



What is Black History/African American History Month and why do we celebrate it?

- **Black/African American History Month** is an annual month-long celebration in February, of achievements by Blacks or African Americans and a time for recognizing the **central role of Blacks** in U.S. **history**.
- Black History Month is aimed at educating and pays tribute to the generations of Blacks/African Americans who **struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American** society.
- Black History Month brings awareness and education about historical **efforts by Blacks that helps to eradicate many racial stereotypes**. It focuses on history, family structure, social and economic pressures, stereotypes, and gender relationships.
- Below are a few examples of those who **paved the way** for Black Americans....



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Because he was an instrumental leader in the Civil Rights Movement and worked for economic equality.



**“Injustice anywhere is a threat to
justice everywhere.”**

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



PREACHER.
ABOLITIONIST.
FORMER SLAVE.
EDUCATOR.
b. 1760 - 1831

RICHARD ALLEN

Because he was a minister, writer and one of America's influential black leaders and founded the first black Methodist Episcopal Church in the US.

Black History Month



POET, ACTIVIST
b. 1928 - 2014

MAYA ANGELOU

Because she was a poet, singer and
civil rights activist.

Black History Month



FOUNDER OF ALVIN
AILEY AMERICAN
DANCE THEATER
b. 1931 - 1989

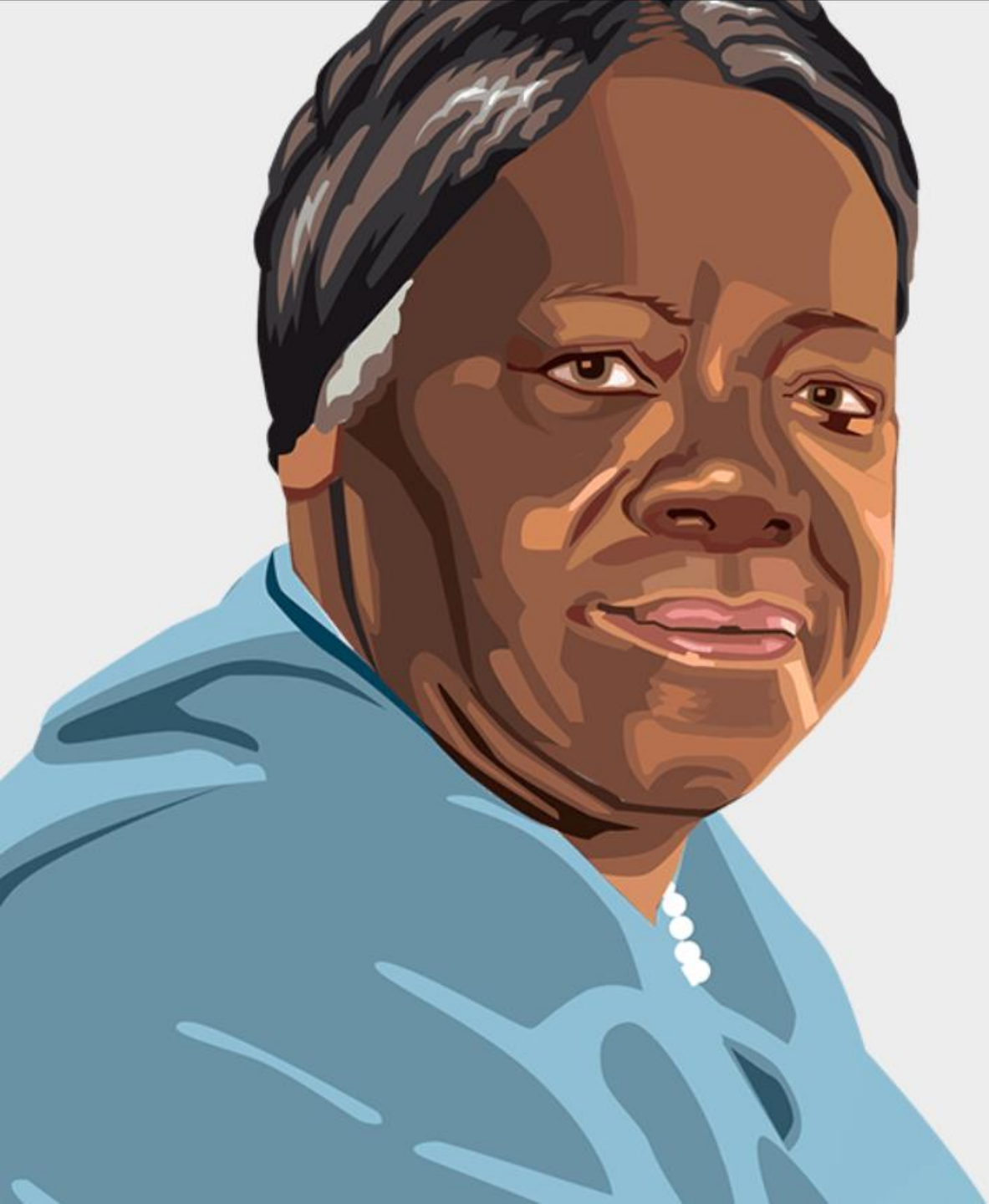
ALVIN AILEY

Because he brought dance and the beauty of black bodies to the fight for justice.

