

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Name	Claim to Fame	Lifespan	Summary
1700s			
Benjamin Banneker	Astronomer, clockmaker, publisher	1731-1806	Was able to make the calculations to predict solar and lunar eclipses and to compile an ephemeris for the <i>Benjamin Banneker's Almanac</i> .
Jean Baptiste Point du Sable	First resident of Chicago	1745-1813	du Sable built his first house in the 1770s, 30 years before Fort Dearborn was established on the banks of the Chicago River.
Phillis Wheatley	Poet	1753-1784	One of the first African-American poets whose works were published.
The Reverend Richard Allen	Religious leader	1760-1831	In 1816, founded the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Philadelphia.
Peter Spencer	Religious leader	1760-1831	Founder of the first independent black Christian denomination in the U.S., the A.U.M.P. Church.
Joshua Johnson	Artist	1763-1824	Joshua Johnson (c.1763 – c.1824) was an American painter from the Baltimore area. Johnson, often viewed as the first person of color to make a living as a painter in the United States, is known for his naïve paintings of prominent Maryland residents.
Josiah Henson	Preacher	1789-1883	Josiah Henson (1789-1883), born a slave in Charles County, Md., and later a preacher and author, is thought by many to have been the inspiration for the character of Uncle Tom in Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> .
Dred Scott	Political activist, abolitionist	1795-1858	Dred Scott was a slave who sued for his freedom in court, since he had been taken to a "free" state (Wisconsin). He lost his case in St. Louis, Missouri, but won it on appeal. His case was again appealed and Scott lost. The results of his court case led to major political upheavals in the USA and eventually, the Civil War.
Sojourner Truth	Abolitionist	1797-1883	A.K.A. Isabella Baumfree; noted speaker for both the abolitionist movement and the women's rights movement.
1800s			
Nat Turner	Rebellion leader	1800-1831	In 1831, led failed slave rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia; the most remarkable instance of black resistance to enslavement.
Norbert Rillieux	Inventor and engineer	1806-1894	Most noted for inventing the multiple-effect evaporator, an energy-efficient means of evaporating water.
Martin Delany	Abolitionist	1812-1885	First African-American field officer in the United States Army.

Frederick Douglass	Abolitionist, editor, orator, author, statesman, reformer	1818-1895	"Sage of Anacostia;" among the most prominent and influential African-American lecturers and authors in U.S. history.
Harriet Tubman	Writer, abolitionist	1820-1913	As an abolitionist, she acted as intelligence gatherer, refugee organizer, raid leader, nurse, revival speaker, and fund raiser.
Frances Harper	Poet, novelist, lecturer, activist	1754-1832	Was also a strong supporter of prohibition and woman`s suffrage.
Harriet Wilson	Novelist	1825-1900	First African American of either gender to publish a novel on the North American continent.
William H. Carney	Civil War hero	1842-1908	Sgt. Carney was the first African American to be awarded the Medal of Honor.
Elijah McCoy	Inventor	1844-1929	Invented an automatic lubricator for oiling the steam engines of locomotives, boats, etc.
George Washington Buckner	Physician and diplomat	1885-1943	First African American to serve as diplomatic minister to a foreign country.
George Washington Johnson	Pioneer recording artist	1855-1914	Famous for whistling and singing "The Whistling Coon" and "The Laughing Coon."
Booker T. Washington	Political leader, educator, author	1856-1915	One of the dominant figures in African-American history from 1890 to 1915; did much to improve the friendship and working relationship between the races.
Henry Ossawa Tanner	Artist	1859-1957	Henry Ossawa Tanner was an African-American artist. He was the first African-American painter to gain international acclaim. <sup>[1]</sup> He moved to Paris in 1891 to study, and decided to stay there, being readily accepted in French artistic circles. <sup>[2]</sup> His painting entitled <i>Daniel in the Lions' Den</i> was accepted into the 1896 Salon. <sup>[3]</sup>
George Washington Carver	Plant scientist	1860-1943	Taught former slaves farming techniques for self-sufficiency; known for suggesting hundreds of uses for the peanut, other plants.
Madame C.J. Walker	First woman millionaire	1867-1919	A.K.A. Sarah Breedlove; founded the Madame C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company to sell hair care products and cosmetics.
Horace Pippin	Artist	1888-1946	Horace Pippin was a self-taught African-American painter. The injustice of slavery and American segregation figure prominently in many of his works.
Mathew A. Henson	Explorer	1866-1955	Matthew Alexander Henson was an American explorer and one of the first people to visit the North Pole. He was on most of Robert E. Peary's expeditions, including the 1909 trip to the North Pole.

