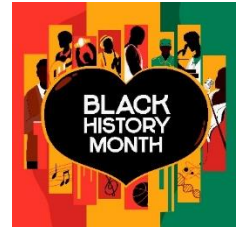


Black History Month

Black History Month is nationally recognized in February as a month dedicated to exploring the stories and accomplishments of African Americans throughout U.S. history in order to celebrate their rich cultural heritage, triumphs and adversities that are an indelible part of our country's history. Black History Month began as merely a week back in 1926 thanks to the efforts of one man: Carter G.

Woodson. A scholar and teacher, Woodson was the second Black American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard among many other academic achievements. Woodson believed that Black history was largely ignored in education, saying that African American contributions were overlooked, ignored, and even suppressed by the writers of history textbooks and the teachers who use them. He aimed to change that.



Dr. Carter G. Woodson launched Negro History Week in 1926 to honor and **highlight the contributions of Black Americans**, choosing the second week of February to align with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass, on the 14th, and Abraham Lincoln, on the 12th. During America's Bicentennial celebration in 1976, U.S. president, Gerald Ford, extended what was, then, **Black History Week** into a month-long recognition, in order to cite a message of courage and perseverance. "Freedom and the recognition of individual rights are what our Revolution was all about. They were ideals that inspired our fight for Independence: ideals that we have been striving to live up to ever since," Ford said in his message and called on citizens to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments" of Black Americans. Though the U.S. Supreme Court was officially established in 1789, it would be nearly 180 years before a Black American was appointed as one of the justices. On **Aug. 30, 1967, Thurgood Marshall** was confirmed by the U.S. Senate, becoming the first Black person to serve on the nation's highest court and he served for 24 years.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoIEH4qzBdE>

A Few Books to Consider Reading this Month to Learn More

- "I Am Rosa Parks" by Brad Meltzer
- "Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters" by Barack Obama
- "Unspoken: A Story from the Underground Railroad" by Henry Cole
- "Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave" by Laban Carrick Hill
- "Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race" by Margot Lee Shetterly (picture book version)
- "The Story of Ruby Bridges (Reissue)" by Robert Coles
- "Under the Same Sun" by Sharon Robinson
- "Mae Among the Stars" by Roda Ahmed