

FEBRUARY IS
**BLACK HISTORY
MONTH**



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Resolution #13-20/21

BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEBRUARY 2021

WHEREAS, American history testifies and reflects upon the cultural pride, perseverance, struggle, determination and challenges, and which Black people fought to share in equal opportunities founded in our Nation's principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and,

WHEREAS, Black men and women have participated in every American's responsibility to protect the United States Constitution, and advance the cause of freedom and civil rights and,

WHEREAS, these individuals and their accomplishments inspire all citizens by telling the stories of overcoming evil and hatred, they remind each of us of ordinary people rising above insurmountable circumstances and the prejudices of others to change the lives of all Americans for the greater good and,

WHEREAS, California history and social science content standards stresses the importance of our history curriculum of community, state, region, nation, and the world must reflect the experiences of men and women of different racial, religious and ethnic groups and,

WHEREAS, all students and teachers need an opportunity to better understand the common threads of Black people's faith, family and freedom to develop pride in their own identity and heritage, and to respect and accept the identity, diversity and heritage of others.

NOW, therefore, be it RESOLVED, THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION hereby proclaims February 2021 as BLACK HISTORY MONTH in our county, and encourages all educational communities to commemorate this time with appropriate instructional activities and cultural events.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

President, Board of Education



ELEMENTARY LEVEL

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Use these materials to begin a conversation with elementary grade students about the experiences and accomplishments of Black people and how they have contributed to the culture and history of our country.

GUIDING QUESTION

What are the experiences and lasting contributions of Black men and women to the culture and history of the United States?



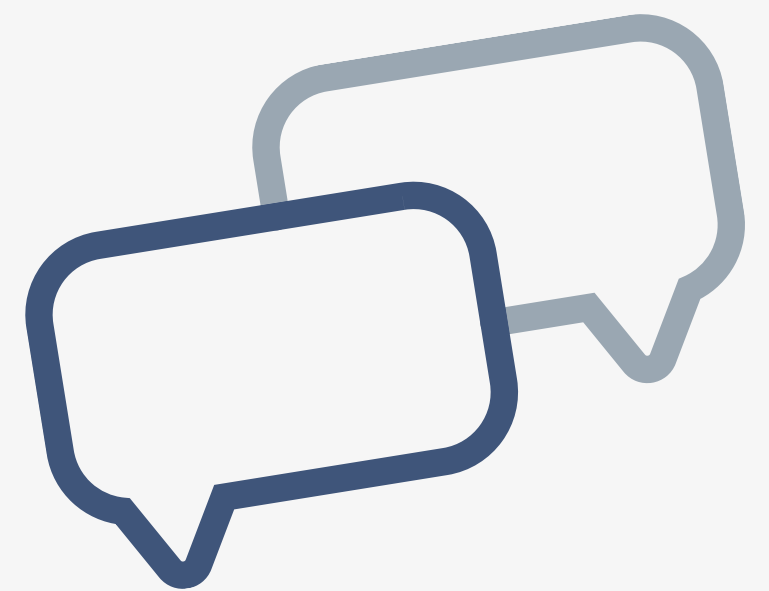
EXPLORE

- Watch one or more of these short **videos that celebrate a long tradition of black activists, icons, and entertainers**. https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLu4Zo9fB5MNczNGaRc86Fx_ePVrXMgEZ2
- Listen to a TED Talk about **African-American social dances** and how they keep cultural traditions alive and continue to influence dance today. https://www.ted.com/talks/camille_a_brown_a_visual_history_of_social_dance_in_25_moves?referrer=playlist-10_great_talks_to_celebrate_bl&language=en
- Watch author **Kwame Alexander read his award-winning picture book, *The Undefeated***. https://www.teachingbooks.net/book_reading.cgi?id=19135
- Read about the opening of the **Smithsonian National Museum of the African American History and Culture** -- *Please note: Lexile level of text can be adjusted to meet the needs of the reader.* <https://www.tweentribune.com/article/tween56/black-historys-home-open/>



EXPLAIN

- Based on these resources, share some examples of what you have learned about the experiences, accomplishments, and contributions of Black people to our country's history.
- What are some actions Black people have taken to bring more justice and fairness to our country? (*Social Justice Standard JU.3-5.15*)



ENGAGE FURTHER

- Take a virtual field trip to the **Smithsonian National Museum of the African American History and Culture**. <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/national-museum-of-african-american-history-and-culture>
- Watch **scientist and astronaut, Mae Jemison**, share her story about her dream to go to space. <https://ca.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/nvslos-sci-maejemison/wgbh-nova-secret-life-of-scientists-and-engineers-mae-jemison/#.WnCbsZM-dE4>



SECONDARY LEVEL

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Use these materials to begin a conversation with secondary grade students about the experiences and accomplishments of Black people and how they have contributed to the culture and history of our country.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What are the experiences and enduring contributions of Black men and women to the culture and history of the United States?



EXPLORE

- Watch one or more of these **short videos that celebrate a long tradition of black activists, icons, and entertainers.** https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLu4Zo9fB5MNczNGaRc86Fx_ePVrXMgEZ2
- Listen to a TED Talk about **African-American social dances** and how they keep cultural traditions alive and continue to influence dance today.
https://www.ted.com/talks/camille_a_brown_a_visual_history_of_social_dance_in_25_moves?referrer=playlist-10_great_talks_to_celebrate_bl&language=en
- Read about the opening of the **Smithsonian National Museum of the African American History and Culture** -
- *Please note: Lexile level of text can be adjusted to meet the needs of the reader.*
<https://www.tweentribune.com/article/tween56/black-historys-home-open/>
- Listen to and read an article celebrating **the life and accomplishments of Representative John Lewis**, from NPR Obituaries. <https://www.npr.org/2020/07/19/890796423/civil-rights-leader-john-lewis-never-gave-up-or-gave-in>



EXPLAIN

- Based on these resources above, share what you have learned about the experiences, accomplishments and contributions of Black people to the history of our country.
- As you explored the resources, which Black figures, groups, and events would you identify as being relevant to our country's pursuit of social justice and civil rights? (*Social Justice Standard JU.9-12.15*)



ENGAGE FURTHER

- Take a virtual field trip to the **Smithsonian National Museum of the African American History and Culture.** <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/national-museum-of-african-american-history-and-culture>
- Watch a TV news segment about **Step Afrika!, the first company dedicated to stepping**, a traditional form of dance. <https://youtu.be/YILTa6VLY0o>
- **Experience Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech** by exploring multimedia images and listening to movement activists. <https://freedomring.stanford.edu/?view=Speech>



