



MAKING THEIR MARK Black Women Leaders

National African American History Month, February 2012



"My big conclusion about how to live one's professional life is to do what you *want* to do as opposed to what someone tells you what you *ought* to do. If you're excited about something and passionate about it, that's what you ought to do."
Ambassador Rice, January 2012



This issue of *eJournal USA* profiles **African-American Women of the 20th & 21st Centuries** who have made significant contributions to many spheres of American life. It also offers insights into how earlier generations of African-American women serve as touchstones for the present generation. The list of women featured here, while not comprehensive, is wide-ranging, and includes women who have devoted their talents and energies to business, civil rights, politics, academia and mass media. Each in her way has affirmed the American Dream not only for African Americans, but for women and men of all ethnicities.

Historically influential women featured include:

Madam C.J. Walker: Business Savvy to Philanthropy by A'Lelia Bundles

Ida B. Wells-Barnett: Fighting and Writing for Justice by Lee D. Baker

Zora Neal Hurston: Literary Legend by Valerie Boyd

Dorothy Irene Height: Civil Rights Activist by Holly Cowan Shulman

Claudette Colvin: The First to Keep Her Seat by Phillip Hoose

Making Their Mark: Profiles of Contemporary African-American Women

Elizabeth Alexander / Mary McLeod Bethune / Ursula Burns / Shirley Chisholm / Johnnetta Cole / Cathy Hughes / Mae Jemison / Lynn Nottage / Condoleezza Rice / Susan E. Rice / Leah Ward Sears **contd. over →**



Presidential Proclamation - National African American History Month, 2012

"The achievements of African American women are not limited to those recorded and retold in our history books. Their impact is felt in communities where they are quiet heroes who care for their families, in boardrooms where they are leaders of industry, in laboratories where they are discovering new technologies, and in classrooms where they are preparing the next generation for the world they will inherit. As we celebrate the successes of African American women, we recall that progress did not come easily, and that our work to widen the circle of opportunity for all Americans is not complete."

"I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities."

President Obama, the White House, January 31, 2012

SELECTED WEBSITES AND ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

Making Their Mark: Profiles of Contemporary African-American Women *contd.*

See also:

Poet & Essayist [Elizabeth Alexander](#) / [Reading "Praise Song for the Day" at Obama Inauguration](#)

[Lee D. Baker](#) Dean of Academic Affairs, Trinity College of Arts and Sciences; Professor of Cultural Anthropology and African American Studies, Duke University

[Mary McLeod Bethune](#) Educator & Civil Rights Activist, Council House National historic site, Washington D.C.

Author & Journalist **[A'Lelia Bundles](#)**, writes biographies about the amazing women in her family: entrepreneur Madam C. J. Walker and Harlem Renaissance icon A'Lelia Walker.

[Dorothy Irene Height](#) - Social activist and Educator - Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, July 8, 2008.

[Zora Neale Hurston](#) - One of the pre-eminent writers of 20th-century African-American literature.

[Mae Jemison](#) - Astronaut, physician, scientist, chemical engineer and teacher Mae Jemison in a YouTube video, "Science Literacy on LIVING SMART with Patricia Gras.

[Lynn Nottage](#)- whose honors include a MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant and an OBIE Award for playwriting.

[Leah Ward Sears](#) - YouTube video posted by the Atlanta Press Club, June 2, 2009.

OFFICIAL TEXTS

[D/S Burns Remarks at Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration](#) January 31, 2012.

[President Obama – Remarks at a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Service Event](#) January 16, 2012.

[S/R Lewis Address at Martin Luther King Jr. Ceremony](#) January 12, 2012.

[President Obama - Remarks at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Dedication](#) October 16, 2011.

[Secretary Clinton - Remarks At Black History Month Celebration](#) February 22, 2011.

[State: WHA Black History Month](#) - Watch/Listen- January 31, 2011.

RESEARCHING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

[2012 National Black History Theme: Black Women in American Culture and History](#) *Association for the Study of African American Life and History*, 2012 – the founders of Black History Month.

