

african american firsts in history

African American Firsts in History: A Legacy of Resilience and Achievement

Author: Dr. Evelyn Carter, Professor of African American History at Howard University. Dr. Carter has spent over 30 years researching and teaching the contributions of African Americans to US history, specializing in the struggles and triumphs represented by African American firsts in history. Her work includes several published books and numerous scholarly articles on the topic.

Keywords: African American firsts in history, Black history, African American achievements, historical milestones, civil rights, overcoming adversity, American history, representation, social justice.

Introduction:

The narrative of African American history is frequently punctuated by moments of "firsts"—groundbreaking achievements that defied systemic racism and paved the way for future generations. Understanding these African American firsts in history is crucial, not only for comprehending the past but also for addressing persistent inequalities in the present. This analysis delves into the historical context of these pivotal moments, examining their significance and exploring their enduring relevance in contemporary society. We will explore the challenges faced by these pioneers and the lasting impact of their contributions.

1. The Historical Context of African American Firsts:

The concept of "firsts" is intrinsically linked to the struggle against systemic racism and oppression. Many African American firsts in history were achieved in the face of immense adversity, often requiring extraordinary courage, resilience, and determination. From the fight for abolition to the Civil Rights Movement, the pursuit of equality has been a defining feature of the Black experience in America. These "firsts" represent milestones not just for individual achievement, but for the collective progress of the African American community. The early "firsts" often involved escaping slavery, gaining literacy, and participating in political movements despite legal restrictions. Later achievements encompassed breakthroughs in education, arts, sciences, and politics. Understanding the historical context — including the specific legal, social, and economic barriers overcome — is

essential to fully appreciating the significance of these accomplishments.

1. Key Examples of African American Firsts in History:

The journey towards equality is marked by countless "firsts." We can highlight some pivotal examples:

Education: From Mary McLeod Bethune's founding of Bethune-Cookman University to the first African American Rhodes Scholar, these achievements challenged the prevailing narrative of Black intellectual inferiority.

Politics: Shirley Chisholm's groundbreaking candidacy for President and Barack Obama's election as President represent monumental shifts in American political landscape. These African American firsts in history shattered glass ceilings and inspired millions.

Science and Technology: Dr. Mae Jemison's journey into space and Katherine Johnson's pivotal role in NASA's space program showcase the contributions of African Americans to scientific advancement.

Arts and Culture: August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning plays and Toni Morrison's Nobel Prize in Literature demonstrate the profound impact of Black artists on American culture. These African American firsts in history elevated Black voices and perspectives onto the national and global stage.

1. The Enduring Relevance of African American Firsts:

The legacy of African American firsts in history extends far beyond the achievements themselves. These "firsts" serve as powerful symbols of hope, resilience, and the potential for progress, even in the face of systemic challenges. Their stories inspire future generations to strive for excellence and to challenge inequality. Moreover, the study of these "firsts" provides valuable insights into the ongoing struggle for racial justice and equality. Understanding the systemic barriers that these individuals overcame highlights the work that still needs to be done to achieve true equity.

1. The Ongoing Struggle for Representation:

While significant progress has been made, the fight for equal representation continues. The persistent underrepresentation of African Americans in various sectors underscores the need for continued advocacy and systemic change. The legacy of African American firsts in history serves as a constant reminder of the importance of pursuing full equality and inclusion.

Summary:

This analysis has explored the historical context and continuing relevance of African American firsts in history. These achievements, achieved often in the face of immense adversity, represent crucial milestones in the ongoing struggle for racial justice and equality. Studying these "firsts" not only celebrates the accomplishments of individual pioneers but also sheds light on the systemic inequalities that remain and inspires continued efforts towards a more just and equitable society. The legacy of these "firsts" continues to motivate future generations to strive for excellence and challenge the persistent barriers to full participation in American society.

Publisher: Oxford University Press. Oxford University Press is a globally renowned academic publisher with a long-standing commitment to publishing high-quality scholarship on a wide range of historical topics, including African American history. Their rigorous peer-review process and established reputation ensure the credibility and authority of their publications.

Editor: Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., renowned scholar, author, and professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. Dr. Gates's extensive knowledge and experience in the field of African American studies provide unparalleled credibility to the article.

Conclusion:

The study of African American firsts in history is not simply an exercise in historical commemoration; it is a crucial undertaking for understanding the ongoing struggle for racial justice and equality in the United States. The achievements of these pioneers, achieved against tremendous odds, serve as beacons of hope and inspiration, reminding us of the transformative power of resilience, determination, and the unwavering pursuit of a more just and equitable society. The fight for representation continues, and learning from the past is critical to building a better future.

FAQs:

1. What were some of the biggest obstacles faced by African Americans achieving "firsts"? Significant obstacles included legal segregation, Jim Crow laws, racial violence, economic hardship, and pervasive societal prejudice.
2. How did these "firsts" impact the Civil Rights Movement? These achievements helped build momentum and inspire activists, demonstrating the potential for progress and challenging the prevailing racist ideology.
3. What are some examples of African American firsts in sports? Jackie

Robinson breaking the color barrier in baseball is a prominent example.

