

## Black History Month

Program Name Middletown ABLE

Staff Responsible for Lesson Sandra Harp

Technology	Study / Life skills	EL-Civics	Career Pathways	Police	Paramedic	Fire Rescue	Medical Asst.	EKG / Cardio	Phlebotomy	Practical Nursing	Healthcare	Admin	Pharmacy Tech	IMT	AMT	HVAC	Welding	Other:
		<b>x</b>																
Date(s) Used				2-8-11														
Civics Category				III. U.S. History and Government and Citizenship Preparation														
Civics Objective				2. Government and Law Identify people and events in local, state, and/or federal history.														
Time Frame to Complete Lesson				60 minutes														
EFL(s)				3-4, but easily adapted to all levels														
Standard(s)/Components of Performance				Read with Understanding														
Benchmark(s)				R.3.1. Comprehend basic information and simple sentences. R.4.1. Comprehend information in common forms and simple paragraphs. R.6.1. Read authentic materials. R.4.2. Use strategies to understand text. R.4.4. Seek clarification by asking and answering questions. R.3.5. Draw conclusions. R.4.5. Draw conclusions.														
Materials				Article - "Black History Month 2011: Facts on the Annual Celebration" available from <a href="http://www.aolnews.com/2011/02/01/black-history-month-2011-facts-on-the-annual-celebration/">http://www.aolnews.com/2011/02/01/black-history-month-2011-facts-on-the-annual-celebration/</a>  Computers with internet access or biographical handouts														

## Black History Month

	<p>about Condoleezza Rice, Barack Obama, Muhammad Ali, Jackie Robinson</p> <p>Website articles (selected for brevity) include: Condoleezza Rice <a href="http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0878620.html">http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0878620.html</a> Barack Obama <a href="http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0930136.html">http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0930136.html</a> Muhammad Ali <a href="http://www.factmonster.com/ce6/people/A0803335.html">http://www.factmonster.com/ce6/people/A0803335.html</a> Jackie Robinson <a href="http://www.factmonster.com/ce6/people/A0842106.html">http://www.factmonster.com/ce6/people/A0842106.html</a></p>
Activities	<p>Explain that February is Black History Month.</p> <p>As a class, read the article "Black History Month 2011: Facts on the Annual Celebration." Discuss.</p> <p>Students (individually or in groups, depending upon level) read biographies of famous Black Americans.</p> <p>Students discuss the subjects and their contributions to our country and culture.</p>
Assessment/ Evidence	Class discussion
Reflection	Many students asked questions. The interest they showed was very mature and they asked for more information.

# Black History Month 2011: Facts on the Annual Celebration

Feb 1, 2011 – 9:34 AM

Text Size



| Email

**Torie Bosch**  
Contributor

Today marks the start of Black History Month, when African-American history is celebrated in the classroom, on television and in daily life.

One of the running good-natured jokes about Black History Month is that it just so happens to be celebrated in February -- the shortest month of the year. How did February become Black History Month? Surge Desk presents the history of, ah, the history month.

According to the [Library of Congress](#), Black History Month has its roots in something called Negro History Week. In 1925, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, an African-American historian who founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, proposed Negro History Week as a way to encourage people to learn more about black history. He selected a week in February that included the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and black abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

The first Negro History Week was celebrated in February 1926. "The response was overwhelming," says the Library of Congress. "Black history clubs sprang up; teachers demanded materials to instruct their pupils; and progressive whites, not simply white scholars and philanthropists, stepped forward to endorse the effort."

In the early 1970s, Negro History Week was rechristened Black History Week to reflect the changing language used to describe African-Americans. Then, in 1976, as America observed its bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded to the full month we celebrate today.

Every February since 1976, the U.S. president issues a proclamation declaring the second month of the year Black History Month or National African American History Month.

# Black History Month

*Secretary of State, professor, diplomat*

**Born:** 11/14/1954

**Birthplace:** Birmingham, Alabama

Rice became President George W. Bush's second Secretary of State in January 2005, despite opposition from a small band of Democrats who objected to her role in the war in Iraq. She became National Security Advisor to the Bush presidency in 2001. Rice received a BA in political science from the University of Denver at age 19, followed by an MA in political science from the University of Notre Dame in 1975, and a PhD from the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver in 1981. An expert on Russia and Eastern Europe, she began teaching political science at Stanford University in 1981. From 1989 to 1991 she advised the George H. W. Bush administration on foreign policy and military issues, including the unification of Germany and the breakup of the Soviet Union. Rice later returned to Stanford, and was named provost, the university's budget and academic official, in 1993. In 1999 she took a leave of absence to advise the George W. Bush campaign. Author of several books on foreign policy, Rice is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and holds honorary doctorates from Morehouse College, the University of Alabama, and the University of Notre Dame.

