I'm not a robot

This two-part lesson will introduce students to the lives of black inventors with the aid of media, primary sources, and government documents. The first part invites students to research the lives of notable African American inventors and analyze some of their patents. In the second part, students can create their own invention. Last updated14 February 2025Celebrate Black History Month with this engaging biography worksheet featuring famous Black inventors and scientists. This resource highlights the remarkable contributions of influential individuals in fields like technology, medicine, and engineering. Students will learn about these trailblazers' inventions and breakthroughs, fostering an appreciation for their legacy. Perfect for enhancing history lessons and encouraging young minds to explore the world of innovation and science. Tes paid licenceHow can I reuse this?Select overall rating(no rating)Your rating is required to reflect your happiness.Write a reviewUpdate existing reviewIt's good to leave some feedback.Something went wrong, please try again later.This resource hasn't been reviewed yetTo ensure quality for our reviews, only customers who have purchased this resource can review itReport this resourceto let us know if it violates our terms and conditions. Our customer service team will review your report and will be in touch. Annual celebration of Black history For the song, see Black History Month (song). Black History MonthAlso calledAfrican-American History MonthObserved byUnited States, Canada,[1] Ireland, United Kingdom[2]SignificanceCelebration of the African diaspora including, African-American historyDate February (US, Canada and Jamaica) October (Europe) FrequencyAnnual Part of a series onAfrican Americans History Periods Timeline Atlantic slave trade Abolitionism in the United States Slavery in the colonial history of the US Revolutionary War Antebellum period Slavery and military history during the Civil War Reconstruction era Politicians Juneteenth Civil rights movement (1865–1896) Jim Crow era (1896–1954) Civil rights movement (1954–1968) Black power movement Post–civil rights era Aspects Agriculture history Black Belt in the American South Business history Military history Treatment of the enslaved Migrations Great Migration Second Great Migration New Great Migration Culture Lifeways Dance Family structure Film Folktales Music Musical theater Names Neighborhoods Newspapers Soul food Schools Education during the slave period in the US Education of freed people during the Civil War History of African-American education, after the Civil War Historically black colleges and universities Fraternities Academic study Studies Art Literature Celebrations Martin Luther King Jr. Day Black History Month Juneteenth Kwanzaa Economic class African-American businesses Middle class Upper class Billionaires Symbols and ideas African-American beauty Black is beautiful Black pride African-American hair Good hair Stepping "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Self-determination Religion Institutions Black church Theologies Black theology Womanist theology Non-Christian groups Hoodoo Black Hebrew Israelites African-American Jews African-American Muslims Nation of Islam Louisiana Voodoo African Diaspora Religions Politics Organizations Congressional Black Caucus Joint Center National Black Caucus of State Legislators National Conference of Black Mayors Ideologies Afrocentrism Anarchism Back-to-Africa movement Black power Capitalism Conservatism Garveyism Leftism Liberalism Nationalism Pan-Africanism Patriotism Populism Radicalism Socialism Civic/economic groups Organizations Association for the Study of AfricanAmerican Life and History Black conductors NAACP National Black Chamber of Commerce National Council of Negro Women National Pan-Hellenic Council National Urban League TransAfrica UNCF Sports Negro league baseball Athletic associations and conferences Central (CIAA) HBCU (HBCUAC) Mid-Eastern (MEAC) Southern (SIAC) Southwestern (SWAC) Sub-communities Multiethnic African-American Jews Afro-Puerto Ricans Alabama Creole people Black Indians Black Seminoles Mascogos Blaxicans Brass Ankles Creoles of color Dominickers Freedmen Great Dismal Swamp maroons Louisiana Creoles Melungeon Carmel Indians Redbone Specific ancestries Americo-Liberians Creek Freedmen Gullah Merikins Nova Scotians Samaná Americans Sierra Leone Creole Sexual orientation LGBT community Dialects and languages English dialects African-American English African-American Vernacular English Liberian English Samaná English Tutnese Languages and other dialects Gullah Afro-Seminole Creole Negro Dutch Black American Sign Language Population US states Alabama Arkansas California Florida Georgia Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Louisiana Maryland Mississippi Nebraska New York North Carolina Ohio Oklahoma Oregon