



Black History Month

Since 1976, February has been celebrated as Black History Month. But, the origins of this event date back to 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage, achievements, and contributions of African Americans. This packet of materials contains background information and sample speeches to use in commemorating the event. This Info Pack will be updated annually.

Each year, the national theme for the Black History Month celebration is chosen by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). The 2003 theme is "The Souls of Black Folk: Centennial Reflections." An information packet and posters are available for a fee from ASALH at the following address:

Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc.
7961 Eastern Avenue, Suite 301 Telephone: (301) 587-5900
Silver Spring, MD 20910 Fax: (301) 587-5915
Internet: [<http://www.asalh.com/blackhistorytheme.htm>]

Members of Congress who want more on this topic may contact CRS at 7-5700 or place a request via the CRS Web site at [<http://www.crs.gov>]; click on Place Request. There may be related CRS products available on the CRS Web site by searching All Products or by clicking on the Expanded A-Z List of Current Legislative Issues.

Constituents can find more on this topic in a local library by using printed and online indexes. Many libraries have access to the Internet and the World Wide Web available for public use, and many of the sources we cite, and others, can be found online.

We hope this packet will be helpful.

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Information Research Division

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Questions and Answers from The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH) on African American History Month

Q: Why Afro-American (Black) History Month?

A: The true facts of the contributions of Afro-Americans to the discovery, pioneering, development and continuance of America have not properly and adequately been presented in the textbooks, media and other communications media. Indeed, for the most part, Blacks have been left out of the written record about America. The fact that some changes have been made in recent years points to the need for a fuller report about Afro-American contribution. The designation of February as Afro-American History Month is an attempt by ASALH to remedy this neglect and provide for all Americans the information needed for creative and empathetic understanding about Afro-Americans in the nation.

Q: Who started the Afro-American history celebration?

A: In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard Ph.D. who 11 years earlier had founded the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, initiated Negro History Week. In those early days, the words Afro and Black were seldom used. It was Dr. Woodson's hope that through this special observance, all Americans would be reminded of their ethnic roots, and that togetherness in the United States' racial groups would develop out of a mutual respect.

Q: Why was a period in February chosen for the Afro-American (Black) History Observance?

A: Dr. Woodson was keenly conscious of symbolism in the American psyche. He wisely chose for Negro History Week the period of February which contains the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. From its initiation, observance of Afro-American History Month has involved many ethnic groups, not only Black Americans.

Q: Why was the name changed to Afro-American (Black) History?

A: Bowing to pressure from young delegates to its Cincinnati, Ohio, Convention in 1972, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, Inc. changed its name to the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Inc. This name change

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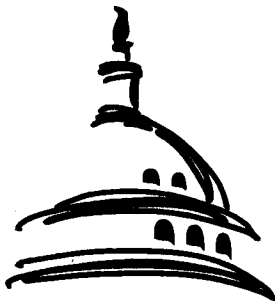
focused on the new thinking by Black Americans and indicated both the new recognition of African background and the Black person's appreciation of himself as an individual, a citizen and a contributor to the American scene.

Q: Why has the week's observance been expanded to include the entire month of February each year?

A: During America's Bicentennial celebration in 1976, the Association shared nationally, regionally and locally in the major thrust of American history. The Association expanded the week's celebration to include the entire month to provide more time for programs, observances and celebrations. The idea of the entire month caught on and ASALH was besieged with requests from all over the country to continue observing for one month, to provide more time to the nation and local communities for Afro-American Black History programs.

Q: What about the future?

A: The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Inc. dreams of the day that the sharing and contribution of all Americans in America will be so appreciated, accepted and understood that there will be no further need for any ethnic group to call attention to its contributions and exploits for the good of the country. Until that day arrives, we shall continue to provide the information needed about the Afro-American citizens in the United States and abroad.