W.E.B. DuBois	Civil rights activist, sociologist, historian, writer, editor, poet, freemason, scholar.	1868-1963	"Father of Pan-Africanism" with issues of segregation, political disenfranchisement. Believed that people of African descent should work together to battle prejudice, inequality.
Scott Joplin	Ragtime composer	ca 1867-1917	Most famous piece was <i>Maple Leaf Rag</i> , set standard for ragtime genre.
James W. Johnson	Author, poet, folklorist, civil rights leader	ca 1871-1938	Prominent figure in the Harlem Renaissance; works included <i>The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man</i> (1912).
Paul L. Dunbar	Poet	1872-1906	Gained national recognition for his 1896 <i>Lyrics of a Lowly Life</i> .
W.C. Handy	Blues composer	1873-1958	Known as "The Father of the Blues."
Benjamin O. Davis Sr.	General	1877-1970	First African-American general in the U.S. Army.
Jack Johnson	Pugilist	1878-1946	First black heavyweight boxing champion of the world.
George Herriman	Cartoonist	1880-1944	Best known for his comic strip <i>Krazy Kat</i> .
Eubie Blake	Composer and musician	1883-1983	<i>Shuffle Along</i> (with Noble Sissle), in 1921, was the first Broadway musical ever to be written and directed by African Americans.
Arthur W. Mitchell	Politician	1883-1968	First black Congressman from the Democratic Party.
Mamie Smith	Vaudeville singer, dancer, pianist, actress, blues singer.	1883-1946	First African American to make vocal blues recordings, in 1920.
Marcus Garvey	Publisher, journalist, entrepreneur	1887-1940	Best remembered as a champion of the "Back-to-Africa" movement.
Alma Thomas	Artist	1891	Alma Woodsey Thomas was an African-American Expressionist painter and art educator. <sup>[1]</sup> She lived and worked primarily in Washington, D.C. and the <i>Washington Post</i> described her as a force in the Washington Color School. <sup>!</sup>
Bessie Coleman	Pilot	1892-1926	First black licensed pilot in the world.
Augusta Savage (Fells)	Artist	1892-1962	Augusta Savage, born Augusta Christine Fells was an African-American sculptor associated with the Harlem Renaissance. She was also a teacher and her studio was important to the careers of a rising generation of artists who would become

			nationally known. She worked for equal rights for African Americans in the arts.
Ethel Waters	Blues, gospel vocalist	1892-1977	Successful in a number of styles; member of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.
Oscar Charleston	Negro Leagues star	1896-1954	Some consider him to be the best all-around ball player the Negro Leagues ever produced.
Marian Anderson	Opera, concert singer	1897-1993	Contralto, best remembered for her performance on Easter Sunday, 1939, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.
Duke Ellington	Jazz composer, musician, bandleader	1899-1974	Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1969 and the Legion of Honor by France in 1973.
Aaron Douglas	Artist	1899-1979	Aaron Douglas was an African-American artist who was associated with the Harlem Renaissance art movement. Douglas was born in Topeka, Kansas, and studied art at the University of Nebraska. He later moved to Harlem, New York, and soon became a pre-eminent artist. Douglas did many paintings, woodcut prints, murals, and book and magazine illustrations.
Sarah Goode	Businesswoman, inventor, designer	Late 1800s	Sarah E. Goode was a businesswoman and inventor. Goode invented the folding cabinet bed, a space-saver that folded up against the wall into a cabinet. When folded up, it could be used as a desk, complete with compartments for stationery and writing supplies. Goode owned a furniture store in Chicago, Illinois, and invented the bed for people living in small apartments. Goode's patent was the first one obtained by an African-American woman inventor (patent #322,177, approved on July 14, 1885).
Oliver Law	Communist, labor organizer, social activist	1899-1937	Fought in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War.
1900s			
William Henry Johnson	Artist	1901-1970	William Henry Johnson was an African-American artist who was associated with the Harlem Renaissance art movement. Johnson was born in Florence, South Carolina, but as a teenager, went to study at the National Academy of Design in New York. He painted in France from 1926 to 1930. When he returned to the USA, he opened a studio in Harlem. Johnson had his first solo art exhibition in New York in 1941. Johnson's vibrant paintings represent many subjects, ranging from scenes from everyday life to historical commemoratives of African-Americans, like Harriet Tubman, George Washington Carver, and Matthew Henson.
Louis "Satchmo"	Jazz trumpeter	1901-	Was a charismatic, innovative performer with