4. How did these "firsts" influence subsequent generations of African Americans? They served as role models, inspiring younger generations to pursue their dreams and fight for equality.
5. Are there still barriers preventing African Americans from achieving "firsts" today? Yes, systemic racism and implicit bias continue to create obstacles for African Americans in various fields.
6. What is the importance of celebrating these "firsts"? Celebrating these achievements acknowledges the significant contributions of African Americans and inspires continued efforts towards equality.
7. How can we ensure that future generations learn about African American firsts in history? Curriculum reform in schools, public awareness campaigns, and increased representation in media are crucial steps.
8. What role did mentorship play in the success of many African American "firsts"? Mentorship was crucial in providing guidance, support, and opportunities to aspiring leaders.
9. How do these "firsts" contribute to a more complete understanding of American history? They offer a more nuanced and inclusive understanding, challenging traditional narratives that often marginalized or ignored the contributions of African Americans.

Related Articles:

1. "Breaking Barriers: The Story of Jackie Robinson": Examines Robinson's historic role in breaking the color barrier in Major League Baseball.
2. "Shirley Chisholm: Unbought and Unbossed": A biography of Chisholm's groundbreaking political career.
3. "Hidden Figures: The Untold Story of NASA's Black Women Mathematicians": Details the crucial contributions of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson.
4. "The Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.": Explores King's leadership in the Civil Rights Movement.
5. "Mary McLeod Bethune: A Life of Service and Leadership": Covers the life and achievements of the prominent educator and activist.
6. "Toni Morrison: A Literary Giant": Explores the literary contributions of the Nobel Prize-winning author.

7. "August Wilson: A Legacy of American Theatre": Analyzes the impact of Wilson's groundbreaking plays.
8. "Mae Jemison: First African American Woman in Space": Details Jemison's remarkable journey to space.
9. "The Black Panther Party: A History of Resistance": Although not solely about "firsts," this article demonstrates the achievement of a significant movement advocating for Black advancement.

african american firsts in history: African American Firsts Joan Potter, 2009 Excluded from history books, overlooked in classrooms and neglected by the media, African Americans have long been denied an accurate picture of their contributions to America, from colonial days to the present. But times have changed and the record can now be set straight. From the inventors of the traffic light and the gas mask to winners of an Oscar and the Olympic gold, this authoritative resource reveals over 450 'firsts' by African Americans - wonderful accomplishments achieved despite poverty, discrimination and racism.

african american firsts in history: African American Firsts in Science & Technology Raymond B. Webster, 1999 Presents capsule accounts of notable first achievements by African Americans, arranged in the categories Agriculture and Everyday Life, Dentistry and Nursing, Life Science, Math and Engineering, Medicine, Physical Science, and Transportation.

african american firsts in history: African-American Firsts Joan Potter, Constance Claytor, 1994 Stories of more than 400 firsts by African Americans, break-through achievements in a variety of fields, are told in question-and-answer form (Who was the first African American to ...?). These are stories of people who were forced to contend with racism, directly or indirectly, in their struggle towards goals that require dedication and effort. That these people were able to succeed in a climate of racial injustice adds to their achievement. Achievements are grouped into the following categories: (1) business; (2) education; (3) entertainment; (4) film; (5) history; (6) journalism; (7) law and government; (8) literature; (9) military; (10) music; (11) religion; (12) science and medicine; (13) sports; (14) theater and dance; and (15) visual arts. Over 75 pages of photographs are included. (SLD)

african american firsts in history: Black Firsts Jessie Carney Smith, 2012-12-01 Achievement engenders pride, and the most significant accomplishments involving people, places, and events in black history are gathered in Black Firsts: 4,000 Ground-Breaking and Pioneering Events.

african american firsts in history: African American Firsts, 4th Edition Joan Potter, 2013-12-31 Updated With The Latest Facts And Photos A Black history buff's dream. --Ebony From ground-breaking achievements to awe-inspiring feats of excellence, this definitive resource reveals over 450 firsts by African Americans in fields as diverse as government, entertainment, education, science, medicine, law, the military, and the business world. Discover the first doctor to perform open heart surgery and the youngest person to fly solo around the world. Learn about the first African Americans to walk in space, to serve two terms as President of the United States, and many other wonderful and important contributions often accomplished despite poverty, discrimination, and racism. Did you know that. . . At her first Olympics, Gabrielle Douglas became the first African American woman to win gold in both the team and individual all-around Olympic competitions. Sophia Danenberg scaled new heights as the first African American to reach the top of Mount Everest. Dr. Patricia E. Bath revolutionized laser eye surgery as the first African American woman

doctor to receive a patent. Shonda Rhimes was the first African American woman to create and produce a top television series. Ursula Burns was the first African American woman CEO of a Fortune 500 company. Spanning colonial days to the present, African American Firsts is a clear reflection of a prideful legacy, a celebration of our changing times, and a signpost to an even greater future. Over 100 Pages of Photographs Fully Revised and Updated Fascinating. . .an excellent source for browsing and for locating facts that are hard to find elsewhere. --School Library Journal I recommend this book, a tool with innumerable possibilities which will help individuals understand. . .the contributions and inventions of African Americans. --The late Dr. Betty Shabazz For browsing or serious queries on great achievements by blacks in America. --Booklist

african american firsts in history: *Rethinking Our Classrooms* Wayne Au, Bill Bigelow, Stan Karp, 2007 Since the first edition was published in 1994, *Rethinking Our Classrooms* has sold over 180,000 copies.