South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Virginia US cities Black mecca List of neighborhoods Atlanta Baltimore Boston Chicago Dallas-Fort Worth Davenport Detroit Houston Jacksonville Kentucky Lexington Los Angeles New York City Omaha Philadelphia San Antonio San Francisco Historic places District of Columbia Florida Georgia Mississippi Missouri Omaha, Nebraska North Carolina South Carolina Texas West Virginia Population count US states and territories US metropolitan areas US cities US communities Places by plurality of population Diaspora Africa Canada France Ghana Israel Liberia Nova Scotia Sierra Leone Prejudice Racism Black genocide Race and ethnicity in the US census Racism against Black Americans Reparations for slavery School segregation in the US Unarmed African Americans killed by police officers Stereotypes and media depictions Blackface Criminal stereotypes Hollywood Magical Negro Minstrel show United States portal Category Indexvte Black History Month is an annually observed commemorative month originating in the United States, where it is also known as African-American History Month.[4][5] It began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora, initially lasting a week before becoming a month-long observation since 1970.[6] It is celebrated in February in the United States[7] and Canada,[8] where it has received official recognition from governments, and more recently has also been celebrated in Ireland and the United Kingdom where it is observed in October.[9][10] Carter G. Woodson (1875–1950) The precursor to Black History Month was created in 1926 in the United States, when historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) announced the second week of February to be "Negro History Week".[11] This week was chosen because it coincided with the birthday of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and that of Frederick Douglass on February 14, both of which Black communities had celebrated since the late 19th century.[11] For example, in January 1897, school teacher Mary Church Terrell persuaded the Washington, D.C. school board to set aside the afternoon of Douglass's birthday as Douglass Day to teach about his life and work in the city's segregated public schools.[12] The thought process behind the week was never recorded, but scholars acknowledge two reasons for its birth: recognition and importance.[13] In 1915, Woodson had participated in the Lincoln Jubilee, a celebration of the 50 years since emancipation from slavery held in Bronzeville, Chicago. The summer-long Jubilee, which drew thousands of attendees from across the country to see exhibitions of heritage and culture, impressed Woodson with the need to draw organized focus to the history of black people. He led the founding of the ASNLH in Chicago that fall, toward the end of the Jubilee.[12] Early in the event's history, African-American newspapers lent crucial support.[14] From the event's initial phase, primary emphasis was placed on encouraging the coordinated teaching of the history of Black Americans in the nation's public schools. The first Negro History Week was met with a lukewarm response, gaining the cooperation of the departments of education of the states of North Carolina, Delaware, and West Virginia as well as the city school administrations of Baltimore, New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.[15] Despite this limited observance, Woodson regarded the event as "one of the most fortunate steps ever taken by the Association", and plans for an annual repeat of the event continued.[15] At the time of Negro History Week's launch, Woodson contended that the teaching of Black History was essential to ensure the physical and intellectual survival of Blacks within broader society: If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated. The American Indian left no continuous record. He did not appreciate the value of tradition; and where is he today? The Hebrew keenly appreciated the value of tradition, as is attested by the Bible itself. In spite of worldwide persecution, therefore, he is a great factor in our civilization.[16] In 1929, The Journal of Negro History noted that, with only two exceptions, officials with the state departments of education of "every state with considerable Negro population" had made the event known to that state's teachers and distributed official literature associated with the event.[17] Churches also played a significant role in the distribution of literature in association with Negro History Week during this initial period, with the mainstream and Black press aiding in the publicity effort. Throughout the 1930s, Negro History Week countered the growing myth of the South's "lost cause", which argued that enslaved people had been well-treated, that the Civil War was a war of "northern aggression", and that Black people had been better off under slavery. Woodson wrote, "When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions, you do not have to tell him not to stand here or go yonder. He will find his 'proper place' and will stay in it."