CRS Report for Congress

Black History and Culture: Bibliography-in-Brief

Tangela G. Roe
Information Resource Specialist
Office of Information Resources Management

Summary

This bibliography has been compiled to provide an introduction to sources on Black history and culture for Black History Month. Congressional users may obtain Library of Congress books by calling 7-5445 and the full text of other items can be ordered by calling 7-5700. Other users should consult their local library. Congressional Research Service writings are available only to congressional offices. Selected titles may be obtained from the CRS Website at [<https://www.crs.gov>], while all titles can be obtained by calling the Products Line at 7-7132. This bibliography will be updated annually.

Selected CRS Products

- Affirmative action and equal employment opportunity: info pack. Updated as needed.
Contains CRS reports: RL30410 and RL30470. IP424A
- Black History Month: info pack. Updated as needed.
Contains CRS reports: 98-173 and 98-24. IP344B
- Black Members of the United States Congress: 1789-2001, by Mildred L. Amer. Updated
July 12, 2001. 55 p. RL30378
- The Congressional Black Caucus and foreign policy: 1971-1995, by Raymond W. Copson.
Jan. 18, 1996. 37 p. 96-84
- Disadvantaged businesses: a review of federal assistance, by Michael K. Fauntroy.
Updated Jan. 14, 2002. 25 p. RL30059
- Funding for major civil rights enforcement agencies, by Garrine P. Laney. Updated
Feb. 28, 2001. 6 p. RS20418
- Institutional aid under Title III and Title V of the Higher Education Act: provisions and
status, by James B. Stedman. Updated Feb. 6, 2001. 6 p. RS20009



- Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday: speech material; info pack. Updated as needed.
 Contains CRS report: RL31180 IP372M
- The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs and E.O. 11246, by Linda Levine.
 Apr. 26, 2001. 4 p. RS20897
- An Overview of H.R. 40--the "Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African-American Act", by Christopher A. Jennings. Jan. 2, 2002. 2 p. RS21098
- Private actions to sue for civil rights violations in federally assisted programs after Alexander v. Sandoval, by Charles Dale. Aug. 9, 2001. 7 p. RL31077
- Proposals for reparations for African Americans: a brief overview, by Garrine P. Laney.
 Updated Mar. 23, 2001. 6 p. RS20740
- Public aid and faith-based organizations (charitable choice): background and selected legal issues, by David M. Ackerman. Updated Jan. 15, 2002. 37 p. RL31043
- Race-based civil detention for security purposes, by Jennifer Elsea. Oct. 4, 2001. 6 p.
 RS21039
- Racial profiling: bibliography-in-brief, by Tangela G. Roe. Updated Dec. 12, 2001. 6 p.
 RS20954
- Racial profiling: legal and constitutional issues, by Charles Dale. Sept. 25, 2001. 11 p.
 RL31130
- Small business assistance programs: sources of information; info pack. Updated as needed. Contains CRS report: RL30059. IP422S
- USDA settlement of discrimination suit by Black farmers, by Jean Yavis Jones. Updated Jan. 29, 2001. 6 p. RS20430
- The Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended: its history and current issues, by Garrine Laney. Updated Nov. 2, 2001. 52 p. 95-896

Additional Resources

- The African American almanac. Edited by Jessie Carney Smith. 8th ed. Farmington Hills, Gale Group, 1994-. E185.N385
- Africana: the encyclopedia of the African and African American experience. Editors, Kwame Anthony Appiah and Henry Louis Gates. 1st ed. New York, Basic Civitas Books, 1999. 2095 p. DT14.A37435 1999
- Ashe, Arthur, Jr.
 A hard road to glory: a history of the African American athlete. New York, Amistad, Distributed by Penguin USA, 1993. 3 v. GV583.A74 1993

