American racism. After earning a bachelors degree at Fisk he entered Harvard University. In 1895, DuBois became the first African American to earn a doctorate from Harvard University. The years following, DuBois became a proponent for African American equality, publically opposing Booker T. Washington's "Atlanta Compromise." He cofounded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909 and vocally supported women's rights. He died August 27, 1963 at the age of 95, one day before Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous March on Washington.

15 Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955)

Mary was born into poverty as one of seventeen children to former slaves. When a missionary in the area opened a school for black children, Mary was elected to attend. She traveled many miles each way and tried to share her newfound knowledge with her family. Mary received a scholarship to attend Scotia Seminary, a school for girls, in North Carolina. After graduating, she attended Dwight Moody's Institute for Home and Foreign Missions in Chicago. Upon graduating she returned to the south to begin her teaching. In 1904 she opened the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls in Daytona, FL where she served as its president and leader until 1942. She also became involved in government service lending her expertise to three different U.S. Presidents – Coolidge, Hoover, and F. D. Roosevelt. Mary believed that education was the key to racial progress.

16 Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950)

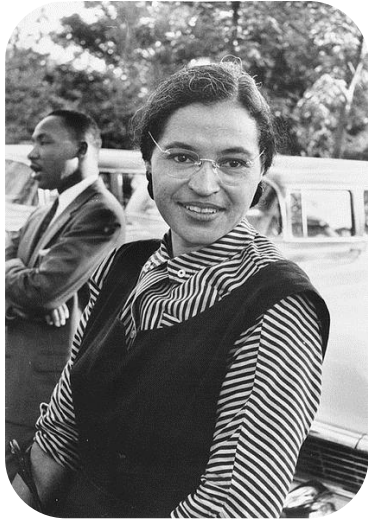
The oldest son of nine children, Carter G. Woodson worked in the mines and as a sharecropper in Virginia to help support his family. He started high school in his late teens, but was able to complete the four year program in just two years. After attending Berea College in Kentucky, Woodson traveled to the Philippines to work as the educational superintendent for the U.S. government. Upon his return, he attended Harvard University and became the second African American to earn a Ph. D from this prestigious university. Woodson dedicated his life to the study of African-American history making sure the subject was studied by scholars and taught in schools. In February 1926, after lobbying for schools and organizational participation, the first week dedicated to African American history took place. For all his hard work, Woodson is often know as the "Father of Black History."

17 Garrett Morgan (1877-1963)

Armed with only an elementary education, Morgan moved to Ohio and found work at various sewing-machine factories. Learning the inner-workings of the machines, he developed an improved machine, obtained a patent, and opened his own repair shop. With his business succeeding, Morgan began working on the problem of the sewing needles scorching wool fabric due to friction. While using a solution he noticed that the wool fibers were straighter. He developed the product and sold the cream as a hair straightener for African Americans. This invention established his financial security. Morgan would go on to invent a breathing device called a "safety hood." This would be the prototype for the gas-mask used during WWI that saved countless lives. In 1923, he would develop a new traffic signal that would include a "warning" light for drivers. He eventually sold the rights to GE for \$40,000.

18 Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993)

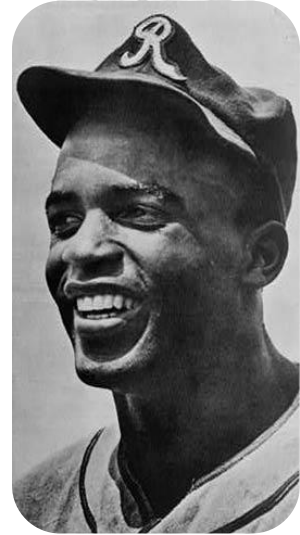
Marshall attended an all black high school and Lincoln University, an all black college. After graduating with honors, he applied to the University of Maryland Law School, where he was denied due to race. This experience would set the course for his future career. He attended another historically black school, Howard University. He began his law career working for the NAACP. Marshall fought and won many cases to challenge racial segregation. Winning the historic 1954 Supreme Court case, *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka*, which allowed blacks to attend the same schools as whites, was his greatest achievement as a civil rights lawyer. In 1961, Pres. Kennedy appointed him as a judge for the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals. In 1965, Pres. Johnson appointed him as the first black U.S. solicitor general. In 1967, Marshall was sworn in as the first African American Supreme Court Justice, the nations highest court.