Armstrong		1971	musical skill; bright personality transformed jazz into a popular art form.
Beauford Delaney	Artist	1901-1979	Beauford Delaney was an American modernist painter. He is remembered for his work with the Harlem Renaissance in the 1930s and 1940s, as well as his later works in abstract expressionism following his move to Paris in the 1950s. Beauford's younger brother, Joseph, was also a noted painter.
Langston Hughes	Poet, novelist, playwright, newspaper columnist	1902-1967	Particularly known for his insightful, colorful portrayals of black life in America from the 1920s through the 1960s.
Cool Papa Bell	Negro Leagues star	1903-1991	Considered by many baseball observers to have been the fastest man ever to play the game; "So fast he can turn off the light and be in bed before the room gets dark!" (Satchel Paige)
Count Basie	Jazz pianist, organist, bandleader	1904-1984	<i>One O`Clock Jump</i> and <i>Jumpin` at the Woodside</i> were among his more popular numbers.
Ralph Bunche	Diplomat; Nobel laureate, 1950	1904-1971	Bunche was the first African American, and first individual of non-European ethnicity or race, to be so honored in the history of the prize.
Satchel Paige	Negro Leagues star	1905?-1982	Pronounced the greatest pitcher in the history of the Negro Leagues; career highlights span five decades; legendary showman.
Buck Leonard	Negro Leagues star	1907-1997	First baseman; called the "Black Lou Gehrig" as a result of hitting prowess, defensive position.
Thurgood Marshall	Jurist	1908-1993	First African American to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.
Norman W. Lewis	Artist	1909-1979	Norman W. Lewis was an African-American painter, scholar, and teacher. He is associated with Abstract Expressionism. Lewis was African-American, of Bermudian descent.
Josh Gibson	Negro Leagues star	1911-1947	The "Black Babe Ruth;" catcher; elected to Baseball Hall of Fame, 1972; slugger credited with "about" 800 home runs.
Vivien Theodore Thomas	Surgical Technician	1910-1985	Vivien Theodore Thomas was an African-American surgical technician who developed the procedures used to treat blue baby syndrome in the 1940s. He was the assistant to surgeon Alfred Blalock in Blalock's experimental animal laboratory at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and later at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. He served as supervisor of the surgical laboratories at Johns Hopkins for 35 years.
Romare Bearden	Artist	1911-1988	Romare Bearden was an American artist and writer who depicted African-American life. He worked with many types of media