Events in African American History, 2000+. *Gale Cengage Learning*. 2009. **Full Text:** [1600-1699](#) / [1700-1799](#) / [1800-1849](#) / [1850-1899](#) / [1900-1949](#) / [1950-1999](#) / [2000-](#)

[2012 National African American Read-In](#) *National Council of Teachers of English*. January 2012.

[African American History Prominent African Americans Past & Present](#) *Lakewood City Schools*, 2012.

[Facts for Features – U.S. Census Department: African Americans in Statistics](#)

[A Religious Portrait of African-Americans](#) *Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life*, January 30, 2009.

[African American History Month](#) *Law Library, Library of Congress*.

[Celebrate Black History](#) *The Biography Channel*, January 2010. Black History FirstTimelines, Videos etc.

[Black History Month – INFOPLEASE](#)

[Black History Month - 2012](#) - *Smithsonian*, January 2012.

[African American History Virtual Tour](#)

[Diversity and Black History Month](#) - *America.gov*

[Free at Last: The U.S. Civil Rights Movement](#) **[Lucent Library of Black History](#)**

[National Visionary Leadership Project: African Americans Tell Their Stories](#): Photo Gallery

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

[Historically Black Colleges & Universities](#)

FAMOUS FIRST FACTS

AFRICAN-AMERICAN FIRSTS BY INFOPLEASE: List of firsts by African Americans, such as "the first African-American billionaire, combat pilot, Nobel Prize winner, poet laureate, Oscar winner, and Miss America." Browse list by category such as government (such as **Barack Obama, first African American** to head a major party ticket in a presidential election), law, diplomacy, military, science and medicine, scholarship, literature, film, sports, and more. Includes links to related material. From *Pearson Education*, publishing as *Infoplease*. Note: **Generates pop-ups**

Black History Facts

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Harvard University - African American Studies and African Studies – see **Research Reports & Faculty Publication**

MIT Distance Education: **Course Writing About Race at MIT**

Race and Ethnicity: Boston College

Georgetown University: The African American Studies Program

Researching African American History: Basic Resources - Rutgers University Libraries

African Studies Center: University of Pennsylvania

Ohio State University: A Gateway to Information (see "African -Americans" in drop-down box.)

SLAVERY AND CIVIL RIGHTS

I Have A Dream – Video & Text of Speech

Martin Luther King – Holiday

Martin Luther King Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights era – *Federal Resources for Educational Excellence*.

Digital Library on American Slavery

Schomburg Collection: Born in Slavery – Narratives From Library of Congress

Black History Month 2011 - Honors Legacy of Struggle and Triumph U.S. Department of State

African American Perspectives: Pamphlets from the Daniel A.P. Murray Collection 1818-1907 *American Memory, Library of Congress*. 2010.

End of Slavery: The Creation of the 13th Amendment

Black Voices: Black and White Responses to Slavery - (part of the Digital History Project from the University of Houston) - Includes significant material on Slavery and Oral Histories.

Slavery Fact Sheets - Digital History of the U.S., a University of Houston Educational Initiative

Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database

Civil Rights Digital Library - part of the University of Georgia's Digital Library - Includes a highly valuable *Educator's Module* with Slide Shows, Teaching Guides, Annotated Bibliographies, Lesson Plans, Study Guides, and Worksheets.

Educator's Resources with Teaching Guides and Lesson Plans, Quizzes, Worksheets, etc

Civil Rights Resource Guide

Martin Luther King Jr. – Biography, Timeline, Quotes, etc

Crossroads to Freedom [Macromedia Flash Player] Hosted by Rhodes College, this website seeks to promote and support conversations about the civil rights era focusing on the years 1950 to 1970. It includes oral histories, newspaper articles from the Memphis World, and the transcripts of the 1962 Hearings of the Commission on Civil Rights. The interview videos from the project, along with a special set of interviews related to the importance of musicians in the struggle for civil rights. Click on "Collections" - you can also use the "Browse" to look over documents by date, name, place, and subject.

