

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Celebrating Achievements and Contributions



Black History Month is a special time dedicated to celebrating the achievements, contributions, and rich cultural heritage of African Americans. It is a month filled with learning, reflection, and appreciation of the significant impact African Americans have made throughout history. Let's explore the history and celebrations of Black History Month!

The origins of Black History Month can be traced back to the early 20th century. In 1926, a man named Carter G. Woodson established "Negro History Week" to honor the history and accomplishments of African Americans. Woodson, an African American historian and scholar, believed that it was important to highlight the contributions of African Americans and their role in shaping the nation.

Negro History Week was celebrated during the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of two influential figures in African American history: Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, signed the Emancipation Proclamation that led to the abolition of slavery. Frederick Douglass was a prominent abolitionist, writer, and statesman who fought for the rights and freedom of African Americans.

Over time, the week-long celebration grew in popularity and significance. In 1976, during the United States Bicentennial, President Gerald Ford officially recognized February as Black History Month. Since then, Black History Month has been celebrated nationwide, with schools, organizations, and communities organizing various events and activities to honor African American achievements.

During Black History Month, people learn about the important figures and events in African American history. They study the lives of influential individuals like Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, and many others who made significant contributions to civil rights, literature, science, arts, and more. Through stories, biographies, and presentations, students learn about their struggles, triumphs, and the lasting impact they have had on society.

Celebrations of Black History Month include cultural events, art exhibitions, musical performances, and guest speakers who share their knowledge and experiences. Students may participate in essay contests, poetry readings, and school assemblies that focus on African American history and culture. Community organizations often host lectures, workshops, and festivals that showcase the diversity and achievements of African Americans.

Black History Month provides an opportunity for everyone to learn about the experiences and contributions of African Americans, fostering understanding, empathy, and respect. It is a time to acknowledge the struggles and challenges faced by African Americans throughout history and to appreciate their resilience, creativity, and determination in overcoming adversity.

By celebrating Black History Month, we honor the legacy of African Americans and recognize the importance of equality, justice, and inclusion. It is a time to reflect on the progress that has been made and to continue the work towards a society that values and embraces diversity.

So, during Black History Month, let's celebrate the achievements, culture, and contributions of African Americans. Let's learn from their stories, be inspired by their resilience, and work together to create a more inclusive and equitable future.

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Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. What is Black History Month?
2. Who established "Negro History Week"?
3. Why was February chosen for Black History Month?
4. What are some activities and events that take place during Black History Month?
5. Why is Black History Month important?