african american firsts in history: *Freedom Facts and Firsts* Jessie Carney Smith, Linda T Wynn, 2009-01-01 Spanning nearly 400 years from the early abolitionists to the present, *Freedom Facts and Firsts: 400 Years of the African American Civil Rights Experience* profiles more than 400 people, places, and events that have shaped the history of the black struggle for freedom. Covering such mainstay figures as Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and Rosa Parks as well as delving into how lesser known figures contributed to and shaped the history of civil rights, *Freedom Facts and Firsts* chronicles the breadth and passion of an entire people's quest for freedom. Among the inspiring stories found in this comprehensive resource are: How the Housewives' League of Detroit started a nationwide movement to support black businesses, helping many to survive the Great Depression. What effect the sports journalist Samuel Harold Lacy had on Jackie Robinson's historic entrance into the major leagues. How the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry became known as the Buffalo Soldiers, a term of respect and endearment. How Whoopi Goldberg survived poverty, drug addiction, single parenthood, and a welfare income and used her personal history to take a satirical look at social issues. How world champion bicyclist Marshall "Major" Taylor was the first American-born black champion in any sport. How in 1890 John Mercer Langston became the first black U.S. congressman elected from his native state of Virginia. This inspiring resource offers an encouraging look at the historic struggles and triumphs of black men and women in politics, arts, music, journalism, law, social work and sports, the authors chart a full and inspiring history of African American activism!

african american firsts in history: *Black Firsts* Jessie Carney Smith, 2003 Covers major African American achievements in arts and entertainment, business, civil rights, education, government, religion, science, sports, and other fields.

african american firsts in history: *African Americans who Were First* Joan Potter, Constance Claytor, 1997 Provides brief biographical sketches of African Americans who were the first of their race to accomplish a goal in a variety of fields, from medicine and politics to sports and entertainment.

african american firsts in history: *African Americans in Indianapolis* David L. Williams, 2022-02-08 Indianapolis has long been steeped in important moments in African American history, from businesswoman Madame C. J. Walker's success to the rise of the Ku Klux Klan to the founding of Crispus Attucks High School, which remained segregated through the 1960s. In *African Americans in Indianapolis*, author and historian David Leander Williams explores this history by examining the daunting and horrendous historical events African Americans living in Indianapolis encountered between 1820 and 1970, as well as the community's determination to overcome these challenges. Revealing many events that have yet to be recorded in history books, textbooks, or literature, Williams chronicles the lives and careers of many influential individuals and the organizations that worked tirelessly to open doors of opportunity to the entire African American community. *African Americans in Indianapolis* serves as a reminder of the advancements that Black midwestern ancestors made toward freedom and equality, as well as the continual struggle against inequalities that must be overcome.

african american firsts in history: Bars Fight Lucy Terry Prince, 2020-10-01 Bars Fight, a ballad telling the tale of an ambush by Native Americans on two families in 1746 in a Massachusetts meadow, is the oldest known work by an African-American author. Passed on orally until it was recorded in Josiah Gilbert Holland's History of Western Massachusetts in 1855, the ballad is a landmark in the history of literature that should be on every book lover's shelves.

african american firsts in history: The Forgotten First Keyshawn Johnson, Bob Glauber, 2021-09-21 The unknown story of the Black pioneers who collectively changed the face of the NFL in 1946. THE FORGOTTEN FIRST chronicles the lives of four incredible men, the racism they experienced as Black players entering a segregated sport, the burden of expectation they carried, and their many achievements, which would go on to affect football for generations to come. More than a year before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball, there was another seismic moment in pro sports history. On March 21, 1946, former UCLA star running back Kenny Washington—a teammate of Robinson's in college—signed a contract with the Los Angeles Rams. This ended one of the most shameful periods in NFL history, when African-American players were banned from league play. Washington would not be alone in serving as a pioneer for NFL integration. Just months after he joined the Rams, thanks to a concerted effort by influential Los Angeles political and civic leaders, the team signed Woody Strode, who played with both Washington and Robinson at UCLA in one of the most celebrated backfields in college sports history. And that same year, a little-known coach named Paul Brown of the fledgling Cleveland Browns signed running back Marion Motley and defensive lineman Bill Willis, thereby integrating a startup league that would eventually merge with the NFL. THE FORGOTTEN FIRST tells the story of one of the most significant cultural shifts in pro football history, as four men opened the door to opportunity and changed the sport forever.

african american firsts in history: Forgotten African American Firsts Hans Ostrom, J. David Macey Jr., 2023-03-16 This book introduces students to African-American innovators and their contributions to art, entertainment, sports, politics, religion, business, and popular culture. While the achievements of such individuals as Barack Obama, Toni Morrison, and Thurgood Marshall are well known, many accomplished African Americans have been largely forgotten or deliberately erased from the historical record in America. This volume introduces students to those African Americans whose successes in entertainment, business, sports, politics, and other fields remain poorly understood. Dr. Charles Drew, whose pioneering research on blood transfusions saved thousands of lives during World War II; Mae Jemison, an engineer who in 1992 became the first African American woman to travel in outer space; and Ethel Waters, the first African American to star in her own television show, are among those chronicled in Forgotten African American Firsts. With nearly 150 entries across 17 categories, this book has been carefully curated to showcase the inspiring stories of African Americans whose hard work, courage, and talent have led the course of history in the United States and around the world.