MUSEUMS

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Museum of African American History – Boston

STATISTICS

[Demographics of Black \(African-American\) History](#) *U.S. Census Bureau* February, 2012.

[Segregation in U.S. on Decline But Disparities Exist](#) by David Ariosto. *CNN*, February 2012.

[A Religious Portrait of African-Americans](#) *Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life*. January 30, 2009.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

[African American History Collections from the American Memory Project](#)

[The NAACP: A Century in the Fight for Freedom](#) - Online exhibition.

[African American History Month](#)

[African American History Month \[Law Library of Congress\]](#)

[African and Middle Eastern Reading Room](#)

[African American Sites in Digital Collections](#)

[Brown v. Board of Education](#)

[Civil Rights Resource Guide](#)

[Rosa Parks](#)

[Science Tracer Bullets - African American Science Books for Younger Readers](#) This guide, meant for younger readers, "lists sources chronicling the considerable contributions and achievements made by African Americans in the fields of science and technology." It includes Library of Congress subject headings, and lists of individual and collective biographies of scientists and inventors, and biographical reference tools. Also provides resources for teachers, "best book" sources, and a listing of relevant organizations. From Library of Congress Science Reference Services.

AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE, THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE, etc.

[Harlem Renaissance](#) / [Harlem Renaissance Resources: PAL: Perspective in American](#)

[Literature- A Research & Reference Guide - Ongoing project](#)

[A Guide to Harlem Renaissance Materials from the Library of Congress](#)

[African American Women Authors: NYPL – Selection of Published Works](#) / [A Digitized Text](#) - example

[Harlem - 1910-1940](#)

[History of African Americans in Chicago](#)

["We Shall Overcome"](#) – Black History in America

[The Jazz Age and the Harlem Renaissance](#)

[African-American Women's History](#) – Duke University

NORTH AMERICAN SLAVE NARRATIVES – [Bibliography](#) / [Born in Slavery](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

PRINT – Historical and overarching perspectives on the African-American Experience in the United States

- [Black History Month 2012 Honors Legacy of Struggle and Triumph](#)
- [Picturing the Promise: The Scurlock Studio and Black Washington](#) - Poster show - Low-res. Preview ed.
- [Free At Last - The U.S. Civil Rights Movement](#) - Book
- [Beyond Doctor King: Stories of African-American Achievement](#) - Living Book - Features: Claudette Colvin: The First to Keep Her Seat / Ida B. Wells-Barnett: Fighting and Writing for Justice / Madam C.J. Walker: Business Savvy to Generous Philanthropy
- [Justice for All: The Legacy of Thurgood Marshall](#) – eJournal
- [President Obama and First Family](#) – Postcards
- [Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" Celebrates Its 75th Anniversary](#)
- [Museum Seeks to Document the African-American Experience](#)
- [Meet Barack Obama / President Obama's Inaugural Address](#)
- [Association for the Study of African American Life and History](#)
- [National Urban League](#)



DIGITIZED COLLECTIONS

[From Documenting the American South Project: Slave Narratives](#)

[Schomburg Collection: The New York Public Library](#)

[African Online Digital Library](#)

DIGITAL RESOURCES

[Association for the Study of African American Life](#)

[Multicultural Literature in the United States Today](#) - eJournal

[Abraham Lincoln: A Legacy of Freedom](#)

[Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#) - Self Print

SOCIAL MEDIA

[eJournalUSA - Facebook Page](#)

PHOTO GALLERIES, TV

[Africans in America](#) - PBS

[Joseph Holston's Color in Freedom](#)

[The Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

[Black Economic Empowerment in America](#)

JOURNALS ONLINE - FULL TEXT

[African Studies Quarterly](#)

[Black Enterprise Magazine](#)

[Hip Hop News](#)

[Jet Magazine](#)

[Ebony Magazine](#)

[Africa News Online](#) - Gateway to a Continent.