			including cartoons, oils and collages. Born in Charlotte, North Carolina, Bearden moved to New York City at a very young age and went on to graduate from NYU in 1935. He began his artistic career creating scenes of the American South. Later, he endeavored to express the humanity he felt was lacking in the world after his experience in the US Army during World War II on the European front. He later returned to Paris in 1950 and studied Art History and Philosophy at the Sorbonne in 1950.
Gordon Parks	Photographer, writer, musician	1912-2016	Gordon Parks was a photographer, writer, film director, composer, and musician. His works document the 20th century and have been seen by millions of people around the world. Parks was the youngest of 15 children, born to impoverished parents in Kansas. Parks was the first African-American photographer to work at Life magazine and Vogue magazine. He wrote 12 books, produced many documentaries and Hollywood films (including Shaft), produced, directed, and scored a major Hollywood film (The Learning Tree, 1960), wrote a ballet about Martin Luther King (called Martin), and composed other music (including a symphony, a concerto, blues and other popular songs).
Jesse Owens	Track and field athlete	1913-1980	Won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, embarrassing German dictator Adolf Hitler.
Rosa Parks	Civil rights activist, seamstress	1913-2005	Dubbed the "Mother of the modern-day Civil Rights Movement."
Emmett Ashford	Umpire	1914-1980	First African-American umpire in Major League Baseball.
Joe Louis	Pugilist	1914-1981	A.K.A. the "Brown Bomber;" heavyweight boxing champion.
Elizabeth Catlett	Artist	1915-1912	Elizabeth Catlett was an African-American graphic artist and sculptor best known for her depictions of the African-American experience in the 20th century, which often had the female experience as their focus. She was born and raised in Washington, D.C. to parents working in education, and was the grandchild of freed slaves. It was difficult for a black woman in this time to pursue a career as a working artist, and Catlett devoted much of her career to teaching.
Muddy Waters	Blues musician	1915-1983	Considered "The Father of Chicago Blues."
Jacob Lawrence	Artist	1917-2000	Jacob Lawrence was an African-American artist who was associated with the Harlem Renaissance art movement. Lawrence was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey, but at 13 years old, moved to

			New York City, New York, where he studied art. He soon became successful, both artistically and commercially. Lawrence often painted scenes of ordinary life in vibrant colors and with a startling angularity. In 1946, Lawrence said of his philosophy of art, "My belief is that it is most important for an artist to develop an approach and philosophy about life - if he has developed this philosophy he does not put paint on canvas, he puts himself on canvas."
Ella Fitzgerald	Jazz singer	1918-1996	The "First Lady of Song;" winner of 13 Grammy awards.
Edward Brooke III	Politician	1919-	First African American elected to the U.S. Senate.
Jackie Robinson	Athlete	1919-1972	First African American to play Major League Baseball in the 20th century.
Goose Tatum	Harlem Globetrotters	1921-1967	Considered to be the original "clown prince" of the Trotters.
James Baldwin	Novelist, short story writer, essayist	1924-1987	Known for his novel, <i>Go Tell it on the Mountain</i> .
Shirley Chisholm	Politician, educator, author	1924-2005	First African-American woman elected to Congress.
Sammy Davis Jr.	Entertainer	1925-1990	Was a dancer, singer, multi-instrumentalist (vibraphone, trumpet, drums); impressionist, comedian, actor.
Medgar Evers	Civil rights activist	1925-1963	Instrumental in eventually desegregating the University of Mississippi.
Malcolm X	Civil rights leader	1925-1965	A.K.A. El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz; one-time Nation of Islam leader.
Betye Saar	Artist	1926-	Betye Irene Saar is an American artist, known for her work in the field of assemblage. <sup>[1]</sup> Saar was a part of the black arts movement in the 1970s, challenging myths and stereotypes. In the 1990s, her work was politicized while she continued to challenge the negative ideas of African-Americans. One of her better-known and controversial pieces is titled "The Liberation of Aunt Jemima." <sup>[2]</sup> It is a "mammy" doll carrying a broom in one hand and a shotgun in the other, and placed in front of the syrup labels. Her work began with found objects arranged in boxes or windows. The items would reflect her mixed ancestry.
Miles Davis	Jazz trumpeter, bandleader, composer	1926-1991	Was at the forefront of almost every major development in jazz after World War II.
Althea Gibson	Sportswoman	1927-2003	First African-American woman to be a competitor on the world tennis tour.
Coretta Scott	Activist	1927-	Widow of the slain civil rights activist Martin Luther