Black History Month

**“To be who you are and
become what you are capable
of is the only goal worth living.”
- Alvin Ailey**





CIVIL RIGHTS
ACTIVIST,
EDUCATOR
b. 1875 - 1955

MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE

Because she was an educator,
stateswoman, philanthropist and
women's civil rights leader.

Black History Month



POLITICIAN
b. 1924 - 2005

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

Because she was the first black woman to be elected to the United States Congress in 1968.

Black History Month



ABOLITIONIST,
AUTHOR
b. 1818 - 1895

FREDERICK DOUGLAS

Because he escaped slavery to become a social reformer, abolitionist, statesman and writer who became one of the most famous intellectuals of his time advising presidents and lecturing thousands.

Black History Month

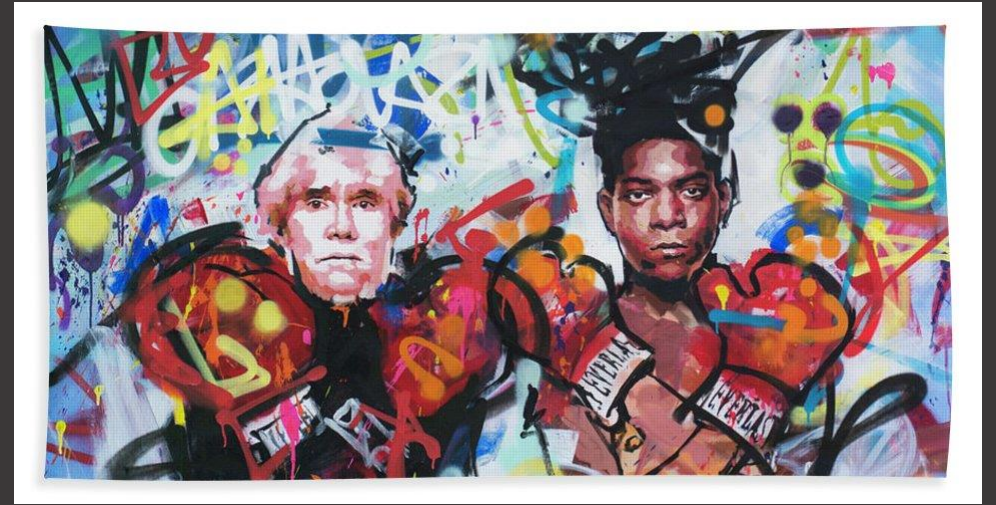
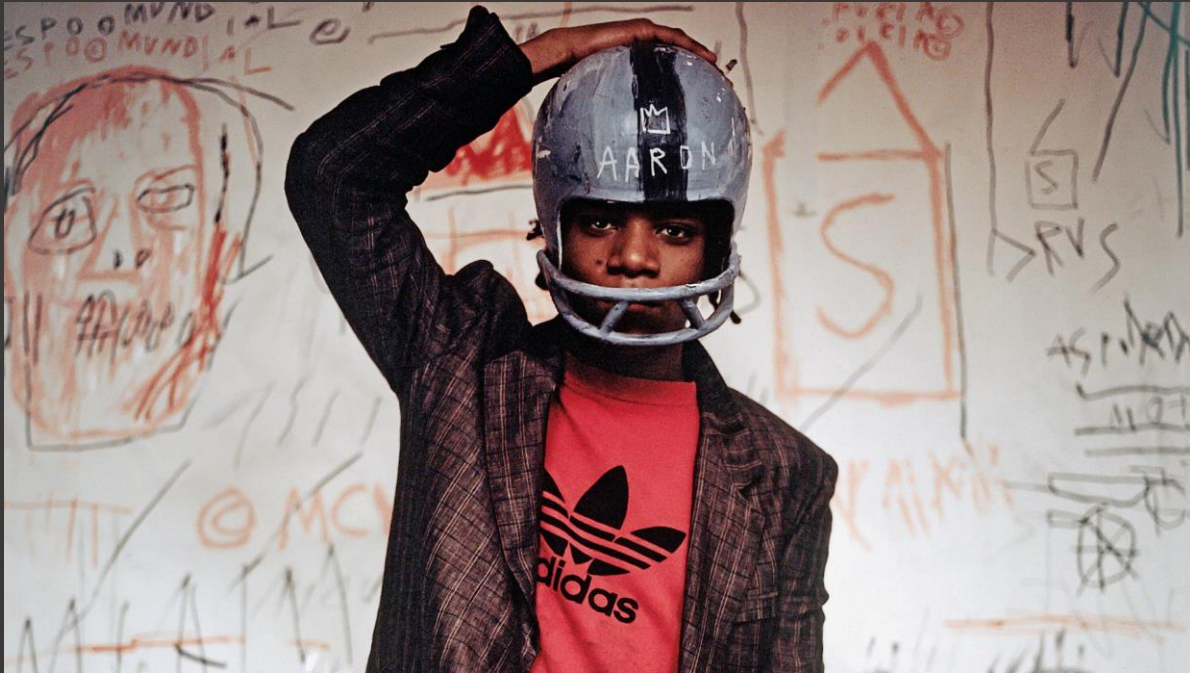