[18] Negro History Week grew in popularity throughout the following decades, with mayors across the United States endorsing it as a holiday.[11] The Black United Students first Black culture center, Kuumba House in Kent State, where many events of the first Black History Month celebration took place[7] Black educators and Black United Students at Kent State University first proposed Black History Month in February 1969. The first celebration of Black History Month took place at Kent State a year later, from January 2 to February 28, 1970.[7] Six years later, Black History Month was being celebrated all across the country in educational institutions, centers of Black culture, and community centers, both great and small, when President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month in 1976, during the celebration of the United States Bicentennial. He urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history".[19] Black History Month on the USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) deployed in February 2015 in the 5th Fleet area of operations supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, strike operations in Iraq and Syria. Photo removed online by the Trump administration in 2025. In the United States, Black History Month is commemorated during the month of February.[20] Since its inception, the Black community met the creation of Black History Month was met with enthusiastic response; it prompted the creation of Black history clubs, an increase in interest among teachers, and interest from progressive whites.[11] Black History Month has also expanded beyond its initial acceptance in educational establishments. Carter Woodson's organization, now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), designates a theme each year.[21] For example, "Black Health and Wellness" in 2022 focused on medical scholars, health care providers, and health outcomes.[22] The Wall Street Journal describes Black History Month as "a time when the culture and contributions of African Americans take center stage" in a variety of cultural institutions, including theaters, libraries, and museums.[23] Black History Month has garnered attention from the U.S. business community.[24] In 2018, Instagram created its first Black History Month program with the help of its Head of Global Music & Youth Culture Communications, SHAVONE. Instagram's Black History Month program featured a series of first-time initiatives, including a #BlackGirlMagic partnership with Spotify and the launch of the #CelebrateBlackCreatives program, which reached more than 19 million followers.[25] In February 2020, many American corporations commemorated Black History Month, including The Coca-Cola Company, Google, Target Corporation, Macy's, United Parcel Service and Under Armour.[26] On February 18, 2016, 106-year Washington, D.C., resident and school volunteer Virginia McLaurin visited the White House as part of Black History Month. When asked by President Barack Obama why she was there, McLaurin said: "A Black president. A Black wife. And I'm here to celebrate Black history. That's what I'm here for."[27][28] In 2025, the Defense Intelligence Agency cancelled internal celebrations of Black History Month and other "special observances" due to the second Trump administration's efforts to stop diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. However, at the start of February, President Donald Trump signed a proclamation honoring National Black History Month.[29][30] 1822 handbill advertising a Black boxing tutor in Alnwick, Northumberland; tweeted by Northumberland Archives as part of Black History Month in 2020[31] In the United Kingdom, Black History Month was first celebrated in October 1987[32] The year of 1987, recognized as the African Jubilee, was coincidentally the year of the 150th anniversary of Caribbean emancipation, the centenary of the birth of Marcus Garvey and the 25th anniversary of the Organization of African Unity, an institution dedicated to advancing the progress of African states.[33] Black History Month in the UK was organised through the leadership of Ghanaian analyst Akyaaba Addai-Sebo, who had served as a coordinator of special projects for the Greater London Council (GLC) and created a collaboration to get it underway.[34][35] The first Black History Month celebration in the UK was held in London on October 1, 1987, when Dr. Maulana Karenga from the US was invited to an event by the Greater London Council about Black people's contributions to history.[36] Some institutions have faced criticism for supporting Black History Month with images of people from British Asian backgrounds, using the term "black" to refer to political blackness encompassing all people of color.