King		2006	King Jr.∧; noted community leader in her own right.
Maya Angelou	Poet, memoirist, actress, civil rights activist	1928-	Best known for her autobiographical writings <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i> (1969); <i>All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes</i> (1986).
Bo Diddley	Rock and roll singer, songwriter, guitarist	1928-	Best known for the "Bo Diddley beat", a rumba-based beat.
Martin Luther King Jr.	Civil rights activist, minister, Nobel laureate	1929-1968	Won the Nobel Peace Prize, Presidential Medal of Freedom before assassination in 1968; known for advocating non-violence, racial equality; peacemaker, martyr.
Faith Ringgold	Artist	1930-	Faith Ringgold is an African-American artist, best known for her narrative quilts.
Ray Charles	Pop musician	1930-2004	Brought soulful sound to everything from country music to pop standards to now-iconic rendition of "America the Beautiful."
Willie Mays	Major League Baseball	1931-	"The Say Hey Kid," played center field; Hall of Famer; regarded as one of the finest players ever to have played the game.
Toni Morrison	Author, Nobel laureate	1931-	Instrumental in bringing recognition to the genre of African-American literature.
Sam Gilliam	Artist	1933-	Sam Gilliam is a Color Field Painter and Lyrical Abstractionist artist. Gilliam, an African American, is associated with the Washington Color School and is broadly considered a Color field painter. His works have also been described as belonging to Abstract Expressionism and Lyrical Abstraction. He works on stretched, draped, and wrapped canvas, and adds sculptural 3D elements. He is recognized as the first artist to introduce the idea of a painted canvas hanging without stretcher bars c.1965, a major contribution to the Color Field School.
Louis Farrakhan	Nation of Islam leader	1933-	Farrakhan is a black religious and social leader. Farrakhan has been both praised and widely criticized for his often controversial political views and outspoken rhetorical style.
Hank Aaron	Major League Baseball	1934-	Hall of Famer; holds career mark for home runs, RBIs, other records.
Bill Russell	Basketball	1934-	Considered the greatest defensive center to ever play the game.
Eldridge Cleaver	Civil rights activist	1935-1998	Prominent member of the Black Panther party; author of <i>Soul on Ice</i> .
Bob Gibson	Major League Baseball	1935-	Hall of Fame pitcher; voted to the all-20th-century team.
Meadowlark	Harlem	1935-	Played in more than 16,000 games in 94 countries



Lemon	Globetrotters		for the Globetrotters; succeeded Goose Tatum as the "clown prince" of the Trotters.
Frank Robinson	Major League Baseball	1935-	First player to win MVP awards in both National, American leagues.
Jim Brown	Football, actor, activist	1936-	College All-American in football, lacrosse; Pro Football Hall of Fame running back.
Wilt Chamberlain	Basketball	1936-1999	The "Big Dipper;" regarded as one of the most dominant basketball players of all time.
Colin Powell	U.S. Army general, statesman	1937-	Highest ranking African-American government official in history.
Tina Turner	"Queen of Rock"	1939-	Kennedy Center Honors recipient, most known for her frenetic interpretation of "Proud Mary" by Credence Clearwater Revival.
Ron Brown	Politician	1941-1996	Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, becoming the first African American to lead a major American political party.
Jessie Jackson	Politician, civil rights activist, minister.	1941-	Created the "Rainbow Coalition" of various minority groups.
Dr. Maulana Karenga	Activist, author, founder of Kwanzaa	1941-	Best known as founder of Kwanzaa, a week-long celebration following Christmas.
Reginald F. Lewis	Athlete, lawyer, businessman	1942-1993	Reginald F. Lewis was an American businessman. He was the richest African-American man in the 1980s. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, he grew up in a middle-class neighborhood. He won a football scholarship to Virginia State College, graduating with a degree in political science in 1965. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1968 and was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi. In 1992, <i>Forbes</i> listed Lewis among the 400 richest Americans, with a net worth estimated at \$400 million. He also was the first African American to build a billion dollar company, Beatrice Foods.
Muhammad Ali	Boxer; war protester; member, Nation of Islam; civil rights protester; poet	1942-	A.K.A. Cassius Clay; three-time heavyweight boxing champion; crowned Sportsman of the (20th) Century by <i>Sports Illustrated</i> .
Aretha Franklin	Gospel, soul, R&B singer	1942-	"Queen of Soul;" first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
Huey Newton	Activist	1942-1989	Co-founder, inspirational leader of the Black Panther party.
Arthur Ashe	Tennis star, activist	1943-1993	One of the key figures behind the formation of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP).
Angela Davis	Author, activist	1944-	Radical activist, member of the Black Panther