ARTIST
b. 1960 - 1988

JEAN- MICHELL BASQUIAT

Because without Basquiat, there'd be no graffiti. Without Basquiat, there'd be no Banksy.

Black History Month



“It’s not who you are that holds you back, it’s who you think you are not.”

- Jean-Michel Basquiat
Artist





SOCIOLOGIST,
WRITER, ACTIVIST
b. 1868 - 1963

W.E.B. DU BOIS

Because he was a sociologist, author and
peace advocate for nuclear disarmament.

Black History Month



COMPOSER,
BANDLEADER
b. 1899 - 1974

DUKE ELLINGTON

Because he was a composer, pianist and a pivotal figure in the history of jazz.

Black History Month



SINGER-
SONGWRITER
b. 1942 - 2018

ARETHA FRANKLIN

Because hers is a title well-earned:
The Queen of Soul. She is the most
charted female artist in history.

Black History Month



NOVELIST,
PLAYWRIGHT
b. 1931 - 2019

TONI MORRISON

Because she was a novelist, essayist, book editor and college professor who won the Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Black History Month



“If you want to fly, you have to give up everything that weighs you down.”

**- Toni Morrison,
Author & Nobel
Prize Winner**



MATHEMATICIAN,
PHYSICIST
b. 1918

KATHERINE JOHNSON

Because she used her extraordinary skills as a mathematician to become one of the first black women to work at NASA.

Black History Month



MUSIC PRODUCER,
SONGWRITER,
ACTIVIST
b. 1933

QUINCY JONES

Because he is a record producer, multi-instrumentalist, song writer, composer, arranger and has won 28 Grammys.

Black History Month



SUPREME COURT
JUSTICE
b. 1908 - 1993

THURGOOD MARSHALL

Because he was the Supreme Court's
first black judge.



44TH PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES
b. 1961

BARACK OBAMA

Because he was the first black
President of the United States of
America.

Black History Month



BASEBALL PLAYER,
CIVIL RIGHTS
ACTIVIST
b. 1919 - 1972

JACKIE ROBINSON

Because he was the first black American professional baseball player to play for the MLB in the modern era, breaking the color barrier.

Black History Month



“A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.”

*-Jackie Robinson
Baseball Player and Activist*





ABOLITIONIST,
ACTIVIST
b. 1797 - 1883

SOUJOURNER TRUTH

Because she escaped slavery and was an abolitionist and women's rights activist.

Black History Month



ABOLITIONIST
b. 1820 - 1913

HARRIET TUBMAN

Because she was an American abolitionist and political activist who escaped slavery and was instrumental to leading others to freedom!

Black History Month



TRACK AND FIELD
ATHLETE
b. 1913 - 1980

JESSE OWENS

Because he set three world records and tied another, all in less than an hour, a feat that has never been repeated and went on to win 4 gold medals.

Black History Month



**“Find the good.
It’s all around you.
Find it, showcase it and
you’ll start believing in
it.”**

**- Jesse Owens
Athlete**





JOURNALIST, CIVIL
RIGHTS ACTIVIST
b. 1862 - 1931

IDA B. WELLS

Because she was a journalist and was a part of the early Civil Rights Movement.

Black History Month



EDUCATOR, CIVIL
RIGHTS ACTIVIST
b. 1856 - 1915

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

Because he was an American author, orator and adviser to multiple Presidents of the US.

Black History Month



HELA CELL LINE
b. 1920 - 1951

HENRIETTA LACKS

Because she was the subject of a medical experiment that is still saving lives today through her original HELA cells.

Black History Month



ENTREPRENEUR,
ACTIVIST
b. 1867 - 1919

MADAM C.J. WALKER

Because she was the first self made business woman/entrepreneur who created specialized hair care products for black women.

Black History Month



“Don’t sit down and wait for the opportunities to come. Get up and make them.”

- Madam C.J. Walker
Entrepreneur