

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# American History Cards

## Black Heroes

**Tip:**  
Print on  
cardstock  
for more  
durable  
cards.

**Directions:** Cut out these cards as a starting point for learning about each of these influential African American thinkers, leaders, scientists, innovators, and artists.



**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

1929–1968 Civil rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner who used peaceful civil disobedience as a form of protest.



**Daniel Hale Williams**

1858–1931 Cardiologist who performed the first successful open-heart surgery.



**Harriet Tubman**

1820–1913 Abolitionist who led over 300 people to freedom using the Underground Railroad.



**Jack Johnson**

1878–1946 First African American world heavyweight boxing champion.



**DeFord Bailey**

1899–1982 Harmonica player who was the first person to perform on the Grand Ole Opry stage and radio show.



**Regina Benjamin**

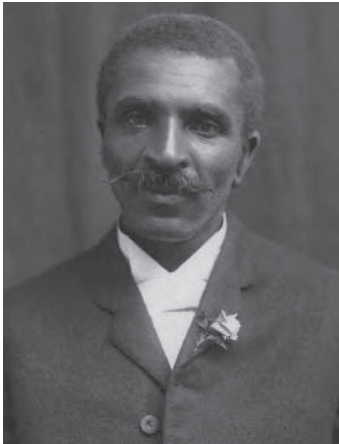
1956 18th Surgeon General of the United States.

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**George Washington Carver**

1864–1943 Botanist whose research proved the benefits of crop rotation for both humans and depleted soil.



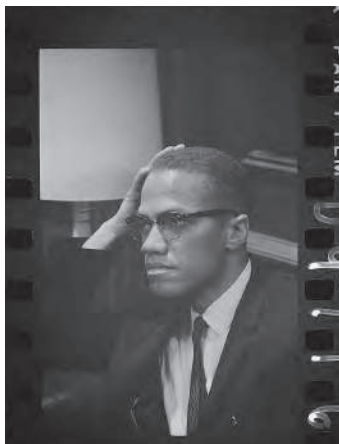
**Bessie Coleman**

1892–1926 Aviator who was the first African American to hold an international pilot license.



**Garrett Morgan**

1877–1963 Inventor who invented the three-position traffic signal and the gas mask.



**Malcolm X**

1925–1965 Human rights activist who created the Organization of Afro-American Unity.



**Jane Bolin**

1908–2007 First African American woman to graduate from Yale Law School, and the first to serve as a judge in the United States.



**Roy Wilkins**

1901–1981 Clergyman and civil rights activist and one of the founders of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

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**Ida B. Wells**

1862–1931 Journalist and human rights activist who helped found the NAACP.



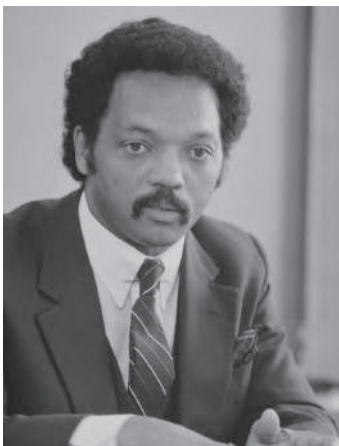
**Thurgood Marshall**

1908–1993 Lawyer who won the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case and was the first African American on the Supreme Court.



**Ella Fitzgerald**

1917–1996 Singer who was the first African American to win a Grammy Award.



**Jesse Jackson**

1941 Clergyman and civil rights activist who founded PUSH and the Rainbow Coalition.



**Blanche Bruce**

1858–1931 First African American whose signature was represented on U.S. paper currency.



**Nat "King" Cole**

1919–1965 First African American to host a television variety show.

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**Hiram Rhodes Revels**

1827–1901 Clergyman who was the first African American Senator.



**Maya Angelou**

1928–2014 Author and poet who was the first African American woman to have a nonfiction work make the bestseller list.



**Mary McLeod Bethune**

1875–1955 Civil rights activist and educator who founded the National Council of Negro Women.