			party, working for racial, gender equity; prison abolition.
Barry White	Record producer, singer	1944-2003	Known for deep bass voice, suave delivery.
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar	Basketball	1947-	A.K.A. Lew Alcindor; NBA's all-time leading scorer.
Clarence Thomas	Jurist	1948-	Second African American to serve on U.S. Supreme Court.
Stevie Wonder	Singer, songwriter, producer, musician, humanitarian, social activist	1950-	Recorded more than 30 Top-10 hits, won nearly two dozen Grammys, including one for lifetime achievement; been inducted into both the Rock and Roll, Songwriters halls of fame.
Elijah Cummings	Congressman	1951	Elijah Eugene Cumming is the U.S. Representative for Maryland's 7th congressional district, serving since 1996. He is a member of the Democratic Party. The district includes just over half of Baltimore City, as well as most of Howard County. He previously served in the Maryland House of Delegates.
Walter Payton	Football	1954-1999	"Sweetness," Pro Football Hall of Famer; held career rushing record for 18 years.
Condoleezza Rice	University professor, politician	1954-	Current U.S. Secretary of State.
Mae C. Jemison	Medical doctor, surgeon, engineer	1956-	Mae C. Jemison (October 17, 1956 - ) was the first African-American woman in space. Dr. Jemison is a medical doctor and a surgeon, with engineering experience. She flew on the space shuttle Endeavor (STS-47, Spacelab-J) as the Mission Specialist; the mission lifted off on September 12, 1992 and landed on September 20, 1992.
Earvin "Magic" Johnson	Basketball, entertainment entrepreneur	1959-	The only NBA rookie to win the NBA Finals MVP Award.
Lorna Simpson	Artist	1969	Lorna Simpson is an African-American artist and photographer who made her name in the 1980s and 1990s with artworks such as <i>Guarded Conditions</i> and <i>Square Deal</i> .
Jean-Michel Basquiat	Artist	1960-1988	Jean-Michel Basquiat was an Afro-Latin artist. He first achieved notoriety as part of SAMO, an informal graffiti duo who wrote enigmatic epigrams in the cultural hotbed of the Lower East Side of Manhattan during the late 1970s where the hip hop, post-punk, and street art movements had coalesced. By the 1980s, he was exhibiting his neo-expressionist paintings in

			galleries and museums internationally. The Whitney Museum of American Art held a retrospective of his art in 1992.
Jerry Rice	Football	1962-	Regarded as the best receiver ever to play the game; arguably the greatest football player ever; holder of 38 NFL records.
Michael Jordan	Basketball	1963-	"Air Jordan," "His Airness;" named "the greatest North American athlete of the 20th century," by ESPN.
Kara Elizabeth Walker	Artist	1969	Kara Elizabeth Walker (born November 26, 1969) is an American contemporary artist who explores race, gender, sexuality, violence and identity in her work. She is best known for her room-size tableaux of black cut-paper silhouettes. Walker lives in New York and is on the faculty of the MFA program at Rutgers University.
Ta-Nehisi Coates	Writer, Activist	1975	Ta-Nehisi Coates is an American writer, journalist, and educator. He writes about cultural, social and political issues, particularly as they regard African-Americans. In 2008 he published a memoir, <i>The Beautiful Struggle: A Father, Two Sons, and an Unlikely Road to Manhood</i> . Coates was born in Baltimore, Maryland, to father William Paul "Paul" Coates, <sup>[6]</sup> a Vietnam War veteran, former Black Panther, publisher and librarian, and mother Cheryl Waters, who was a teacher.