[37] In Berlin, Germany, in 1990, members of the Black German community began observing Black History Month. Programs have included discussions of black Europeans, international African perspectives, the history of civil rights in the U.S., and apartheid in South Africa.[38] In 1995, after a motion by politician Jean Augustine, representing the riding of Etobicoke—Lakeshore in Ontario, Canada's House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month (French: Mois de l'histoire des Noirs) and honored Black Canadians.[39] In 2008, Senator Donald Oliver moved to have the Senate officially recognize Black History Month, which was unanimously approved.[8] Black History Month was first proclaimed by the City of Toronto in 1979, and then by the Province of Ontario in 1993. Work done by the Ontario Black History Society helped lead to these proclamations.[40] Canada defines the festivity as an opportunity to celebrate "the achievements and contributions of Black Canadians and their communities who ... have done so much to make Canada a culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous country".[41] In Jamaica, Black History Month is observed during the month of February,[42][43] which had been informally adopted by the mid-1990s.[44] Special attention is given to this period as February also marks Reggae Month,[43] which coincides with the birthdates of the King of Reggae, Robert Nesta Marley OM, and the Prince of Reggae, Dennis Brown.[42][45] It has been a time to acknowledge and honour the achievements and inventions of black figures throughout history, and to reflect on liberation, past racial adversity and struggles.[42][46][47] During this period, locals especially reflect on and pay homage to the contributions of prominent African American civil rights activists, and Jamaican activists and pioneers who have been impactful internationally and nationally— such as Marcus Garvey, Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, Harry Belafonte, Ferdinand Smith, John Brown Russwurm, and others. Reggae's role in global social and political activism against apartheid, oppression and inequality,[43][48][49] has amplified the significance of Black History Month on the island. Since January 9, 2008, February has been officially declared as Reggae Month, which also celebrates the genre's musical, cultural and economic contributions to the development of the island.[45] In the past, some critics questioned the rationale and relevance of commemorating an "imported" event to Jamaican contexts— in light of differences in demographics and experiences between the United States and Jamaica, and Jamaicans' penchant of adopting anything emanating from the United States.[44] Others argued for greater attention to local heroes, while demonstrating solidarity with Black Americans.[44] Ireland's Great Hunger Institute, at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut, notes: "Black History Month Ireland was initiated in Cork in 2010. This location seems particularly appropriate as, in the 19th century, the city was a leading center of abolition, and the male and female anti-slavery societies welcomed several black abolitionists to lecture there, including Charles Lenox Remond and Frederick Douglass."[50] In France, Black History Month was first organized in 2018 in Bordeaux.[51] Since then, there have been celebrations in Paris, Le Havre, Guadeloupe, La Rochelle and Bayonne. In 2022 the month was dedicated to Josephine Baker, a dancer and member of the French Resistance during World War II born in the United States.[52] In 2020, Black History Month was celebrated in seven African countries for the first time. Participating countries were Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ivory Coast, Comores, Senegal and Cameroon. The event was initiated by the organisation Africa Mondo founded by Mélina Seymour. Starting in 2021, an African History Month was celebrated in March.[citation needed] When first established, Black History Month resulted in some controversy.[53] Those who believed that Black History Month was limited to educational institutions questioned whether it was appropriate to confine the celebration of Black history to one month, as opposed to the integration of Black history into mainstream education for the whole year. Another concern was that, contrary to the original inspiration for Black History Month, which was a desire to redress how American schools failed to represent Black historical figures as anything other than enslaved people or colonial subjects, Black History Month could reduce complex historical figures to overly simplified objects of "hero worship". Other critics refer to the celebration as a form of racism.[54] Actor and director Morgan Freeman and actress Stacey Dash have criticized the concept of declaring only one month as Black History Month.