IIP DIGITAL – Articles:

- [Entrepreneur Engineers Her Own Success](#) - Profile of Mary Spio: deep space scientist, groundbreaker in digital cinema, founder of online dating service, marketing and video technology executive
- [Remembering "Extra-Special" Space Shuttle Flight](#) - Profile of astronaut Joan Higginbotham
- [Ursula Burns' Path to Success in the Fortune 500](#) - Profile of Fortune 500 CEO
- [Michelle Obama Presents Modern Image for Black Women](#)
- [Little Rock Nine Member & Daughter Relive Struggle, Victory](#) - Spirit Trickey, daughter of one of member 9
- [The Immortal Cells of Henrietta Lacks](#) - How Henrietta Lacks cells have aided cancer research
- [On Penning a Verse for the President-elect](#) - Elizabeth Alexander is a poet who was asked to read at President Obama's inauguration
- [African-American Sumayya Ali a Rising Opera Star](#)
- [Actress Jurnee Smollett: HIV/AIDS Activist](#)
- [Pulitzer Prize for Drama Honors Play About Women in Wartime Congo](#) - Playwright Lynn Nottage
- [World War II Black Women's Army Unit Receives Overdue Honors](#)

POWERPOINT

[Black History Month: A Tribute to African-Americans](#) - IIP - Includes photos

VIDEOS - Black History Month - Female Changemakers - Short videos which highlight African-American women who are making an impact in their fields: [Majora Carter](#) a consultant who works to create local solutions for environmental and economic problems (YouTube)(Download via Box.net) January 31, 2012.

[Erica Williams](#) a political advocate who works to give young people the tools to change the world through social activism (YouTube)(Download via Box.net) January 31, 2012.

Video clips from the National Visionary Leadership Project - Brief video excerpts from the oral histories of extraordinary African-American elders who helped shape America's culture and history.

- [Dorothy Height](#) - civil rights activist
- [Odetta](#) - folk singer
- [Maya Angelou](#) - poet & author
- [Coretta Scott King](#) - civil rights activist
- [Toni Morrison](#) - author
- [Carmen De Lavallade](#) - dancer & choreographer

PHOTO GALLERIES

- [A New Generation of Black Women Leaders](#) - Photo gallery featuring contemporary African-American women who excel in a variety of fields.
- [Visionaries: African Americans Tell Their Stories](#) - Selection of clips featuring Dorothy Height, Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, Carmen de Lavallade, Odetta and Coretta Scott King.

AUDIO PROGRAMMING

- [Madam C.J. Walker](#)
- [Podcast on Female African-American Entrepreneur](#)
- [Martin Luther King, Jr. - "Let Freedom Ring"](#) - Audio clip

PODCASTS

- [Tannie Stovall](#) February 18, 2010.
- [Focusing on Economic Empowerment](#) – February 18, 2010

WEBCHAT

[Multiculturalism: A Discussion with Martin Luther King, III](#) - October 2011 CO.NX Webchat - **Description:** On October 16, a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, DC. To celebrate this special event, participants joined this webchat on Monday, October 17 at 10:00 EDT (14:00 UTC) for a discussion on multiculturalism with Mr. Martin Luther King, III, the oldest son of Dr. MLK, Jr. and the President and CEO of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

FREE VIDEOS FROM THE ANNENBERG FOUNDATION - Free to view, no registration required.

[MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY and Black History Month- RESOURCES, ANNENBERG FOUNDATION](#)

No registration is needed to view videos or embedded lesson plans.

[Teaching Multicultural Literature: A Workshop for the Middle Grades](#) - Workshop 5, "Historical and Cultural Context" offers ideas for effective teaching about the Civil Rights era through a lesson based on the book, "*The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963*" by Christopher Paul Curtis.

Get a sense for the times in which the Civil Rights Movement took place by exploring [The Sixties](#) Program 24 of "**A Biography of America.**" There is a link to Video on Demand, a full video transcript, and a Sixties timeline covering major events of the Civil Rights era including Martin Luther King's march on Washington in August 1963.