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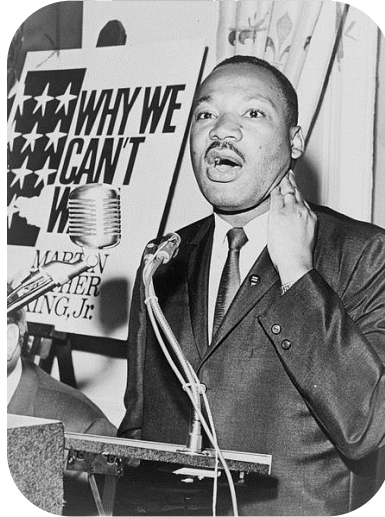
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19 Rosa Parks (1913-2005)
Rosa's youth was filled with experiences of racial segregation and involvement in racial equality. She faced both segregated schools and confrontations with the KKK. In 1932, she married Raymond Parks. Both were actively involved in the NAACP. During this time of segregation the front half of a bus was designated for whites and the back half for blacks. If more whites rode the bus, blacks were expected to yield their seats. On December 1, 1955, tired from a long day at work, Rosa refused to give up her seat. She was arrested. The NAACP organized a boycott of the transportation system to support Rosa. The boycott lasted 381 days and crippled the system. In June 1956, the courts declared racial segregation laws unconstitutional. In November 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the ruling. Due to the determination of the African American public, the boycott proved to be the most successful against racial segregation in history.

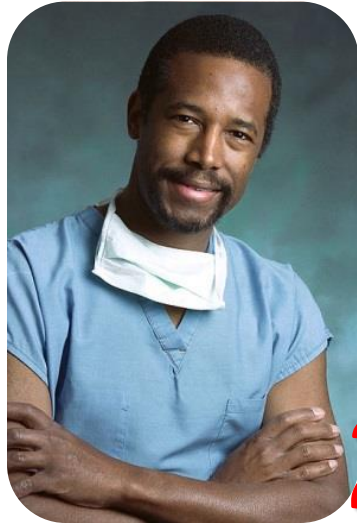
22 Shirley Chisholm (1924-)
Shirley was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. She attended Brooklyn College and graduated in 1946. She began her career as a teacher and earned a Master in Education from the Columbia University. In 1968, Shirley made history when she became the first African-American Congresswoman. She served seven terms. During her first term she was assigned to the House of Forestry Committee. She rejected that position and demanded she be placed on a different committee. She was placed on the Veterans' Affairs Committee and eventually worked herself up to Education and Labor Committee. In 1972, Chisholm made history again by becoming the first African-American major-party candidate to make a bid for the U.S. Presidency when she ran for the Democratic party nomination. Chisholm was ever the champion for minority education and employment opportunities during her tenure in office.

20 Jesse Owens (1913-1980)
Growing up, James Cleveland Owens, was a sickly child. He was still expected to work, however, and was picking up to 100 lb. of cotton at the age of seven. At the age of nine, his family moved from Alabama to Ohio, where a teacher could not decipher his accent and thought "JC" was Jesse – a nickname that stuck with him. Jesse proved to be a talented athlete in high school, being nationally recognized as a sprinter and jumper. Jesse continued to flourish in his athletic abilities at Ohio State University, where he would tie the world record for the 100-dash and create a record jump of 26-8 ¼ ft. that would stand for 25 years! Jesse earned a spot on the 1936 Olympic Team and won four gold medals (100 meter, long jump, 200 meter, and the four-hundred meter relay). Upon arrival at home, Jesse was largely ignored by Pres. F.D. Roosevelt. He wasn't recognized for his achievements until 1976 by Pres. Gerald Ford when awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

23 Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)
Martin Luther King, Jr. was raised with the belief that no one class of people was more superior than another. After earning a sociology degree, he earned a Masters of Theology and a Ph. D, all by 25 years old! He took a pastorate in Montgomery, AL and became involved with the NAACP. December 1, 1955 Martin was elected to lead Rosa Parks bus boycott. His public speaking abilities gave the struggling civil rights movement the energy it needed. In 1957 he organized black churches to conduct non-violent protests to reform civil rights. On August 28, 1963, the March on Washington took place drawing 200,000 people to hear his "I Have a Dream" speech, stressing his belief that someday all men could be brothers." In 1964, Martin received the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in bringing about the Civil Rights Act. April 4, 1968 Martin was assassinated. Years after his death, he is still the most widely known African-American figure of our time.

