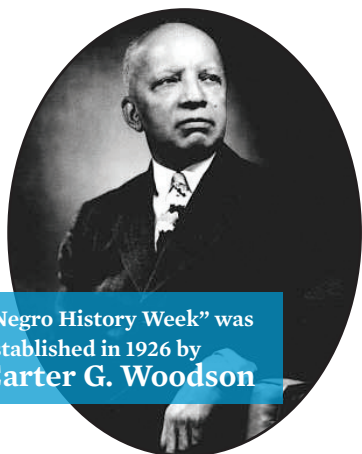


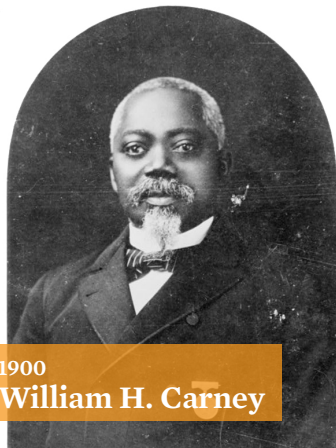
BLACK HISTORY MONTH *Timeline*



“Negro History Week” was established in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson

- 1619** Dutch ship brings 20 Africans to Jamestown, Va., the first enslaved Africans in the U.S.
- 1793** Eli Whitney's new cotton gin increases demand for slaves
- 1793** Congress passes Fugitive Slave Act, making it a federal crime to assist a slave trying to escape
- 1808** Congress bans importation of slaves
- 1820** Missouri Compromise bans slavery above the southern border of the state
- 1831** Nat Turner leads largest slave rebellion prior to Civil War
- 1849** Harriet Tubman escapes to Philadelphia and subsequently helps about 300 enslaved people to freedom via the Underground Railroad
- 1857** In Dred Scott v. Sanford, U.S. Supreme Court declares that Blacks are not citizens of the U.S. and that Congress cannot prohibit slavery
- 1859** John Brown leads raid of U.S. Armory and Arsenal at Harpers Ferry, W.Va.
- 1861** South secedes from Union and Civil War begins
- 1863** President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring “all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free”
- 1865** Civil War ends
- 1865** Thirteenth Amendment is ratified, prohibiting slavery
- 1868** Fourteenth Amendment is ratified, allowing Blacks to become citizens

- 1870** Fifteenth Amendment guarantees that right to vote cannot be denied because of race, color or previous condition of servitude
- 1870** Hiram Revels becomes first Black member of Congress
- 1896** U.S. Supreme Court rules in Plessy v. Ferguson that segregation doesn't violate the 14th Amendment's equal-protection clause as long as conditions provided are “separate but equal”



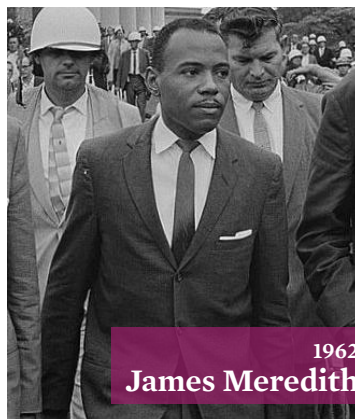
1900 William H. Carney

- 1900** William H. Carney becomes first Black to be awarded Medal of Honor
- 1909** NAACP is founded
- 1940** Hattie McDaniel becomes first Black to win an Academy Award
- 1947** Jackie Robinson becomes first Black to play Major League Baseball
- 1950** Ralph J. Bunche becomes first Black to win the Nobel Peace Prize
- 1953** Willie Thrower becomes first Black to play quarterback in the National Football League



1940 Hattie McDaniel

- 1954** In Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, U.S. Supreme Court rules that racial segregation in public schools violates the 14th Amendment
- 1955** Two white men who confessed to murdering a 14-year-old Black boy, Emmett Till, for allegedly whistling at a white woman are acquitted by an all-white jury
- 1955** Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus to a white man in Montgomery, Ala., leading to the Montgomery Bus Boycott
- 1957** Little Rock Nine integrate Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas
- 1960** Four Black students stage famous sit-in at a whites-only Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C.
- 1961** Freedom rides begin from Washington, D.C.
- 1963** Four young Black girls are killed in the bombing of a Birmingham, Ala., church
- 1962** James Meredith becomes first Black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi. Violence prompts President Kennedy to send in 5,000 federal troops



1962 James Meredith

- 1963** More than 200,000 people march on Washington, D.C., in the largest civil-rights demonstration in U.S. history; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gives his “I Have a Dream” speech
- 1964** President Johnson signs Civil Rights Act of 1964, giving the government more power to protect citizens against race, religion, sex or national-origin discrimination
- 1965** Malcolm X, former minister in the Nation of Islam and civil-rights activist, is assassinated



1993 Dr. Joycelyn Elders

- 1965** Thousands participate in three protest marches from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., for Black voting rights
- 1965** President Johnson signs Voting Rights Act of 1965
- 1967** Thurgood Marshall becomes first Black U.S. Supreme Court justice
- 1967** In Loving v. Virginia ruling, Supreme Court declares law prohibiting interracial marriages to be unconstitutional
- 1968** Dr. King is assassinated
- 1968** President Johnson signs Civil Rights Act of 1968, which prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing
- 1972** Shirley Chisholm is first major-party Black candidate to run for president
- 1983** Vanessa Williams becomes first Black Miss America
- 1984** Reverend Jesse Jackson becomes first Black to make serious bid for presidency
- 1986** First observation of Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday
- 1990** Douglas Wilder of Virginia becomes first Black to be elected governor
- 1991** President George H.W. Bush signs Civil Rights Act of 1991, which strengthened laws on employment discrimination
- 1993** Dr. Joycelyn Elders becomes first Black Surgeon General
- 2001** General Colin Powell becomes first Black Secretary of State
- 2009** Barack Obama becomes first Black president

Sources: Library of Congress; biography.com; factmonster.com