

UNEARTHING THE UNTOLD

Dive into lesser known stories in Black history

# THE LEGACY OF BLACK HISTORY

Explore various facts and statistics in celebration of Black History Month

**1854** Lincoln University welcomes its first cohort of students. The school is the first historically Black university to grant degrees in the U.S.

**1870** Hiram Rhodes Revels is the first Black person elected to the U.S. Senate. Revels was a senator for Mississippi until 1871

**1892** Ida B. Wells' anti-lynching pamphlets give rise to a new form of journalism: yellow press. This pioneers a generation of investigative muckrakers in the journalism field

**1909** The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) is founded. Over 400 chapters are formed by 1921

**1917** The Harlem Hellfighters, a regiment of Black soldiers, is sent to fight alongside France. France recognized their service 90 years before the U.S. did in 2019

**1939** Hattie McDaniel is barred from attending the "Gone With The Wind" national premiere, despite winning an Oscar for her role in the movie

**1945** The 6888th Battalion — an all-Black, all-female military unit — delivers mail to World War II troops, avoiding enemy crafts and marching in war zones

**1950** Ralph Bunche becomes the first person of color to win the Nobel Peace Prize. He played a major role in negotiating the 1949 Armistice Agreements

**1955** Nine months before Rosa Parks is arrested, 15-year-old Claudette Colvin refuses to give up her bus seat to white passengers

**1963** White supremacists bomb a church in Birmingham, Alabama, killing four Black girls. The bombing marks a turning point in the Civil Rights Movement

**1964** Three civil rights workers in Mississippi are kidnapped and killed. The "Freedom Summer murders" becomes one of the FBI's largest investigations at the time

**1967** The ban on interracial marriage is reversed because one couple, Richard and Mildred Loving, fight their way up the local, state and Supreme Court


**1972** Representative Shirley Chisholm runs for president, the first female presidential candidate and the first major party African American candidate. There are three attempted assassinations during her campaign

**1995** Hundreds of thousands of Black men unite in Washington D.C. for the Million Man March to bring forth solidarity and try to disprove negative stereotypes


Illustration by | SOPHIA LIU

## FIRST OF ALL


Historical firsts in the Black community




**Alain Locke**  
First Black Rhodes Scholar (1907)




**Oscar Micheaux**  
First Black film director, producing 44+ films (1919)



**Bessie Coleman**  
First Black person to become a licensed pilot (1921)



**Benjamin O. Davis**  
First Black general to serve in the U.S. military (1940)




**Gwendolyn Brooks**  
First Black author to win a Pulitzer Prize (1950)




**Carole Gist**  
First Black woman to win Miss USA (1984)

## INVENTIVE ITEMS


Daily items invented by Black people




**Potato Chip:** Invented by George Crum (1853)




**Ironing Board:** Invented by Sarah Boone (1892)



**Traffic Light:** Invented by Garrett Morgan (1922)



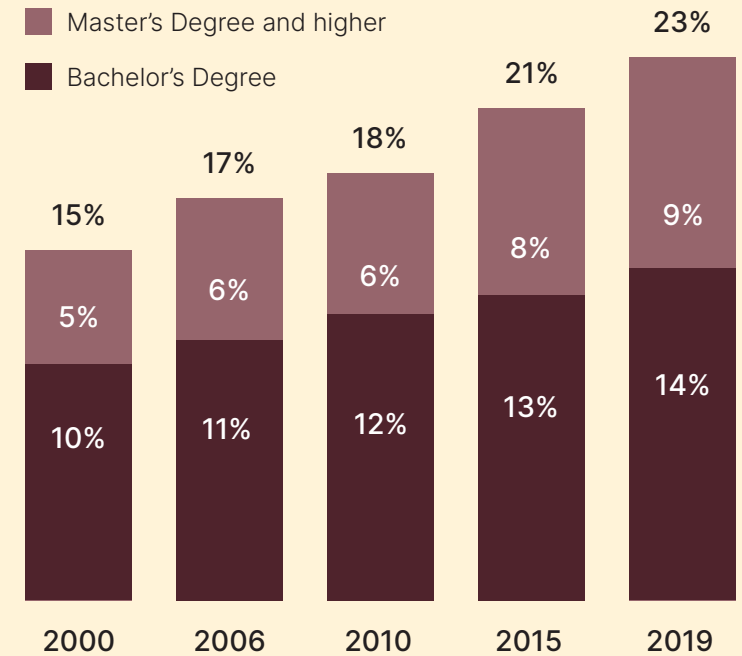
**Blood Bank:** Invented by Dr. Charles Drew (1940)



**Security Camera:** Invented by Marie Brown (1966)

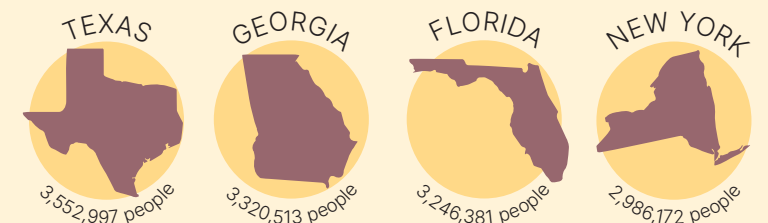
## ONE DEGREE AT A TIME

Percentage of Black U.S. adults ages 25 and older with degrees



## STATE THE FACTS

States with the largest Black population



Sources: Explore The Archive, Oprah Daily, Black Past, Biography.com, History.com, Time, Census.gov, Pew Research Center

## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Why is Black History Month important to you and how do you celebrate?



**ADAM ESAYAS | FRESHMAN**

"It gives us a chance to recognize what our ancestors did in the past and the mistakes that other people made to make us what we are."



**SABA FAJORS | JUNIOR**

"It's a reminder of the significance of Black people and the impact and contributions they make to society."



**JADA SMITH | SENIOR**

"I like to learn about my Black ancestors because America was made of slavery. We really need to learn how it impacts Americans today."



**BRANDON MURRAY | TEACHER**

"It's a personal reminder to me to continue to press the point that Black history is American history from a perspective that's often ignored."

## THROUGH THE DECADES

How Black History Month was established

- 1915** Baldwin and Jesse E. Moorland found the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) to amplify Black history
- 1926** Carter Woodson and the ASALH found "Negro History Week" in the second week of February, when Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln both have birthdays
- 1960's** Many colleges across the U.S., such as Kent State University and Texas A&M University, extend Negro History Week into Black History Month
- 1964** Author James Baldwin expresses concerns that American history curriculum fails to properly recognize the validity of Black history
- 1976** President Gerald Ford issues a decree to make Black History Month a national observance, marking the 50th anniversary of the first celebration
- 2022** The 2022 Black History Month theme, which the ASALH selects each year, is established as "Black Health and Wellness"