21 Jackie Robinson (1919-1972)
Jackie Robinson was an exceptional athlete and played all four sports: basketball, football, track, and baseball. He attended University of California, Los Angeles, where he became the first student to win varsity letters in four sports. From 1942-44 he served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army during WWII. After serving, Robinson started playing professional baseball. Due to segregation laws, blacks and whites played in separate leagues. Branch Ricky, president of the Brooklyn Dodgers, chose him to help integrate major baseball leagues. April 15, 1947, marked the first time an African-American athlete played in the major leagues. The racial abuse was intense, but despite this he won MVP in 1949, and helped the Dodgers win the World Series in 1955. He retired in 1957 with an impressive .311 batting average. In 1962 he became the first African American to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

24 Hank Aaron (1934-)
Hank Aaron developed a likeness for baseball at a young age, often to the detriment of his studies. His junior year of high school he transferred to the Josephine Allen Institute which had an organized baseball program. He quit at the age of 18 to play with the Negro Baseball League's Indianapolis Clowns. After leading them to win the leagues World Series, he was signed on with the Milwaukee Braves for \$10,000. He made his professional league debut in 1954 at the age of 20. Throughout his career, Aaron demonstrated his ability to come through in a pinch and in 1957 helped lead the Braves to a World Series win over the New York Yankees. Over his nearly 23 year career he would break many of baseball's notable records including hitting 755 homeruns – a record held for more than two decades. Aaron continues to hold many baseball records today including runs batted in (2,297), extra base hits (1477), and total bases (6,856).



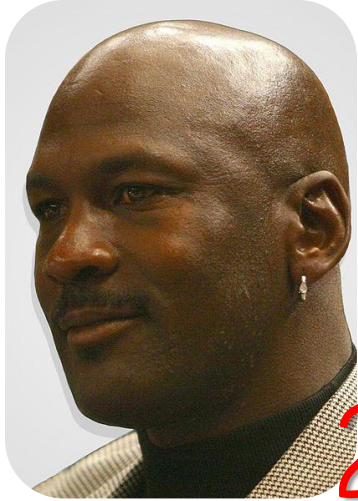
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25 Ben Carson (1951-)

Ben Carson was raised by his mother who worked 2-3 jobs to make ends meet. She was determined to have her sons succeed. When both boys fell to the bottom of their classes she set up a strict learning regime requiring them to complete their homework, read two library books a week, and give her written reports. Ben hated the routine at first, but soon understood its benefits. Within the next year he was at the top of his class. Graduating with honors, he attended Yale University and earned a degree in psychology. He then attended the University of Michigan majoring in neurosurgery. In 1977 he became a resident at Johns Hopkins University. Over the next 30 years, Carson would become chief neurosurgeon at Hopkins and perform some of the most difficult neurosurgeries, including the separation of several conjoined twins. His story is truly a rags to riches story with which he attributes God for his many blessings.

28 Michael Jordan (1963-)

Jordan grew up in Wilmington, NC with what his father described as a "competition problem. The person he tries to outdo most is himself!" Jordan attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he soon established himself as a significant member of the basketball team – winning the NCAA Division I Championship by scoring the last basket in 1982 and being singled out as the NCAA College Player of the Year for 1983 and 1984. Jordan made his first appearance at the 1984 Olympics and aided his team in earning a gold medal for the U.S. He would do it again in 1992. In 1984 he was drafted by the Chicago Bulls and averaged 28.2 points per game his first season. In 1986-87 he became the first person since Wilt Chamberlin to score more than 3,000 points in one season. With five regular-season MVP awards and three All-Star MVP awards, Jordan is the most decorated player of the NBA.

26 Mae Jemison (1956-)

As a young student in Chicago, IL, Mae spent a substantial amount of time in the library studying books about all aspects of science, especially astronomy. In 1973, Mae attended Stanford University on a National Achievement Scholarship, graduating with a BS in chemical engineering. She then attended Cornell Medical University and graduated with her MD in 1981. Mae was a general practitioner for the next four years. In 1985 she made a career change and applied to NASA's astronaut training program. She was accepted June 4, 1987 and became the first African-American woman admitted to the program. She would graduate as a science mission specialist. On September 12, 1992, she flew into space and would spend 190 hours (8 days!) there. Upon her return, Jemison noted society should recognize how much both women and members of other minority groups can contribute if given the opportunity.

29

John 15:12-15

¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

27 Barack Obama (1961-)

Barack Obama grew up with his maternal grandparents in HI. He attended the esteemed Punahou Academy and graduated with honors. He went on to study at Columbia University and graduated with a degree in political science. In 1988 he entered Harvard Law School and in 1990 was elected the first African-American editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. In 1996 he made his first bid for a political office by running as a Democrat for a seat in the Illinois State Senate and won. In 2004 he won the election for the U.S. Senate seat for Illinois. He would be only the third African-American to hold a position in the U.S. Senate since the Reconstruction. In Feb. 2007, Obama made headlines when he announced his candidacy for the 2008 presidential election. On November 4, 2008, Barack Obama defeated John McCain to become our 44th President and our first African-American to hold this office.