- Baldwin, James.
Go tell it on the mountain. A Limited ed. Franklin Center, PA, Franklin Library, 1981. 234 p. (The 100 greatest masterpieces of American literature)
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- Bennett, Lerone, Jr.
Before the Mayflower: a history of Black America. 6th ed. Chicago, Johnson Pub., Co., 1987, (1995 printing). 689 p.
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- Black History Month resource book. Edited by Mary Ellen Snodgrass. 2nd ed. Detroit, Gale Research, 1998. 587 p.
E184.7.B53 1998
- The Black middle class: is its cup half-full or half-empty? CQ researcher, v. 8, Jan. 23, 1998: whole issue (p. 49-72).
LRS98-407
- Black women in America: an historical encyclopedia. Edited by Darlene Clark Hine. Brooklyn, Carlson Pub., 1993. 2 v. (1530 p.)
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Primetime blues: African Americans on network television. 1st ed. New York, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001. 520 p.
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Created equal: the lives & ideas of Black American innovators. 1st ed. New York, W. Morrow, 1993. 208 p.
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- Burroughs, Tony.
Black roots: a beginner's guide to tracing the African American family tree. New York, Fireside Books, 2001. 464 p.
E185.96.B94 2001
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Historic landmarks of Black America. Foreword by Robert L. Harris, Jr. Detroit, Gale Research, 1991. 372 p.
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Making movies Black: the Hollywood message movie from World War II to the civil rights era. New York, Oxford University Press, 1993. 382 p.
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Invisible man. 2nd Vintage International ed. New York, Vintage International, 1995.
581 p. PS3555.L625I5 1995
Originally published: New York, Random House, 1952.

The Eyes on the prize civil rights reader: documents, speeches, and firsthand accounts
from the Black freedom struggle, 1954-1990. General editors, Clayborne Carson
[. . . et al.] New York, Viking, 1991. 764 p. E185.61.E95 1991

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From slavery to freedom: a history of African Americans. 8th ed. New York,
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Bearing the cross: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership
Conference. Collector's ed. Norwalk, CT, Easton Press, 1989. 800 p.
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Redistricting: are minority groups fairly represented in Congress? CQ researcher,
v. 11, Feb. 16, 2001: whole issue (p. 113-128).

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118 p. E185.G79 1999

Higgenbotham, A. Leon., Jr.

Shades of freedom: racial politics and presumptions of the American legal process.
New York, Oxford University Press, 1998. 352 p. (Race and the American legal
process; v. 2) KF4757.H535 1998

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The problem of race in the twenty-first century. Cambridge, MA, Harvard University
Press, 2000. 146 p. HT1521.H585 2000

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Simple justice: the history of Brown v. Board of Education and Black America's
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[v.1] Biography of a race, 1868-1919; [v.2] The Fight for equality and the
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The betrayal of the Negro, from Rutherford B. Hayes to Woodrow Wilson. New introduction by Eric Foner. 1st Da Capo Press ed. New York, Da Capo Press, 1997. 456 p. E185.61.L64 1997
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- The Norton anthology of African American literature. Henry Louis Gates Jr., general editor, Nellie Y. McKay, general editor. New York, W.W. Norton & Co., 1996. 2665 p. PS508.N3N67 1996
- The Portable Harlem Renaissance reader. Edited and with an introduction by David Levering Lewis. New York, Viking, 1994. 766 p. PS153.N5P67 1994
- Readings in African-American history. Edited by Thomas R. Frazier. 3rd ed. Belmont, CA, Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2001. 449 p. E184.6.A35 2001
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When work disappears: the world of the new urban poor. 1st ed. New York, Knopf. Distributed by Random House, Inc., 1996. 322 p. HV4045.W553 1996

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There are several Internet sites useful during Black History month. Among them are the following:

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[<http://afroamhistory.about.com/mbody.htm>] (as of Jan. 16, 2002).

African American history. World Book Encyclopedia.

[http://www2.worldbook.com/students/feature_index.asp] (as of Jan. 16, 2002)

Select the following links: The African American Journey; African American Literature: Voices of Slavery and Freedom; or Heart and Soul: A Celebration of African American Music.

The African-American mosaic. The Library of Congress.

[<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/intro.html>] (as of Jan. 16, 2002).

African-American odyssey. The Library of Congress.

[<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aaohml>] (as of Jan. 16, 2002).

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[<http://blackhistory.eb.com/>] (as of Jan. 16, 2002).

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[<http://eric-web.tc.columbia.edu/hbcu/>] (as of Jan. 16, 2002).