[55][56] Freeman noted, "I don't want a Black history month. Black history is American history."[57] In February 2025, Google announced that Black History Month would no longer be highlighted by default on Google Calendar, arguing that it was no longer "scalable or sustainable" to continue adding the growing number of national and international "cultural moments" manually to its calendars.[58] In the US, a theme for each Black History Month is selected by the ASALH:[59][60][61] 1928: Civilization: A World Achievement 1929: Possibility of Putting Negro History in the Curriculum 1930: Significant Achievements of the Negro 1931: Neglected Aspects of Negro History 1932: What George Washington Bicentennial Commission Fail to Do 1933: Ethiopia Meets Error in Truth 1934: Contribution of the Negro in Poetry, in Painting, in Sculpture and in Science 1935: The Negro Achievements in Africa 1936: African Background Outlined 1937: American Negro History from the Time of Importation from Africa up to the Present Day 1938: Special Achievements of the Race: Oratory, Drama, Music, Painting, Sculpture, Science and Inventions 1939: Special Achievements of the Race: Religion, Education, Business, Architecture, Engineering, Innovation, Pioneering 1940: Negro Labor 1941: The Career of Frederick Douglass 1942: The Negro in Democracy 1943: The Negro in the Modern World 1944: The Negro and the New Order 1945: The Negro and Reconversion 1946: Let us Have Peace 1947: Democracy Possible only Through Brotherhood 1948: The Whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth 1949: The Use of Spirituals in the Classroom 1950: Outstanding Moments in Negro History 1951: Eminent Negroes in World Affairs 1952: Great Negro Educators (Teachers) 1953: Negro History and Human Relations 1954: Negro History: A Foundation for Integration 1955: Negro History: A Contribution to America's Intercultural Life 1956: Negro History in an Era of Changing Human Relations 1957: Negro History 1958: Negro History: A Factor in Nationalism and Internationalism 1959: Negro History: A Foundation for a Proud America 1960: Strengthening America Through Education in Negro History and African Culture 1961: Freedom and Democracy for the Negro after 100 years (1861–1961) 1962: Negro History and a New Birth of Freedom 1963: Negro History Evaluates Emancipation (1863–1963) 1964: Negro History: A Basis for the New Freedom 1965: Negro History: Freedom's Foundation 1966: Freedom from Racial Myths and Stereotypes Through Negro History 1967: Negro History in the Home, School, and the Community 1968: The Centennial of the Fourteenth Amendment Afro American History Week 1969: Changing the Afro American Image through History 1970: 15th Amendment and Black America in the Century (1870–1970) 1971: African Civilization and Culture: A Worthy Historical Background 1972: African Art, Music, Literature; a Valuable Cultural Experience 1973: Biography Illuminates the Black Experience 1974: Helping America Understand 1975: Fulfilling America's Promise: Black History Month 1976: America for All Americans 1977: Heritage Days: The Black Perspective; the Third Century 1978: Roots, Achievements and Projections 1979: History: Torch for the future 1980: Heritage for America 1981: Black History: Role Model for Youth 1982: Afro American Survival 1983: Afro Americans in the United States 1984: Afro Americans and Education 1985: Afro American Family 1986: Afro American Experience: International Connection 1987: Afro Americans and the Constitution from Colonial Times to the Present 1988: Constitutional Status of Afro Americans in the 21st Century 1989: Afro Americans and Religion 1990: Seventy-Five Years of Scholarly Excellence: A Homage to Our Forebearers 1991: Educating America: Black Universities and Colleges, Strengths and Crisis 1992: African Roots Experience New Worlds, Pre-Columbus to Space Exploration 1993: Afro-American Scholars: Leaders, Activists and Writers 1994: Empowering Black Americans 1995: Reflections on 1895: Douglass, Du Bois & Washington 1996: Black Women 1997: African Americans and Civil Rights; a Reprisal 1998: Black Business 1999: Legacy of African American Leadership for the Present and the Future 2000: Heritage and Horizons: The African American Legacy and the Challenges for the 21st Century 2001: Creating and Defining the African American Community: Family, Church Politics and Culture 2002: The Color Line Revisited: Is Racism Dead? 2003: The Souls of Black Folks: Centennial Reflections 2004: Before Brown, Beyond Boundaries: Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education 2005: The Niagara Movement: Black Protest Reborn, 1905–2005 2006: Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social, and Civil Institutions 2007: From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas 2008: Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism 2009: