

African American History

Discuss the contributions of these historically significant individuals:

1. Crispus Attucks- the 1st to die in the Boston Massacre, March 5, 1770. Giant run-away slave.
2. Charles R. Drew- Founded experimental blood bank and invented the shipping of plasma rather than whole blood. Died in Atlanta hospital due to lack of blood. Hospital would not provide blood to black individuals.
3. Elijah McCoy- Granted 70 U.S. patents. Solved problems of mechanical self-lubrication. People came to ask for “The Real McCoy.”
4. James Beckworth- Pass through the Sierra Nevada Mountains: “Beckworth Pass.” Opened California to gold rush. Famous explorer.
5. Jackie Robinson- First black professional baseball player. Broke baseball’s “color barrier.”
6. Aesop- Aesop’s fables.
7. Benjamin Banneker- Inventor, wrote almanac. Laid out Washington, D.C. No street named in his honor in Washington, D.C.
8. Harriet Tubman- “Black Moses”- Leading slaves to freedom of the North during Civil War. Buried with full military honors.
9. Benjamin Singleton- 1860s migration westward. 45,000 Blacks followed his call.
10. C.J. Walker- 1st self-made millionaire. Cosmetologist catering to needs of black women.
11. Alexander Dumas- Author of *Count of Monte Cristo* and *Three Musketeers*.
12. Jean-Louis- Swordsman of Napoleon. Defeated 15 of Italy’s finest swordsmen by himself including, Ferarri, Italy’s national champion. Duel of honor.
13. Paul Robeson- Outstanding singer. Pi Beta Kappa. “Old Man River.” Athlete.
14. Dorie Miller- Battleship W.V. in Pearl Harbor. Shot down four zeros. 4 years later still a mess steward.
15. Lew Alcindor- Kareem Abdul Jabbar. Pro basketball player.
16. Satchmo- Louis Armstrong.
17. George Washington Carver- Scientist. Worked with the peanut.
18. Mary McLeod Bethune- from slave to advisor to F.D.R. Founder of Bethune-Cookman College.
19. Richard Allen- organizer of Free African Society and Free African Methodist/Episcopalian Church. Worked at time of Revolution.
20. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Non-violent protest. Freedom marches.
21. Booker T. Washington- 1881 founded Tuskegee. Supported industrial education.
22. Frederick Douglass- civil rights advocate during the Civil War. Powerful voice for abolition. Orator.
23. Marcus Garvey- African heritage and “Black is Beautiful” from 1915-1928.
24. W.E.B. DuBois- Scholar. Supported liberal education. National spokesman for Negro. 1868-1963.

25. Hon. Elijah Muhammad- Founder of Nation of Islam. Abandoning slave names such as Malcolm “X.”
26. Thurgood Marshall- U.S. Supreme Court. Laid legal foundation for all Civil Rights Legislation.

Movie Madness:

Suggested Videos:

- Boomerang
- Jungle Fever
- Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner
- Mo’ Better Blues
- A Dry White Season
- Cry Freedom
- Do the Right Thing
- Glory
- School Daze
- Malcolm “X”
- Mississippi Burning
- Lean on Me
- The Cotton Club
- The Long Walk Home
- The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings
- Juice
- Boys ‘n the Hood
- Sarafina
- A Soldier’s Story
- Driving Miss Daisy
- In the Heat of the Night
- The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman