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Black History Month

Black History Month is a yearly celebration of the achievements of African Americans. How much do you know about the history and accomplishments of African Americans? Set off on a webquest to find out!

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Find It!

Find the answers to the questions below by using the "Search" tool to search key words. Since this activity is about Black History Month, you can start by looking at the "African Americans" article.

Write the answers on the lines provided or below the question.

1. The majority of African Americans trace their origin to an area in western Africa that was controlled by which 3 black empires?

2. When did European nations begin a slave trade in which blacks from western Africa were brought to European colonies in the Americas?

3. By 1860, about _____ slaves lived in the southern United States.

4. Which 1857 U.S. Supreme Court case declared that no black could be a U.S. citizen?

5. Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution officially ended slavery throughout the United States?

6. During the "Great Migration," many blacks moved to _____.

7. What was the Harlem Renaissance?

8. In 1965, who led thousands of marchers from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to demand that African Americans be given their voting rights?
9. Who were the two main founders of the Black Panther Party?

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True or False

Write "True" if the statement is correct. If the statement is not correct, write "False" and correct the statement in the space below.

- _____ 10. Abolitionists were people who opposed African Americans being given the right to vote.
- _____ 11. In 1831, Nat Turner led a famous slave revolt.
- _____ 12. African Americans were not allowed to fight in World War II.
- _____ 13. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the first black person to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
- _____ 14. Barack Obama was the first African American president.

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Find It!

15. Why did the majority of slaves in America live in the South?
16. Who was Crispus Attucks?
17. How did Eli Whitney's invention of his cotton gin contribute to the growth of slavery?
18. What were three major factors that encouraged the beginning of the civil rights movement after World War II?
19. Who was Malcolm X?

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Notable African American Firsts

At the top of the “African Americans” article find the “Notable African American ‘firsts’” table. In the space provided, write the person being described.

20. First African American to serve a full term in the U.S. Senate

21. First African American to receive a Ph.D. degree at Harvard University

22. First African American woman licensed as a pilot

23. First African American head coach in major league professional sports

24. First African American to be elected governor of a state

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Famous African Americans

25. Why was Rosa Parks arrested on December 1, 1955? (Hint: For this question see the “Parks, Rosa” article.)

26. What “first” did Thurgood Marshall achieve? (Hint: For this question see the “Marshall, Thurgood” article.)

27. How many gold medals did Jesse Owens win at the 1936 Summer Olympics? (Hint: For this question see the “Owens, Jesse” article.)

28. What is Mae Carol Jemison noted for? (Hint: For this question see the “Jemison, Mae Carol” article.)

29. Who was Benjamin Oliver Davis, Sr.? (Hint: For this question see the “Davis, Benjamin Oliver, Sr.” article.)

30. Why did Martin Luther King, Jr., win the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize? (Hint: For this question see the “King, Martin Luther, Jr.” article.)

31. In which year did Jackie Robinson become the first African American to play modern major league baseball? (Hint: For this question see the “Robinson, Jackie” article.)

32. Go to the “Carver, George Washington” article and write one new fact you learned about George Washington Carver.

33. What is Harriet Tubman known for? (Hint: For this question see the “Tubman, Harriet” article.)

34. Lorraine Hansberry became famous for what 1959 play? (Hint: For this question see the “Hansberry, Lorraine” article.)

35. Who proposed “Negro History Week,” which later became Black History Month? (Hint: For this question see the “Black History Month” article.)

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Read more about some famous African Americans by visiting World Book’s eBook collection:

African American Civil Rights Movement. Chicago: World Book, 2014. Documenting History. *World eBook Web.* 19 Feb. 2019.

<<http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/ebooks/mall/instt/catalog/urn:ISBN:978-0-7166-2566-7/detail.do>>.

Frederick Douglass. Chicago: World Book, 2018. How I Changed the World. *World eBook Web.* 19 Feb. 2019.

<<http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/ebooks/mall/instt/catalog/urn:ISBN:978-0-7166-2280-2/detail.do>>.

Jackie Robinson: with Profiles of Satchel Paige and Branch Rickey. Chicago: World Book, 2013. Biographical Connections. *World eBook Web.* 19 Feb. 2019.

<<http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/ebooks/mall/instt/catalog/urn:ISBN:978-0-7166-1884-3/detail.do>>.

Martin Luther King, Jr.: with Profiles of Mohandas K. Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. Chicago: World Book, 2013. Biographical Connections. *World eBook Web.* 19 Feb. 2019.

<<http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/ebooks/mall/instt/catalog/urn:ISBN:978-0-7166-1878-2/detail.do>>.

Teacher Page

Answers

1. The majority of African Americans trace their origin to an area in western Africa that was controlled by the Ghana, Mali, and Songhai empires.
2. During the early 1500's, European nations began a slave trade in which blacks from western Africa were brought to European colonies in the Americas.
3. By 1860, about 4 million slaves lived in the southern United States.
4. The *Dred Scott v. Sandford* case declared that no black could be a U.S. citizen.
5. The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution officially ended slavery throughout the United States.
6. During the "Great Migration" many blacks moved to the North.
7. The Harlem Renaissance was an outpouring of African American literature chiefly in Harlem in the early 1900's, particularly in the 1920's.
8. In 1965, Martin Luther King, Jr., led thousands of marchers from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to demand that African Americans be given their voting rights.
9. Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale were the two main founders of the Black Panther Party.
10. False. Abolitionists were people who opposed slavery.
11. True.
12. False. Nearly 1 million African Americans served in the U.S. armed services during World War II, mostly in segregated units.
13. False. In 1950, U.S. diplomat Ralph J. Bunche became the first black person to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
14. True.
15. The majority of slaves in America lived in the South because the warm climate and fertile soil of the South encouraged the development of plantations where slaves could work in the fields.
16. Crispus Attucks was an African American patriot who died in the Boston Massacre of 1770.
17. Whitney's gin enabled farmers to meet the rapidly rising demand for cotton. As a result, the Southern cotton industry expanded, and cotton became the chief crop in the region. The planters needed more and more workers to pick and bale the cotton, which led to large increases in the slave population.

18. Three factors leading to the civil rights movement after World War II were: (1) many African Americans had served with honor in the war, (2) African Americans in the urban North had made economic gains, increased their education, and registered to vote, and (3) the NAACP had attracted many new members and received increased financial support from whites and blacks.
19. Malcolm X was a spokesman for the Black Muslims who wanted to unite black people around the world.
20. Blanche K. Bruce (1875)
21. W. E. B. Du Bois (1895)
22. Bessie Coleman (1921)
23. Bill Russell (1966)
24. L. Douglas Wilder (1990)
25. Rosa Parks was arrested for violating a city law requiring that whites and blacks sit in separate rows on buses.
26. Thurgood Marshall was the first African American justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.
27. Jesse Owens won 4 gold medals at the 1936 Summer Olympics.
28. Mae Carol Jemison is noted for being the first black woman to travel in space.
29. Benjamin Oliver Davis, Sr., was the first African American to become a general in the armed forces of the United States.
30. Martin Luther King, Jr., won the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize for leading nonviolent civil rights demonstrations.
31. In 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first African American to play modern major league baseball.
32. Answers will vary.
33. Harriet Tubman was an African American who helped hundreds of slaves in the southern United States escape to freedom.
34. Lorraine Hansberry became famous for the 1959 play *A Raisin in the Sun*.
35. The black historian Carter G. Woodson proposed “Negro History Week,” which later became Black History Month.