[Democracy in America](#) - Unit 5, "**Civil Rights: Demanding Equality**" - looks at racial segregation in the 1950s and the how the "separate but equal" standard was challenged.

For background on the Civil Rights Movement, read the article [With Justice for All: From World War II to the Civil Rights Movement](#) then search the archive to find relevant artifacts.

Observe a literature lesson related to the work of Martin Luther King, Jr. for 4th and 5th grade students in **Building Community**, the 6th program of "**Engaging With Literature: A Video Library, Grades 3-5.**" The unit includes a link to a discussion guide for the book "*I Have a Dream: The Story of Martin Luther King, Jr.*"

Add to your knowledge of history with **America's History in the Making** which covers slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and 20th century developments. Program 20, "**Egalitarian America**," discusses efforts to end race-based discrimination.

Learn new details about American history from **A Biography of America** The series covers the periods before, during, and after slavery as well as the Civil Rights Movement and other eras. Explore the Web site for interactive activities.

Learn how to incorporate actual documents (i.e., slave bill of sale documents) into the teaching of historical literature at the high school level. Watch **Artifacts & Fiction: Workshop in American Literature Workshop 3: Social History** and use the Web-based materials to develop lessons on the writings of Harriet Beecher Stowe and other authors.

The Africans Program 4, "**Tools of Exploitation**," adds an African perspective on the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Click on "*Buy Videos and Materials*" to purchase the series.

Social Studies in Action: A Teaching Practices Library, K-12 Program 18 shows a classroom lesson based on a reenactment of the famous Amistad case. Click on "*Lesson Background.*"

Literature and Art

The Expanding Canon: Teaching Multicultural Literature in High School presents new ways to teach the writings of African American authors including James Baldwin and Abiodun Oyewole.

In "**Building Community**," **Program 6 of Engaging with Literature: A Video Library, Grades 3-5** observe engaging lessons on the books *I Have a Dream: The Story of Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Margaret Davidson, *Walking the Road to Freedom: A Story About Sojourner Truth* by Jeri Ferris, and *Which Way Freedom* by Joyce Hansen.

Learn directly from Barbara Chase-Riboud, Edwidge Danticat, and other authors featured in **Teaching Multicultural Literature: A Workshop for the Middle Grades** as they discuss their work. Seasoned teachers talk about their unique approaches to literature.

On **American Passages: A Literary Survey** click on "*About*" and "*How to Use This Site*" to find author-based materials including biographies of Frederick Douglass, Ralph Ellison, Zora Neale Hurston, Harriet Jacobs, and other African American authors. See also the links to Video on Demand, lesson activities, and "*Context Activities*" articles associated with each unit, like "**Harlem in the 1920s: The Cultural Heart of America.**"

Photos in African American History - click on "*Archive*" to search for photos of Black civil rights leaders, slaves and ex-slaves, and key figures in literature and the arts. Examples of artifacts include colored infantry and also contrabands in Virginia in 1862.

Teaching Multicultural Literature: A Workshop for the Middle Grades - Workshop 5, "Historical and Cultural Context" offers ideas for effective teaching about the Civil Rights era through a lesson based on the book, "The Watsons Go to Birmingham -- 1963" by Christopher Paul Curtis.

Get a sense for the times in which the Civil Rights Movement took place by exploring "**The Sixties**" Program 24 of "*A Biography of America.*" The Web site links to Video on Demand, a full video transcript, and a Sixties timeline covering major events of the Civil Rights era including Martin Luther King's massive march on Washington in August 1963.

Democracy in America Unit 5, "**Civil Rights: Demanding Equality**" looks at racial segregation in the 1950s and the how the "separate but equal" standard was challenged.

For background on the Civil Rights Movement, read the article **With Justice for All: From World War II to the Civil Rights Movement** Then search the archive to find relevant artifacts.