The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas 2010: The History of Black Economic Empowerment 2011: African Americans and the Civil War 2012: Black Women in American Culture and History 2012: President Barack Obama National Black History Month Proclamation 2013: At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington 2014: Civil Rights in America 2015: A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture 2016: Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories 2017: The Crisis in Black Education 2018: African Americans in Times of War 2019: Black Migrations 2020: African Americans and the Vote 2021: The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity 2022: Black Health and Wellness 2023: Black Resistance 2024: African Americans and the Arts 2025: African Americans and Labor African-American history African-American Heritage Sites African-American Music Appreciation Month Filipino American History Month LGBT History Month Women's History Month Disability History Month Dalit History Month Arab American Heritage Month Gay and Lesbian Pride Month Irish-American Heritage Month Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month Jewish American Heritage Month National Hispanic Heritage Month National Tibetan American Heritage Month Native American Indian Heritage Month Polish American Heritage Month Puerto Rican Heritage Month South Asian Heritage Month Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Haitian Heritage Month Afro-Colombian Day Black Awareness Day, Brazil ^ Compton, Wayde (February 14, 2016), "Remembering Hogan's Alley, hub of Vancouver's black community", CBC News. 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You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Civil Rights Leaders Word-search Our word search activity will appropriately serve the purposes of reiterating the names of the famous civil rights leaders, promote word recognition and review spellings of their names; all of these at one go. The First and Foremost Know about these exemplary Afro-American pioneers in various fields who blazed trails to achieve the impossible. The pdf worksheet presents statements about these people for students to identify and name them. Black Americans in the News | MCQ Use this multiple-choice questions exercise for learners to gain knowledge about the profession or passion of the well-known African Americans. Singers, players, writers or scientists, we have them all. Writing Prompt Our very convenient and helpful pdf worksheet will provide multiple opportunities to children of grades 5 and above to research about a famous Afro-American and write about his/her contributions, achievements, etc. Arranging Chronologically Our African Americans worksheet combines the fun of a cut and glue activity with the benefits of arranging historically significant events in their order of occurrence. Doesn't this activity make learning fun? The Civil Rights Act Tell kids when and how the ideals of equality, freedom and justice were enshrined in the U.S. Constitution with this printable of matching the Civil Rights Acts to their dates of enforcement. Black History Month | Quiz Symbolizing struggle and revolution, Black history is everyone's history. Our printable quiz worksheet on Black History Month recognizes the accomplishments of African Americans throughout the history of America. African American Pioneers Develop reading comprehension skills of students of grade 8, while reflecting on the substantive contributions of some great African Americans and commending their strength of spirit. I Have a Dream | Martin Luther King Jr Use this batch of MLK worksheets for grade 1 through grade 4 to see the realization of the dream of one of the most inspirational leaders in the history of the world. Find a host of interesting pdf worksheets on this great personality. (10 Worksheets) ReviewsThis resource is amazing. It helped me a lot in class. Thank you for sharing. Strongly disagreeStrongly agreeStudents loved this! User friendly and students were engaged.Strongly disagreeStrongly agreeSome struggled with but wasn't lack of effort and offering. Primarily students on the autism spectrum, with learning difficulties, and that are emerging bilinguals/ ELs/ ESOLs/ ENLsStrongly disagreeStrongly agreeI have used this assignment in the past. I love it. It allows my students to learn about other AA scientist besides George W. Carver. Strongly disagreeStrongly agreeStrongly disagreeStrongly agree More than 400 years of Black history and heritage are preserved in national parks and communities around the country. Discover stories shared by people who formed powerful connections with these places of history, nature, and enjoyment. Inspire others by sharing your “park story”! Image Credit: Sam Gilliam, Wissahickon, 1975, color screenprint on wove paper, Gift of Funds from