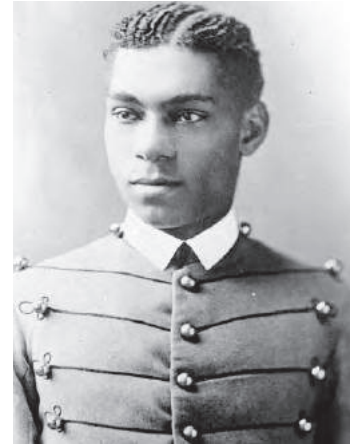
**Alvin Ailey**

1931–1989 Choreographer and founder of the world-famous Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.



**Booker T. Washington**

1856–1915 Educator and reformer who was the first president of Tuskegee University.



**Henry O. Flipper**

1856–1940 First African American graduate of West Point Academy and the first African American commander in the U.S Army.



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**Arthur Ashe**

1960–1988 Professional tennis player who was the first African American to win the U.S. Open.



**Jackie Robinson**

1919 –1972 Baseball player who was the first African American Major League Baseball player of the modern era.



**Madame C.J. Walker**

1867–1919 First female self-made millionaire in America.



**W.E.B. DuBois**

1868–1963 Civil rights activist who was the first African American to graduate from Harvard and who helped found the NAACP.



**Halle Berry**

1966 First African American woman to win an Oscar for Best Actress in a Leading Role.

Image credit: Gage Skidmore



**Henry Ossawa Tanner**

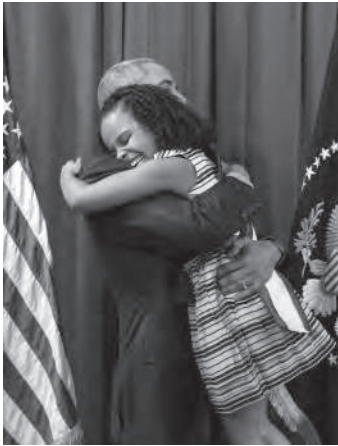
1859–1937 First African American artist to have a painting enter the permanent collection of the White House.

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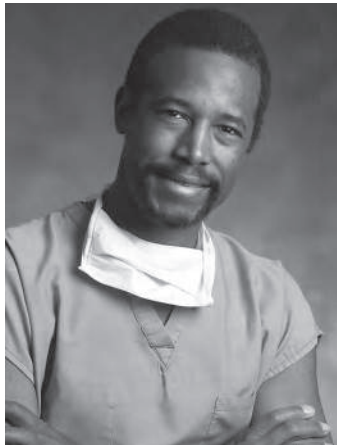
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**Mari Copeny**

2007 A youth activist and fundraiser whose work supports underprivileged children around the country.



**Ben Carson**

1951 Neurosurgeon who led the first successful operation to separate a pair of conjoined twin infants.



**Shirley Chisholm**

1924–2005 Educator and politician who was the first woman to run for the Democratic presidential nomination.



**Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.**

1908–1972 Civil rights leader during the Depression and one of the first African American Congressmen.



**Marian Anderson**

1897–1993 Contralto singer who was the first African American to sing at the Metropolitan Opera House.



**John Lewis**

1940 U.S. Congressman and civil rights activist who was one of the original 13 Freedom Riders.

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**Coretta Scott King**

1927–2006 Human rights activist who founded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.



**Barack Obama**

1961 First African American to hold the office of President of the United States.



**Ralph Bunche**

1904–1971 Political scientist and diplomat who was the first African American to win the Nobel Peace Prize.



**Aretha Franklin**

1942–2018 Singer who was the first female artist inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



**Sojourner Truth**

1797–1883 Abolitionist and women's rights activist who was one of the first African American women to win a lawsuit against a white man.



**Mary Church Terrell**

1863–1954 Activist and journalist who was the first African American woman to serve on a Board of Education.

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Use the blank cards to add more heroes!

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**Bayard Rustin**

1912–1987 Activist for civil rights, socialism, pacifism, and gay rights who helped organize the first Freedom Ride.



**George Carruthers**

1939 Inventor and physicist who developed the first moon-based space observatory: an ultraviolet camera on Apollo 16.