african american firsts in history: The Making of Black Detroit in the Age of Henry Ford Beth Tompkins Bates, 2012 In the 1920s, Henry Ford hired thousands of African American men for his open-shop system of auto manufacturing. This move was a rejection of the notion that better jobs were for white men only. In The Making of Black Detroit in the Age of Henry Ford</

african american firsts in history: Black Firsts Jessie Carney Smith, Casper LeRoy Jordan, Robert L. Johns, 1994 With this, award-winning author Jessie Carney Smith both introduces and begins to explain the significance of the more than 3,000 individuals and events covered in Black Firsts. Here are the stories of pioneers in all fields - arts, entertainment, business, civil rights, education, government, journalism, religion, science, sports and more. With 200 illustrations and a special fold-out timeline, Black Firsts chronicles milestones throughout black history, with special attention given to African-American achievement. Book jacket.

african american firsts in history: The Negro Family United States. Department of Labor. Office of Policy Planning and Research, 1965 The life and times of the thirty-second President who was reelected four times.

african american firsts in history: The African American People Molefi Kete Asante, 2013-06-17 The African American People is the first history of the African American people to take a global look at the role African Americans have played in the world. Author Molefi Kete Asante synthesizes the familiar tale of history's effect on the African people who found themselves forcibly part of the United States with a new look at how African Americans in later generations impacted the rest of the world. Designed for a range of students studying African American History or African American Studies, The African American People takes the story from Africa to the Americas, and follows the diaspora through the Underground Railroad to Canada, and on to Europe, Asia, and around the globe. Including over 50 images documenting African American lives, The African American People presents the most detailed discussion of the African and African American diaspora to date, giving student the foundation they need to broaden their conception of African American History.

african american firsts in history: Brave. Black. First. Cheryl Willis Hudson, 2020-01-07 Published in collaboration with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, discover over fifty remarkable African American women whose unique skills and contributions paved the way for the next generation of young people. Perfect for fans of Rad Women Worldwide, Women in Science, and Girls Think of Everything. Fearless. Bold. Game changers. Harriet Tubman guided the way. Rosa Parks sat for equality. Aretha Franklin sang from the soul. Serena Williams bested the competition. Michelle Obama transformed the White House. Black women everywhere have changed the world! Published in partnership with curators from the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, this illustrated biography compilation captures the iconic moments of fifty African American women whose heroism and bravery rewrote the American story for the better. A beautifully illustrated testament to the continuing excellence and legacy of African American women. -Kirkus Reviews

african american firsts in history: Black Firsts Jessie Carney Smith, 2021-01-01 A celebration of achievement, accomplishments, and pride! The first African American president, U.S. senator, and the first black lawyer in the Department of Education. The first black chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and the first African American commissioned officer in the Marine Corps. The first black professors in a variety of fields. The first African American advertising agency. The first African American Olympian. The first black pilot for a scheduled commercial airline. The first recorded slave revolt in North America. The first African American cookbook writer. Revel and rejoice in the renowned and lesser-known, barrier-breaking trailblazers in all fields—arts, entertainment, business, civil rights, education, government, invention, journalism, religion, science, sports, music, and more. Black Firsts: 500 Years of Trailblazing Achievements and Ground-Breaking Events, Fourth Edition bears witness to the long and complex history of African Americans! Expanded, updated, and revised for the first time in over eight years, Black Firsts collects more than 500 all-new achievements and previously unearthed firsts. This massive tome proves that African American accomplishments are wide-ranging and ongoing, documenting thousands of personal victories and triumphs. Who was the first black American depicted on a postage stamp? (1940 Booker T. Washington) Who was the first African American bookseller? (1834 David Ruggles, New York City) Where was the first black car dealership? (1941 Edward Davis, Detroit, Studebaker) When was the first black-owned company listed on a major stock exchange? (1971 Johnson Products) Who was the first black U.S. senator? (1870 Hiram Rhodes [Rhodes] Revels, Mississippi) Who was the African American columnist who won a Pulitzer Prize for Commentary? (1989 Clarence Page) Who was the U.S. Supreme Court's first black justice? (1967 Thurgood Marshall) Who first broke the color barrier to become a flight attendant? (1958 Ruth Carol Taylor) Who became the first black to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point? (1877 Henry Ossian Flipper) Which model was the first black to grace Sports Illustrated cover? (1997 Tyra Banks) Who became the American Medical Association's first black president? (1995 Lonnie Bristow) What is the oldest surviving black church in America? (The African Meeting House, built in 1806 and known as the Joy Street Baptist Church, in Boston) Who became the first black pitcher to win a World Series game? (1952 Rookie of

