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**Black History Month Trivia Information**

**Carter Woodson**

The story of [Black History](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history) Month begins in 1915, half a century after the [Thirteenth Amendment](https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/thirteenth-amendment) abolished [slavery](https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/slavery)in the United States.

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

**Rosa Parks**

Rosa Parks helped initiate the civil rights movement in the United States when she refused to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1955. Her actions inspired the leaders of the local Black community to organize the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

**Maya Angelou**

Maya Angelou was an American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and is credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years. She received dozens of awards and more than 50 honorary degrees.

**Muhammad Ali**

Muhammad Ali, American professional [boxer](https://www.britannica.com/sports/boxing) and social activist. Ali was the first fighter to win the world heavyweight championship on three separate occasions; he successfully defended this title 19 times.

He has some widely known quotes:

*Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee.*

*Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.*

*I hated every minute of training, but I said, 'Don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.'*

*He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life.*

*Don't count the days, make the days count.*

**Greensboro Four**

The Greensboro Four were four young Black men who staged the first sit-in at Greensboro: Ezell Blair Jr., David Richmond, Franklin McCain and Joseph McNeil. All four were students from [North Carolina](https://www.history.com/topics/us-states/north-carolina) Agricultural and Technical College.

The Greensboro Four, as they became known, had also been spurred to action by the [brutal murder](https://www.history.com/news/new-book-sheds-light-on-the-murder-of-emmett-till-the-civil-rights-movement) in 1955 of a young Black boy, [Emmett Till](https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/emmett-till), who had allegedly whistled at a white woman in a [Mississippi](https://www.history.com/topics/us-states/mississippi) store.

Did you know? The former Woolworth's in Greensboro now houses the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, which features a restored version of the lunch counter where the Greensboro Four sat. Part of the original counter is on display at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

**Jackie Robinson**

In 1945, Jackie played one season in the Negro Baseball League, traveling all over the Midwest with the Kansas City Monarchs. But greater challenges and achievements were in store for him. In 1947, Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Rickey approached Jackie about joining the Brooklyn Dodgers. The Major Leagues had not had an African-American player since 1889, when baseball became segregated. When Jackie first donned a Brooklyn Dodger uniform, he pioneered the integration of professional athletics in America. By breaking the color barrier in baseball, the nation’s preeminent sport, he courageously challenged the deeply rooted custom of racial segregation in both the North and the South.

**John Lewis**

Lewis was one of the "[Big Six](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Six_(activists))" leaders of groups who organized the 1963 [March on Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/March_on_Washington). He fulfilled many key roles in the [civil rights movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_rights_movement) and its actions to end legalized [racial segregation in the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racial_segregation_in_the_United_States). In 1965, Lewis led the first of three [Selma to Montgomery marches](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selma_to_Montgomery_marches)across the [Edmund Pettus Bridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_Pettus_Bridge). In an incident which became known as [Bloody Sunday](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bloody_Sunday_(1965)), state troopers and police attacked the marchers, including Lewis.

A member of the [Democratic Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)), Lewis was first elected to Congress in 1986 and served 17 terms in the [U.S. House of Representatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._House_of_Representatives). The district he represented included most of [Atlanta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlanta)

**Howard University**

Howard University is a [private](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Private_university), federally chartered [historically black](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historically_black_colleges_and_universities) [research university](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research_university) in [Washington, D.C.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington,_D.C.)

**Chadwick Boseman**

American actor and playwright. Studied at [Howard University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Howard_University)

**Divine Nine**

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| There are nine historically Black Greek letter organizations (BGLOs) that make up the [National Pan-Hellenic Council](http://www.nphchq.org/home.htm). Collectively, these organizations are referred to as "The Divine Nine." Each of these fraternities and sororities is rich in history - ties to one or more of these organizations may be found in many college-educated Black families in the United States.   * [Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity](http://www.blackgreek.com/alphaphialpha/index.html), Founded 1906, Cornell University * [Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority](http://www.blackgreek.com/alphakappaalpha/index.html), Founded 1908, Howard University * [Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity](http://www.blackgreek.com/kappaalphapsi/index.html), Founded 1911, Indiana University * [Omega Psi Phi Fraternity](http://www.blackgreek.com/omegapsiphi/index.html), Founded 1911, Howard University * [Delta Sigma Theta Sorority](http://www.blackgreek.com/deltasigmatheta/index.html), Founded 1913, Howard University * [Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity](http://www.blackgreek.com/phibetasigma/index.html), Founded 1914, Howard University * [Zeta Phi Beta Sorority](http://www.blackgreek.com/zetaphibeta/index.html), Founded 1920, Howard University * [Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority](http://www.blackgreek.com/sigmagammarho/index.html), Founded 1922, Butler University * [Iota Phi Theta Fraternity](http://www.blackgreek.com/iotaphitheta/index.html), Founded 1963, Morgan State University |

**Texas Western University**

It is now called the University of Texas at El Paso

**Tuskegee Airman**

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first Black military aviators in the U.S. Army Air Corps (AAC), a precursor of the U.S. Air Force. Trained at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama, they flew more than 15,000 individual sorties in Europe and North Africa during World War II.

