GRADES 2–3

Black History Across Many Fields

Name / chosen name: _____

Black history is part of American history throughout the year. It includes families, communities, work, science, literature, sport and efforts to challenge slavery and racial discrimination. One biography cannot represent all Black people or experiences.

Use reliable records to ask what happened, when it happened and how people worked together. An achievement may involve changing knowledge, sharing skills or helping a community—not only being the first person to do something. Notice people and groups whose work is less often discussed.

1. Name three fields you can investigate.

2. Why is one person's biography only part of the story?

3. What source would help answer your next question?

Sources: Library of Congress and partner institutions — African American History Month

GRADES 2–3

Harriet Tubman History Card

Name / chosen name: _____

Harriet Tubman · about 1822–1913
Freedom and community

Harriet Tubman was born enslaved in Maryland. Slavery meant people were treated as property and denied freedom. She escaped in 1849 and returned to help other enslaved people reach freedom. She worked with a network often called the Underground Railroad; it was not a railway. Her work involved courage, planning and cooperation. She later served during the Civil War and supported people in her community. Learning her history also means learning about the people and networks who worked together against slavery.

1. What is one achievement described in the text?

2. Which detail supports your answer?

3. How does this contribution connect to a wider community or field?

Source: https://www.nps.gov/people/harriet-tubman.htm

GRADES 4–5

Frederick Douglass Writer and Speaker

Name / chosen name: _____

Frederick Douglass · 1818–1895
Writing, speaking and civil rights

Frederick Douglass was born enslaved in Maryland and escaped in 1838. He became a writer, speaker and campaigner against slavery. In 1845 he published an account of his life. He also founded the newspaper The North Star in 1847. Through writing and speeches he challenged slavery and argued for equal rights. His achievements depended on his work and on relationships with other people seeking change. This card uses original summary wording and does not invent a quotation.

1. What is one achievement described in the text?

2. Which detail supports your answer?

3. How does this contribution connect to a wider community or field?

Source: https://www.nps.gov/frdo/learn/kidsyouth/chronology.htm

GRADES 2–3

George Washington Carver Agricultural Science

Name / chosen name: _____

George Washington Carver · about 1864–1943
Agricultural science and education

George Washington Carver was an agricultural scientist and educator at Tuskegee Institute. He studied crops and ways to care for soil. He taught farmers about crop rotation: changing crops grown on land over time. He also investigated uses for crops such as peanuts and sweet potatoes. His work was wider than one invention. He shared practical knowledge through teaching and outreach, including a traveling demonstration wagon. A scientist's contribution can include research, education and helping communities use evidence.

1. What is one achievement described in the text?

2. Which detail supports your answer?

3. How does this contribution connect to a wider community or field?

Source: https://www.nps.gov/tuin/learn/historyculture/george-washington-carver.htm

GRADES 2–3

Katherine Johnson Mathematics

Name / chosen name: _____

Katherine Johnson · 1918–2020
Mathematics and spaceflight

Katherine Johnson was a mathematician whose work helped NASA plan space missions. She calculated flight paths and checked complex numbers. Before John Glenn's 1962 orbital flight, she checked calculations produced by electronic computers. Her work also supported other major space missions. Johnson worked in a period when racial and gender barriers limited opportunities. Her story is about mathematical skill, careful checking and teamwork, as well as the effort needed to work through unfair barriers.

1. What is one achievement described in the text?

2. Which detail supports your answer?

3. How does this contribution connect to a wider community or field?

Source: https://www.nasa.gov/people-of-nasa/katherine-g-johnson/

GRADES 2–3

Rosa Parks and Community Action

Name / chosen name: _____

Rosa Parks · 1913–2005
Civil rights and community action

Rosa Parks was a civil rights activist. On 1 December 1955 she was arrested after refusing to give up her bus seat under segregation rules in Montgomery, Alabama. Segregation separated people and denied equal treatment because of race. Her arrest helped spark a bus boycott organized by a wider community. Many people worked together through walking, carpools, meetings and legal action. Parks had been involved in civil rights before that day. Change was a collective effort, not one person's action alone.

1. What is one achievement described in the text?

2. Which detail supports your answer?

3. How does this contribution connect to a wider community or field?

Source: https://www.nps.gov/people/rosa-parks.htm

GRADES 2–3

Mae Jemison Science and Space

Name / chosen name: _____

Mae Jemison · born 1956
Medicine, engineering and space science

Mae Jemison trained as a physician and became a NASA astronaut. In September 1992 she travelled on Space Shuttle Endeavour during mission STS-47, becoming the first African American woman in space. The crew carried out scientific experiments. Her story connects several fields, including medicine, engineering and space research. A space mission depends on many people working together. Research her later work in a reliable current source rather than assuming this short history card covers her whole career.

1. What is one achievement described in the text?

2. Which detail supports your answer?

3. How does this contribution connect to a wider community or field?

Source: https://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/whos_who_level2/jemison.html

GRADES 2–3

Jackie Robinson and Baseball History

Name / chosen name: _____

Jackie Robinson · 1919–1972
Sport and civil rights

Jackie Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947 and broke Major League Baseball's color barrier in the modern era. Black athletes had already played important roles in other baseball leagues. Robinson faced racist treatment while competing at the highest level. His achievements included sporting skill and work for civil rights. His story belongs within the wider history of Black baseball players, communities and people working to change unfair rules.

1. What is one achievement described in the text?

2. Which detail supports your answer?

3. How does this contribution connect to a wider community or field?

Source: https://www.nps.gov/people/jackie-robinson.htm

GRADES 4–5

Maya Angelou Literature Research

Name / chosen name: _____

Maya Angelou · 1928–2014
Literature and public life

Maya Angelou was a writer, poet and performer. In 1969 she published I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, a memoir about her early life. A memoir is a person's written account of experiences. She later published more books and poetry and took part in civil rights work. Her life shows how literature can communicate experiences and ideas. Use a reliable biography to learn more; do not invent quotations or copy long passages from her writing. An educator can choose age-appropriate texts.

1. What is one achievement described in the text?

2. Which detail supports your answer?

3. How does this contribution connect to a wider community or field?

Source: https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/maya-angelou

GRADES 4–5

Black History Source Detective

Name / chosen name: _____

Choose a Black person, community or contribution in an educator-approved history source. Personal identity is not required. Do not invent quotations.

1. Person, community or question

2. Source title, creator and website or publication

3. One supported fact

4. A second supported fact

5. How the source supports my claim

6. What I still need to check

Sources: Library of Congress and partner institutions — African American History Month