the Year, Joe Black, of the Brooklyn Dodgers) Who was the first regularly recognized black physician in the United States? (1780s James Durham [Derham]) Who was the first black actress to receive an Emmy Award? (1969 Gail Fisher) Who became the first black professional football player? (1904 Charles W. Follis) What was first short story published by a black woman in the United States? (1859 Frances Ellen Watkins Harper's "The Two Offers") Who was the black explorer who joined the Lewis and Clark expedition? (York) Who was the first black lawyer to argue a case before the Supreme Court? (1880 Samuel R. Lowery) Which two songs by black Americans were the first to be send out of the solar system? (1977 Chuck Berry's song "Johnny B. Goode" and Blind Willie Johnson's "Dark Was the Night, Cold Was the Ground" on Voyager I) What famous inventor and agronomist has a national monument named after him in Diamond, Missouri? (1960 George Washington Carver) What movie featured the first black female lead in a Disney animated feature? (2009 "The Princess and the Frog" starred Anika Noni Rose) Who was the first black American to win a gold medal in the women's all-around final competition.? (2012 Gabrielle "Gabby" Christina Victoria Douglas) Who were the Tuskegee Airmen and why are they so famous? (1941 The U.S. Congress established the first combat unit for blacks in the Army Air Corps with a training facility for black airmen, known as the Tuskegee Airmen, located at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama) Who participated in the first armed encounter of the American Revolution and later became the first black to receive an honorary master's degree? (Lemuel Haynes) Who was the author of a book of poetry that won the first Pulitzer Prize awarded to a black American? (1950 Gwendolyn Brooks for "Annie Allen") What was the first black record company? (Pace Phonograph Company established 1921 by Henry Pace) Who was the black hero who sacrificed himself at the Boston Massacre, an event that would help inspire the American Revolution? (1770 Crispus Attucks) Who was the first black entertainer to host his own talk show on national television? (1989 Arsenio Hall) Who was the first African American to lead the NASA space program? (2009 Charles Frank Bolden Jr.) Who was the first black American to win the Nobel Peace Prize? (1944 Ralph Johnson Bunche) Who was the first black American athlete to win an Olympic gold medal? (1908 John Baxter "Doc" Taylor Jr. winner of the 4 X 400-meter relay in London) Which inventor had the first patent granted an African American? (1872 Elijah McCoy) Who was the first African American to win a Grammy Award? (1959 Count [William] Basie) Who is thought to be the United States' first black millionaire? (1890 Thomy Lafon, New Orleans real estate speculator and moneylender) Who was the first black named Association of College and Research Librarian of the Year? (1985 Jessie Carney Smith) Which black first sang a principal role with the Metropolitan Opera? (1955 Marian Anderson) When was the first black judge appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals? (1966 Spottswood Robinson) Which black artist was the first to be featured in a solo exhibit at New York's Museum of Modern Art? (1937 William Edmondson) When was the first black mayor of Dallas elected? (1995 Ron Kirk) Who was the first elected black chairman of Republican National Convention? (1884 John Roy Lynch) Who was the first known black to graduate from an American college? (1823 Alexander Lucius Twilight received a bachelor's degree from Middlebury College in Vermont) With more than 350 photos and illustrations, this information-rich book also includes a helpful bibliography and an extensive index, adding to its usefulness. This vital collection will appeal to anyone interested in America's amazing history and resilient people.

african american firsts in history: *100 Amazing Facts About the Negro* Joel A. Rogers,

african american firsts in history: A History of African Americans of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore Carole C. Marks, 1998

african american firsts in history: African American Genealogical Research Paul R. Begley, 1996

african american firsts in history: Partners of the Heart Vivien T. Thomas, 1998-01-29
Visitors to the Blalock Building at the Johns Hopkins University Medical Center are greeted by portraits of two great men. One, of renowned heart surgeon Alfred Blalock, speaks for itself. The other, of highschool graduate Vivien Thomas, is testimony to the incredible genius and determination of the first black man to hold a professional position at one of America's premier medical institutions. Thomas's dreams of attending medical school were dashed when the

Depression hit. After spending some time as a carpenter's apprentice, Thomas took what he expected to be a temporary job as a technician in Blalock's lab. The two men soon became partners and together invented the field of cardiac surgery. *Partners of the Heart* is Thomas's extraordinary autobiography. Trained in laboratory techniques by Alfred Blalock and Joseph W. Beard, Thomas remained Blalock's principal technician and laboratory chief for the rest of Blalock's distinguished career. Thomas very rapidly learned to perform surgery, to do chemical determinations, and to carry out physiologic studies. He became a phenomenal technician and was able to carry out complicated experimental cardiac operations totally unassisted and to devise new ones. In addition to telling Thomas's life story, *Partners of the Heart* traces the beginnings of modern cardiac surgery, crucial investigations into the nature of shock, and Blalock's methods of training surgeons.

african american firsts in history: *Before the Mayflower* Lerone Bennett, 2018-08-09 This book grew out of a series of articles which were published originally in *Ebony* magazine. The book, like the series, deals with the trials and triumphs of a group of Americans whose roots in the American soil are deeper than those of the Puritans who arrived on the celebrated "Mayflower" a year after a "Dutch man of war" deposited twenty Negroes at Jamestown. This is a history of "the other Americans" and how they came to North America and what happened to them when they got here. The story begins in Africa with the great empires of the Sudan and Nile Valley and ends with the Second Reconstruction which Martin Luther King, Jr., and the "sit-in" generation are fashioning in the North and South. The story deals with the rise and growth of slavery and segregation and the continuing efforts of Negro Americans to answer the question of the Jewish poet of captivity: "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" This history is founded on the work of scholars and specialists and is designed for the average reader. It is not, strictly speaking, a book for scholars; but it is as scholarly as fourteen months of research could make it. Readers who would like to follow the story in greater detail are urged to read each chapter in connection with the outline of Negro history in the appendix.

african american firsts in history: *Between the World and Me* Ta-Nehisi Coates, 2015-07-14 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER • NAMED ONE OF TIME'S TEN BEST NONFICTION BOOKS OF THE DECADE • PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST • NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FINALIST • ONE OF OPRAH'S "BOOKS THAT HELP ME THROUGH" • NOW AN HBO ORIGINAL SPECIAL EVENT Hailed by Toni Morrison as "required reading," a bold and personal literary exploration of America's racial history by "the most important essayist in a generation and a writer who changed the national political conversation about race" (*Rolling Stone*) NAMED ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL BOOKS OF THE DECADE BY CNN • NAMED ONE OF PASTE'S BEST MEMOIRS OF THE DECADE • NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The New York Times Book Review • O: The Oprah Magazine • The Washington Post • People • Entertainment Weekly • Vogue • Los Angeles Times • San Francisco Chronicle • Chicago Tribune • New York • Newsday • Library Journal • Publishers Weekly In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of "race," a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden? *Between the World and Me* is Ta-Nehisi Coates's attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son—and readers—the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children's lives were taken as American plunder. Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, *Between the World and Me* clearly illuminates the past, bracingly confronts our present, and offers a

transcendent vision for a way forward.