**Sarah Boone**

Sarah Boone was a 19th century African American dressmaker who was awarded a patent for her improved ironing board.

**Hattie McDaniel**

Encountering [racism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racism) and [racial segregation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racial_segregation) throughout her career, McDaniel was unable to attend the premiere of *Gone with the Wind* in [Atlanta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlanta) because it was held at a whites-only theater, and at the Oscars ceremony in [Los Angeles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles) she sat at a segregated table at the side of the room; the Ambassador Hotel where the ceremony was held was for whites only, but allowed McDaniel in as a favor. When she died in 1952, her final wish--to be buried in [Hollywood Cemetery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hollywood_Forever_Cemetery)--was denied because the graveyard was restricted to whites only.

McDaniel has two stars on the [Hollywood Walk of Fame](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hollywood_Walk_of_Fame) in Hollywood.

**Katherine Johnson**

Katherine Johnson loved math. Early in her career, she was called a “computer.” She helped NASA put an astronaut into orbit around Earth. And then she helped put a man on the Moon.

Katherine went through school quickly. She started high school when she was just 10 years old!

When she was 15, Katherine began college.

**Oscar Robertson**

He played for the [Cincinnati Royals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cincinnati_Royals) and [Milwaukee Bucks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milwaukee_Bucks)

**James Cameron**

James Herbert Cameron, Jr. was born in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. James was just sixteen years old in 1930, when he and two other black teenagers were brutally [lynched](https://www.abhmuseum.org/an-iconic-lynching-in-the-north/). [Thomas Shipp](https://www.abhmuseum.org/thomas-shipp/) and Abram Smith died, but, miraculously, with the rope already around his neck, James was saved. He was tried and convicted as an accessory to the murder that incited the lynching. He spent five years in prison. While there, he began writing a memoir, the story of his life up to the age of twenty-one. To educate the public about the injustices suffered by people of African descent in America, Cameron founded and ran the America's Black Holocaust Museum, in Milwaukee, WI.

**Quincy Jones**

Jones was the producer, with [Michael Jackson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Jackson), of Jackson's albums [*Off the Wall*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Off_the_Wall) (1979), [*Thriller*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thriller_(Michael_Jackson_album)) (1982), and [*Bad*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad_(album)) (1987), as well as the producer and conductor of the 1985 charity song "[We Are the World](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/We_Are_the_World)", which raised funds for victims of [famine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1983-1985_famine_in_Ethiopia) in [Ethiopia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia).

**Kareen Abdul-Jabbar**

Born **Ferdinand Lewis Alcindor Jr.** he played 20 seasons in (NBA) for the [Milwaukee Bucks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milwaukee_Bucks) and the [Los Angeles Lakers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Lakers). A member of six [NBA championship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBA_championship) teams as a player and two more as an assistant coach. In 1996, he was honored as one of the [50 Greatest Players in NBA History](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/50_Greatest_Players_in_NBA_History).

**Serena Williams**

Williams holds the most [Grand Slam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Slam_(tennis)) titles in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles combined among active players. Her 39 Grand Slam titles put her joint-third on the all-time list and second in the Open Era:

**Kamala Harris**

She is an American politician and attorney serving as the 49th and current [vice president of the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice_President_of_the_United_States). She is the United States' first female vice president, the highest-ranking female official in U.S. history, and the first [African American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American) and first [Asian American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_American) vice president.

**Will Smith**

He is an American actor, rapper, and film producer

**Harriet Tubman**

Harriet Tubman was an American abolitionist and political activist. Born into slavery, Tubman escaped and subsequently made some 13 missions to rescue approximately 70 enslaved people, including family and friends, using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad.

**Harlem, NY**

The Harlem Renaissance was an intellectual and cultural revival of African American music, dance, art, fashion, literature, theater and politics centered in [Harlem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harlem), [Manhattan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan), New York City, spanning the 1920s and 1930s.

**Louis Armstrong**

Armstrong was born and raised in [New Orleans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Orleans). Coming to prominence in the 1920s as an inventive [trumpet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trumpet) and [cornet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornet) player, Armstrong was a foundational influence in jazz, shifting the focus of the music from collective improvisation to solo performance.