

February is National Black History Month and is celebrated in the United States, Canada, Germany (celebrated in October in the United Kingdom). Carter G. Woodson worked very hard to educate people on the achievements and the struggles of African Americans in United States history. Black History Month was first established in 1926 and was called “Negro History Week” because it was only seven days long. The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) will celebrate its 112th birthday on February 12, 2021. Now, here are a few fun facts about Black History Month:

- Did you know that one in four cowboys was black? The Lone Ranger is actually believed to be based on a slave named Bass Reeves.
- February was chosen as the month to celebrate Black History Month because both Frederick Douglass, a Black abolitionist and writer, and Abraham Lincoln were both born in February. They both played such an important part of shaping Black history.
- Lincoln University in Pennsylvania is the first institution of higher education that was founded for African-Americans. This paved the way for 104 other historically Black colleges to follow.
- Some of our favorite things were created by African-American inventors, such as, the hair brush, lawn mower, cellphone, refrigerator and yes, the air conditioner.
- The first town in the country to be incorporated by African-Americans is Eatonville, Florida.
- The term “Underground Railroad” came from an owner when a slave, Tice Davids, escaped and swam across the Ohio River to freedom. His owner thought that he had drowned and stated he must have traveled on “an underground railroad.”
- The South Carolina Stono Rebellion in 1739 became the largest slave revolt in colonial America.
- Jackie Robinson retired from baseball and helped to establish Freedom Bank, an African-American owned and controlled bank.

These are just a few of the many amazing facts about Black History Month and why it is so important to learn and celebrate the accomplishments of so many African-Americans in our history.