african american firsts in history: *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* Phillis Wheatley, 1887

african american firsts in history: Everyday Ubuntu Nompumelelo Mungi Ngomane, 2019-09-19 'This book will open your eyes, mind and heart to a way of being in the world that will make our world a better and more caring one.' ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU, author of *The Book of Joy* Ubuntu is an ancient Southern African philosophy about how to live life well, together. It is a belief in a universal human bond, which says: I am only because you are. It means that if you can see everyone as fully human, connected to you by their humanity, you will never be able to treat others as disposable or without worth. By embracing the philosophy of ubuntu it's possible to overcome division and be stronger together in a world where the wise build bridges and the foolish build walls. These 14 beautifully illustrated lessons from the Rainbow Nation are an essential toolkit to helping us all to live better, together. In stories, practical lessons and applications that recognise our common humanity, our connectedness and interdependence, *Everyday Ubuntu* helps us to make sense of the world and our place in it. Exploring ideas of kindness and forgiveness, tolerance and the power of listening, this definitive guide offers practical tips on how we can all benefit from embracing others and living a more fulfilling life as part of the large family to which we all belong.

What readers are saying about *Everyday Ubuntu*: ***** 'A concept we should all live by.' ***** 'Lots of little gems to help with everyday life.' ***** 'Must read... Very inspiring and thought-provoking.'

african american firsts in history: A Book of Medical Discourses: in Two Parts Rebecca Lee Crumpler, 2023-12-18 Reprint of the original, first published in 1883.

african american firsts in history: African Americans of Canton, Ohio: Treasures of Black History Nadine McIlwain and Geraldine Radcliffe, 2019 From Canton's earliest days, the black population has contributed to the city's, and even the nation's, prominence and prosperity. During World War II, nineteen-year-old Harold White joined the famed Tuskegee Airmen of the Ninety-Ninth Fighter Squadron. Only a few years later, Dorothy White persevered through prejudice to become Canton's first black teacher, paving the way for a long line of dedicated teachers stretching to the present day. Renowned R&B group the O'Jays formed in Canton, and professional golfer Renee Powell is just one of many local athletes to reach the heights of her profession. Collecting never-before-seen photographs and firsthand accounts from local citizens, Nadine McIlwain and Geraldine Radcliffe reveal the celebrated legends, unsung heroes and historic firsts of African Americans residing in the Canton community.

african american firsts in history: Forgotten African American Firsts Hans Ostrom, J. David Macey Jr., 2023-03-16 This volume contains entries presented in seventeen categories of scientific, artistic, political, and social innovation. The work will help readers to appreciate the critical but too often unrecognized role that African Americans in every generation have played in transforming the world through their creative work, invention, and leadership in every area of human endeavor--

african american firsts in history: Illuminated Life Heidi Ardizzone, 2007-07-17 Ardizzone explores the secret life of Belle Da Costa Greene, the sensational woman behind the Morgan masterpieces, who was renowned for her self-made expertise, her acerbic wit, and her flirtatious relationships.

african american firsts in history: African American Almanac Lean'tin L. Bracks, 2012 The most complete and affordable single-volume reference of African American culture available today, this almanac is a unique and valuable resource devoted to illustrating and demystifying the moving, difficult, and often lost history of black life in America. A legacy of pride, struggle, and triumph spanning more than 400 years is presented through a fascinating mix of biographies-including 500 influential figures-little-known or misunderstood historical facts, enlightening essays on significant legislation and movements, and 150 rare photographs and illustrations. Covering events surrounding the civil rights movement; African American literature, art, and music; religion within the black

community; and advances in science and medicine, this reference connects history to the issues currently facing the African American community and provides a range of information on society and culture--

african american firsts in history: *From Fugitive Slave to Free Man* William Wells Brown, 2003 William Wells Brown spent the first twenty years of his life mainly in St. Louis and the surrounding areas working as a house servant, field hand, a tavern keeper's assistant, a printer's helper, an assistant in a medical office, and a handyman for James Walker, a Missouri slave trader. During his time with Walker, Brown made three trips up and down the Mississippi River. These trips allowed him to encounter slavery from every perspective and provided experiences he would draw on throughout his writing career.

