



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Black History month embraces the echoes of resilience, courage, and lionhearted spirit as celebration ensues. The observance originated from the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who sought to highlight the often-overlooked accomplishments of African American individuals throughout history.

This month serves as a vibrant canvas adorned with the narratives of trailblazers, activists, and visionaries who have woven an extraordinary tapestry of triumph over adversity. It is a time of reflection on the past, a celebration of the present, and a call to action, to carry forward the torch of justice and equality.

This February, setting the tone for the year, we recognize, appreciate, and above all, celebrate the diverse and boundless contributions that African Americans have made to culture, science, art, politics, and every facet of our shared humanity.

Join the DMAVA Office of DEIB as we immerse ourselves in the rich stories of those who dared to dream, who dared to challenge, and who dared to redefine the essence of possibility...



Pioneers...

Authors...

Innovators...

Changemakers...

Artists...



We invite you to participate in a game of **GUESS WHO** below as we honor and amplify the profound influence of African American culture and history that has helped to shape the world today.

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Below please find the descriptions and clues of several African American icons, changemakers, pioneers and much more. After reading the description, take a moment to reflect on the clues and see if you can **Guess Who** matches the description. Lastly, click on the answer link under each description to confirm who it is.



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A trailblazer and New York Native with the motto of unbought and unbossed. This individual paved the way for the first African American woman to be elected to the United States Congress. Continuing to shatter glass ceilings she went on to make history as the first African American person to run for a major political office in the United States.

Find the answer, [here](#).

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Career officer in the United States Army, who in 1940 was promoted to Brigadier General, becoming the Army's first African American General Officer. From this individual came the Air Force's second African American General. This individual played a crucial role in the initiation of the integration of Army units.

Find the answer, [here](#).

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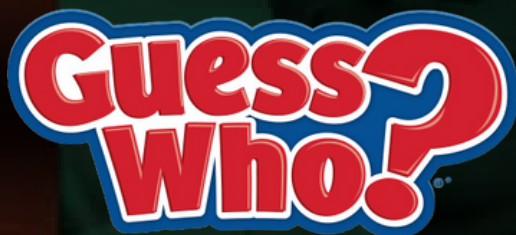
A brilliant strategist and a key architect of the Civil Rights Movement? Born in 1912, this unsung hero was a close advisor to Martin Luther King Jr., organized the historic March on Washington in 1963, and passionately advocated for both civil rights and LGBTQ+ rights.

Find the answer, [here](#).

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This brilliant agricultural scientist and inventor developed hundreds of innovative uses for peanuts, sweet potatoes, and other crops. His work transformed farming practices, promoting sustainability and soil conservation, and helped generations of farmers improve their livelihoods.

Find the answer, [here](#).

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This mechanical engineer, despite having no formal training, invented one of the earliest versions of the friction heater, paving the way for modern heating systems. His ingenuity and determination contributed to innovations that improved home heating technology.

Find the answer, [here](#).

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In the 1960s, this pioneering group of Black men and women became the first professionally trained paramedics in the U.S. Their groundbreaking work in emergency medical care set the foundation for modern ambulance services, saving lives and revolutionizing EMS nationwide. Despite facing racial and political challenges, their legacy remains a vital part of emergency healthcare today.

Find the answer, [here](#).

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An airman who served in three wars, overcoming poverty, racism, and segregation – a skilled tactician in combat, studying at the famed Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, later becoming the 1st African American 4-Star General in any U.S. Military branch in American history.

Find the answer, [here](#).



A legendary jazz pianist and bandleader hailing from Red Bank, NJ, known for his exceptional swing style and contributions to the big band era? Born in 1904, this iconic figure, shaping the landscape of jazz music, became the first African American to receive a Grammy award.

Find the answer, [here](#).



These individuals were the most storied African American unit of World War I, spending more time in continuous combat, 191 days, than any other American unit of its size. Before setting out for Europe, this unit was refused permission to participate in the farewell parade of New York's National Guard, known as the "Rainbow Division", because "black is not a color in the rainbow."

Find the answer, [here](#).