

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH



**"Every great dream begins with a dreamer.
Always remember, you have within you
the strength, the patience, and the passion
to reach for the stars to change the world."
-- Harriet Tubman**

Black History Month is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements and contributions people of African heritage have made for the world. It is also a time to reflect on our sad history of prejudice and slavery and to advocate for equal rights for all.

In 1926, African-American historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson advocated for the observance of Negro History Week during the 2nd week in February because it marks the birthdays of two Americans who greatly helped African Americans win freedom in America -- Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. During the bicentennial celebration in 1976, Black History Week was expanded to the entire month and Black History Month has been observed every February since then.

February marks many other important milestones in African-American history. On February 1, 1865, Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery. The 15th Amendment, granting black men the right to vote was adopted on February 3, 1870; on February 12, 1909 the NAACP was founded; and on February 25, 1870, Hiram Rhodes Revels, the first black US Senator, took the oath of office.

1944; Richard Allen was born February 14, 1766; Frederick Douglass was born February 14, 1818; John Lewis was born February 21, 1940; and W. E. B. Dubois was born February 23, 1868.

Many Black BetterWorld Heroes were born in February: Langston Hughes was born February 1, 1902; Rosa Parks was born February 4, 1913; Bob Marley was born February 6, 1945; Alice Walker was born February 9,

In the United Kingdom, Black History Month is celebrated in October.

Do One Thing for a Better World

- Find out more about the important contributions made by people of African descent
- Hold an event or activity to celebrate Black History Month
- Rent a free film on black history at thefilmconnection.org

Black History Month Links

- Association for the Study of African American Life & History (www.dpw-archives.org/asalh.html)
- Biography.com/black_history
- CNN.com/SPECIALS/1998/black.history
- Education-World.com/a_special/black_history.shtml
- TheFilmConnection.org/programs/709
- TimeForKids.com/TFK/bhm

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