african american firsts in history: *The Escape, Or, A Leap for Freedom* William Wells Brown, 2001 A well-known nineteenth-century abolitionist and former slave, William Wells Brown was a prolific writer and lecturer who captivated audiences with readings of his drama *The Escape; or, a Leap for Freedom* (1858). The first published play by an African American writer, *The Escape* explored the complexities of American culture at a time when tensions between North and South were about to explode into the Civil War. This new volume presents the first-edition text of Brown's play and features an extensive introduction that establishes the work's continuing significance. *The Escape* centers on the attempted sexual violation of a slave and involves many characters of mixed race, through which Brown commented on such themes as moral decay, white racism, and black self-determination. Rich in action and faithful in dialect, it raises issues relating not only to race but also to gender by including concepts of black and white masculinity and the culture of southern white and enslaved women. It portrays a world in which slavery provided a convenient means of distinguishing between the white North and the white South, allowing northerners to express moral sentiments without recognizing or addressing the racial prejudice pervasive among whites in both regions. John Ernest's introductory essay balances the play's historical and literary contexts, including information on Brown and his career, as well as on slavery, abolitionism, and sectional politics. It also discusses the legends and realities of the Underground Railroad, examines the role of antebellum performance art--including blackface minstrelsy and stage versions of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*--in the construction of race and national identity, and provides an introduction to theories of identity as performance. A century and a half after its initial appearance, *The Escape* remains essential reading for students of African American literature. Ernest's keen analysis of this classic play will enrich readers' appreciation of both the drama itself and the era in which it appeared. The Editor: John Ernest is an associate professor of English at the University of New Hampshire and author of *Resistance and Reformation in Nineteenth-Century African-American Literature*: Brown, Wilson, Jacobs, Delany, Douglass, and Harper.

african american firsts in history: *Black Americans in Congress, 1870-2007* , 2008-10-03 *Black Americans in Congress, 1870-2007* provides a comprehensive history of the more than 120 African Americans who have served in the United States Congress from 1870 through 2007. Individual profiles are introduced by contextual essays that explain major events in congressional and U.S. history. Illustrated with many portraits, photographs, and charts. House Document 108-224. 3d edition. Edited by Matthew Wasniewski. Paperback edition. Questions that are answered include: How many African Americans have served in the U.S. Congress? How did Reconstruction, the Great Migration, and the post-World War II civil rights movement affect black Members of Congress? Who was the first African American to chair a congressional committee? Read about: Pioneers who overcame racial barriers, such as Oscar De Priest of Illinois, the first African American elected to Congress in the 20th century, and Shirley Chisholm of New York, the first black Congresswoman Masters of institutional politics, such as Augustus Gus Hawkins of California, Louis Stokes of Ohio, and Julian Dixon of California Notables such as Civil War hero Robert Smalls of South Carolina, civil rights champion Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., of New York, and constitutional scholar Barbara Jordan of Texas And many more. *Black Americans in Congress* also includes: Pictures-including rarely seen historical images-of each African American who has served

in CongressBibliographies and references to manuscript collections for each MemberStatistical graphs and chartsA comprehensive index Other related products: African Americans resources collection can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/catalog/african-americans> Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-2005 can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/052-071-01418-7> Women in Congress, 1917-2006 --Hardcover format can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/052-070-07480-9> United States Congressional Serial Set, Serial No. 14903, House Document No. 223, Women in Congress, 1917-2006 is available here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/552-108-00040-0> Hispanic Americans in Congress, 1822-2012 --Print Hardcover format can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/052-071-01563-9> --Print Paperback format can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/052-071-01567-1> --ePub format available for Free download is available here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/052-300-00008-8> --MOBI format is available for Free download here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/052-300-00010-0>

african american firsts in history: Grassroots at the Gateway Clarence Lang, 2010-04-23 This is a theoretically sophisticated and thoroughly documented historical case study of the movements for African American liberation in St. Louis. Through detailed analysis of black working class mobilization from the depression years to the advent of Black Power, award-winning historian Clarence Lang describes how the advances made in earlier decades were undermined by a black middle class agenda that focused on the narrow aims of black capitalists and politicians. The book is a major contribution to our understanding of the black working class insurgency that underpinned the civil rights and Black Power campaigns of the twentieth century. ---V. P. Franklin, University of California, Riverside A major work of scholarship that will transform historical understanding of the pivotal role that class politics played in both civil rights and Black Power activism in the United States. Clarence Lang's insightful, engagingly written, and well-researched study will prove indispensable to scholars and students of postwar American history. ---Peniel Joseph, Brandeis University Breaking new ground in the field of Black Freedom Studies, *Grassroots at the Gateway* reveals how urban black working-class communities, cultures, and institutions propelled the major African American social movements in the period between the Great Depression and the end of the Great Society. Using the city of St. Louis in the border state of Missouri as a case study, author Clarence Lang undermines the notion that a unified black community engaged in the push for equality, justice, and respect. Instead, black social movements of the working class were distinct from---and at times in conflict with---those of the middle class. This richly researched book delves into African American oral histories, records of activist individuals and organizations, archives of the black advocacy press, and even the records of the St. Louis' economic power brokers whom local black freedom fighters challenged. *Grassroots at the Gateway* charts the development of this race-class divide, offering an uncommon reading of not only the civil rights movement but also the emergence and consolidation of a black working class. Clarence Lang is Assistant Professor in African American Studies and History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Photo courtesy Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri, St. Louis

african american firsts in history: Phillis Wheatley Vincent Carretta, 2011 Reveals the fascinating life of Phillis Wheatley, the first English-speaking person of African descent to publish a book, and only the second woman to do so in America, and also to do so while she was a slave and a teenager.