the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation, National Gallery of Art, Washington, 2023.22.17 Educating a slave was considered a crime at this time. Booker did go to school, not to learn as he would have liked, but to carry the books for one of James Burroughs's daughters. He was so desperate to learn that at the age of 16, Booker walked 500 miles back to Virginia to enroll in a new school for black students. Booker went on to teach at Hampton, he then became the principal and leading force behind the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, which he founded in 1881. In the last season of his life, Booker T. Washington openly attacked the social disease of racism. The Jim Crow laws of the late 1800's continued to suppress the African-American population under the guise of "separate but equal". The laws included segregation in schools, transportation and restaurants where blacks were forced to sit in the back or in specially designated sections. The laws included segregation in schools, transportation and restaurants where blacks were forced to sit in the back or in specially designated sections. Growing up in the rural D.C. area around the turn of the century Charles witnessed firsthand the cruelty and injustice of the Jim Crow laws that had been imposed on the African-American community. A true champion to the anti-slavery cause was born a slave but escaped to freedom at an early age. For the remainder of his life, Frederick Douglass courageously fought to defeat racial injustice. Frederick Douglass was fascinated with reading and writing, and practiced these in secret. He would ask white children to teach him to read, and many complied. Frederick married a free black woman named Anna Murray in 1838, and changed his name from Bailey to Douglass after a character in a book by Sir Walter Scott. Frederick married a free black woman named Anna Murray in 1838, and changed his name from Bailey to Douglass after a character in a book by Sir Walter Scott. Very few people achieve in a lifetime what George Washington Carver did over the course of his 80 some odd years. While details about his birth are sketchy, a census record from June of 1870 has him listed as 10 years old at the time. Because there was no school for children of his race near his home, Carver was forced to move away to southwest Missouri. Because there was no school for children of his race near his home, Carver was forced to move away to southwest Missouri. Agricultural achievements aside, Carver was an accomplished artist and musician as well. His paintings garnished honorable mention at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. Harriet Tubman Ross is one of the most well known African-American abolitionist figures during the American Civil War. Harriet was born a slave in Maryland's Dorchester County around 1820. Her maiden name was Araminta Ross, which she changed after marriage. In 1844, she married a free black man named John Tubman. In 1849, she learned she was to be sold, and decided to escape from slavery. Her attempts to free slaves had made her famous by the time she had made her fourth or fifth trip back to the South. During his high school and junior college years Robinson excelled in baseball, football, basketball and track, lettering in all four sports and was named the regions MVP in baseball in 1938. In the mid 1940's professional baseball wasn't integrated, so Robinson was relegated to playing in Negro leagues whose teams traveled around the country to play each other. Robinson did endure brutal attacks for the color of his skin from the fans and opposing players, the media and even his own teammates. After Robinson announced his retirement in January of 1957 he became a prominent spokesman for injustice and civil rights, even testifying before Congress on discrimination issues. He is best known for his efforts in the "Back to Africa" movement, which encouraged African-Americans to return to their home roots in Africa. Marcus Garvey was the youngest of 11 siblings. His father loved to read, and passed the love of books on to young Marcus. In 1914, Marcus Garvey founded the UNIA, and began promoting his message of black pride and independence to the world. He called for freedom for black citizens in African nations, and for African-Americans to return to their roots in Africa. He formed the Black Star Line shipping company in 1919, to promote trade between black nations, and to provide transport for passengers wishing to return to Africa. Prince Hall was an enigmatic figure who spent the majority of his adult life as a civil rights defender and abolitionist. Some have theorized that he was born in Barbados, in the late 1740's while others claim that he arrived in Boston from Africa around 1765. Nothing can be definitively stated about his life prior to 1770. After 21 years of loyal service, slave owner William Hall gave Prince his