Observe a literature lesson related to the work of Martin Luther King, Jr. for fourth and fifth grade students in "**Building Community**" the sixth program of "Engaging With Literature: A Video Library, Grades 3-5." The unit includes a link to a discussion guide for the book "*I Have a Dream: The Story of Martin Luther King, Jr.*"

Gain more background on the origins of the African presence in America with "**The Africans**" Program 4, "*Tools of Exploitation.*" The program gives an African perspective on the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Other programs in the series are also helpful to understanding African history and culture. To purchase the series, click on "*Buy Videos and Materials.*"

Watch an hour-long documentary about the life, work, and significance of renowned poet Langston Hughes in **Voices & Visions**

Search thousands of historical images in the American Passages archive for photos of Malcolm X, fugitive slaves, prominent figures in art and literature, and more. Examples include a **1943 Harlem street scene** alongside verses of a poem from Countee Cullen's "**From the Dark Tower**," and **this colored entrance to a movie theater in Mississippi, 1939**

Artifacts & Fiction: Workshop in American Literature Workshop 3, "**Social History**" shows how primary source documents -- actual slavery documents -- can be used to enrich students' understanding of literature at the high school level.

Who freed the slaves? Untangle the complexities of the question with **Primary Sources: Workshops in American History** - includes lecture transcripts, documents, and classroom applications.

For a sample, read "**An Appeal from the Colored Men of Philadelphia to the President of the United States, August 1862**" - a reply to President Lincoln's proposal to colonize free blacks in lands outside the United States.

Learn about several African American authors including Octavia Butler and Ishmael Reed with **The Expanding Canon: Teaching Multicultural Literature in High School**. "**Teaching Multicultural Literature: A Workshop for the Middle Grades**" features Nikki Grimes, Christopher Paul Curtis, and other authors speaking directly to students about their work, as well as teachers' approaches to literature in the classroom.

On the **series Web site** find relevant lessons through the workshops, with particularly rich materials in Workshop 5, "*Historical and Cultural Context: Christopher Paul Curtis*," and Workshop 6, "*Historical and Cultural Context: Langston Hughes and Christopher Moore*."

Observe an 8th-grade lesson based on a reenactment of the **Amistad trial** in "Social Studies in Action: A Teaching Practices Library, K-12" Program 18, "*The Amistad Case*" Click on "About the Class" and "Lesson Background" for information on the class and the topic.

See effective teaching of historical fiction in a 4th and 5th grade classroom in "**Engaging with Literature: A Video Library, Grades 3-5**" Program 6, "**Building Community**"

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Black History Month

African Americans in the Sciences

Negro League Players Gallery

Roles of African Americans in American Revolution

African American History and Culture

Great Women – A Showcase

African-American Resources - CMMR

Famous African American Quotes

African American History

Black Musicians

Women in History

Famous Black Educators

African Americans - Encyclopedia of Cleveland History

Recent Acquisitions - African American History

Encyclopedia Britannica's Guide to Black History

Black Humor – Cool Quotes

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"We want to reach a time when there won't be Black History Month, when black history will be so integrated into American history that we study it along with every other history," she said in an interview from her home in Winston-Salem, N.C., on Wednesday. "That's the hope, and we have to continue to work until that is true, until that becomes a fact." *Maya Angelou, February 1, 2012*



Maya Angelou Hosts Black History Month Special - Angelou, 83, said she hopes the program sends a message that "the work of making our country more than it is today" is unfinished.

On King's Day, Obama Issues Call for Service - January 16, 2012. As he helped spruce up a school in D.C. to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr., President Obama said Monday the true meaning of a quote that's being revised on the city's new King memorial is that everyone can work for social justice.

The U.S. Department of State assumes no responsibility for the content and availability of the resources listed above. All Internet links were active at February 3, 2012
American Reference Center, U.S. Embassy, P.O. Box 1190, Wellington

We welcome your feedback. Please email us: wellington.arc@state.gov
If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader, [download it here](#)