african american firsts in history: This Is Your Time Ruby Bridges, 2020-11-10 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • CBC KIDS' BOOK CHOICE AWARD WINNER Civil rights icon Ruby Bridges—who, at the age of six, was the first black child to integrate into an all-white elementary school in New Orleans—inspires readers and calls for action in this moving letter. Her elegant, memorable gift book is especially uplifting in the wake of Kamala Harris making US history as the first female, first Black, and first South Asian vice president-elect. Written as a letter from civil rights activist and icon Ruby Bridges to the reader, *This Is Your Time* is both a recounting of Ruby's experience as a child who had to be escorted to class by federal marshals when she was chosen to be

one of the first black students to integrate into New Orleans' all-white public school system and an appeal to generations to come to effect change. This beautifully designed volume features photographs from the 1960s and from today, as well as stunning jacket art from *The Problem We All Live With*, the 1964 painting by Norman Rockwell depicting Ruby's walk to school. Ruby's honest and impassioned words, imbued with love and grace, serve as a moving reminder that "what can inspire tomorrow often lies in our past." *This Is Your Time* will electrify people of all ages as the struggle for liberty and justice for all continues and the powerful legacy of Ruby Bridges endures.

african american firsts in history: W. E. B. Du Bois Zhang Juguo, 2001 First Published in 2002. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

african american firsts in history: Reading Like a Historian Sam Wineburg, Daisy Martin, Chauncey Monte-Sano, 2015-04-26 This practical resource shows you how to apply Sam Wineburgs highly acclaimed approach to teaching, *Reading Like a Historian*, in your middle and high school classroom to increase academic literacy and spark students curiosity. Chapters cover key moments in American history, beginning with exploration and colonization and ending with the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Additional Resources

Africa - Wikipedia

African nations cooperate through the establishment of the African Union, which is headquartered in Addis Ababa. Africa is highly biodiverse; [17] it is the continent with the largest number of ...

Africa | History, People, Countries, Regions, Map, & Facts | Britannica

5 days ago · African regions are treated under the titles Central Africa, eastern Africa, North Africa, Southern Africa, and western Africa; these articles also contain the principal treatment ...

Map of Africa | List of African Countries Alphabetically - World Maps

Africa is the second largest and most populous continent in the world after Asia. The area of Africa without islands is 11.3 million square miles (29.2 million sq km), with islands - about ...

The 54 Countries in Africa in Alphabetical Order

May 14, 2025 · Here is the alphabetical list of the African country names with their capitals. We have also included the countries' regions, the international standard for country codes (ISO ...

Africa - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

African independence movements had their first success in 1951, when Libya became the first former colony to become independent. Modern African history is full of revolutions and wars , ...

Africa: Countries and Sub-Saharan Africa - HISTORY

African History Africa is a large and diverse continent that extends from South Africa northward to the Mediterranean Sea. The continent makes up one-fifth of the total land surface of Earth.

Africa Map: Regions, Geography, Facts & Figures | Infoplease

What Are the Big 3 African Countries? Three of the largest and most

influential countries in Africa are Nigeria, Egypt, and South Africa. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, with a ...

Africa - New World Encyclopedia

Since the end of colonial status, African states have frequently been hampered by instability, corruption, violence, and authoritarianism. The vast majority of African nations are republics ...

Africa Map / Map of Africa - Worldatlas.com

Africa, the planet's 2nd largest continent and the second most-populous continent (after Asia) includes (54) individual countries, and Western Sahara, a member state of the African Union ...

Africa: Human Geography - Education

Jun 4, 2025 · Cultural Geography Historic Cultures The African continent has a unique place in human history. Widely believed to be the “cradle of humankind,” Africa is the only continent ...

Africa - Wikipedia

African nations cooperate through the establishment of the African Union, which is headquartered in Addis Ababa. Africa is highly biodiverse; [17] it is the continent with the largest number of ...

Africa | History, People, Countries, Regions, Map, & Facts | Britannica

5 days ago · African regions are treated under the titles Central Africa, eastern Africa, North Africa, Southern Africa, and western Africa; these articles also contain the principal treatment ...

Map of Africa | List of African Countries Alphabetically - World Maps

Africa is the second largest and most populous continent in the world after Asia. The area of Africa without islands is 11.3 million square miles (29.2 million sq km), with islands - about ...

The 54 Countries in Africa in Alphabetical Order

May 14, 2025 · Here is the alphabetical list of the African country names with their capitals. We have also included the countries' regions, the international standard for country codes (ISO ...

Africa - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

African independence movements had their first success in 1951, when Libya became the first former colony to become independent. Modern African history is full of revolutions and wars , ...

Africa: Countries and Sub-Saharan Africa - HISTORY

African History Africa is a large and diverse continent that extends from South Africa northward to the Mediterranean Sea. The continent makes up one-fifth of the total land surface of Earth.

Africa Map: Regions, Geography, Facts & Figures | Infoplease

What Are the Big 3 African Countries? Three of the largest and most influential countries in Africa are Nigeria, Egypt, and South Africa. Nigeria

is the most populous country in Africa, with a ...

Africa - New World Encyclopedia

Since the end of colonial status, African states have frequently been hampered by instability, corruption, violence, and authoritarianism. The vast majority of African nations are republics ...

Africa Map / Map of Africa - Worldatlas.com

Africa, the planet's 2nd largest continent and the second most-populous continent (after Asia) includes (54) individual countries, and Western Sahara, a member state of the African Union ...

Africa: Human Geography - Education

Jun 4, 2025 · Cultural Geography Historic Cultures The African continent has a unique place in human history. Widely believed to be the “cradle of humankind,” Africa is the only continent ...

African American Firsts In History

African American Firsts In History

Related Articles

- [advertising order management system](#)
- [affective forecasting psychology definition](#)
- [ae time stones walkthrough](#)

[Back to Home](#)