# Black History Month

*U.S. President*

**Born:** Aug. 4, 1961

**Birthplace:** Honolulu, Hawaii

Barack Obama was elected the 44th president of the United States on Nov. 4, 2008, prevailing over Arizona Senator [John McCain](#). He took the oath of office on Jan. 20, 2009, and became the first black U.S. president.

He had previously edged out Senator [Hillary Clinton](#) in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination in a long and often bitter primary season. Obama cast Clinton as the establishment candidate and himself as the candidate of change. The move worked, and after his election Obama sought to mend fences by making Clinton his Secretary of State.

Obama took office in the midst of a severe recession for the U.S. economy. His first major piece of legislative was the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, a \$787 billion spending bill, or "stimulus package," designed to create jobs and reignite the economy.

He also acted quickly to bring about the change from the policies of the Bush administration that he had promised during the campaign. Two days after his inauguration he signed an executive order to close the controversial detention facility in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba within the year. Soon to follow were executive orders that reversed Bush's policies on stem cell research and interrogation techniques for enemy detainees.

## **Wins the Nobel Peace Prize**

Nine months into his presidency, Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel Committee cited him for "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples" and his "vision of and work for a world without nuclear weapons." The award came as somewhat as a shock to the White House and beyond, as few of Obama's proposed international policy changes have yet to be realized. Indeed, North Korea continues to taunt the world with missile tests and nuclear bravado, Iran only recently agreed to engage in talks about its nuclear program, and his Afghanistan policy is a work in progress. However, Thorbjorn Jagland, the chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said, "We would hope this [the Peace Prize] will enhance what he is trying to do."

Obama was born in Hawaii in 1961 to an American mother and a Kenyan father. When he was two, his parents, who had met as students at the University of Hawaii, divorced. Obama's Harvard-educated father then returned to Kenya, where he worked in the economics ministry. Obama lived in Indonesia with his mother and stepfather for part of his childhood, returning

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to Hawaii to finish high school. He graduated from Columbia University, where he majored in political science and specialized in international relations. He then attended Harvard Law School, graduated magna cum laude, and served as the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review. After law school, he worked as a community organizer and a civil rights lawyer in Chicago. He also taught at the University of Chicago Law School as a senior lecturer specializing in constitutional law. Obama represented the South Side of Chicago in the Illinois State Senate from 1996–2004 as a Democrat. In 2004, he was elected to the U.S. Senate, winning with 70% of the vote against the conservative black Republican, Alan Keyes. Obama became the only African-American serving in the U.S. Senate (and the fifth in U.S. history). Obama's idealism, commitment to civil rights, and telegenic good looks generated enormous media attention for his Senate campaign. The eloquence of his keynote address at the 2004 Democratic Nation Convention in Boston, Mass., confirmed his status as one of the Democratic party's freshest and most inspirational new leaders.

## **A Best-Selling Author**

Obama published an autobiography, *Dreams From My Father*, in 1995; it became a best-seller during his 2004 Senate campaign. His next autobiography, *The Audacity of Hope*, became a bestseller after its Oct. 2006 publication, and won both the Black Caucus of the American Library Association Literary Awards and the NAACP Image Awards in 2007. He is married to Michelle Obama, a Chicago native who also graduated from Harvard Law School. They have two daughters: Malia Ann and Sasha.

## Black History Month

**Ali, Muhammad** (*muhäm'ud älä'*) [[key](#)], 1942–, American boxer, b. Louisville, Ky. Born Cassius Marcellus Clay, he was a 1960 Olympic gold medalist. Shortly after upsetting Sonny Liston in 1964 to become world heavyweight champion, he formalized his association with the Nation of Islam (see [Black Muslims](#)) and adopted the Muslim name Muhammad Ali.

Ali's flamboyant boxing style and outspoken stances on social issues made him a controversial figure during the turbulent 1960s and early 1970s. After beating Liston, he defended his title nine times, brashly proclaiming himself the "greatest of all time." In 1967 he refused induction into the armed services and became a symbol of resistance to the Vietnam War. The boxing establishment stripped Ali of his title and prevented him from fighting until the U.S. Supreme Court in 1971 upheld his draft appeal on religious grounds. Before retiring in 1981 Ali compiled a 56–5 record and became the only man to ever win the heavyweight crown three times. His fights with Joe Frazier and George Foreman were among boxing's biggest events.

In retirement, Ali has remained one of the most recognized of all world figures. The 1984 revelation that he suffered from Parkinson's disease renewed debate over the negative effects of boxing. His appearance at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, to light the Olympic flame, moved an international audience.

See T. Hauser, *Muhammad Ali: His Life and Times* (1991); D. Remnick, *King of the World* (1998).

## Black History Month

**Robinson, Jackie** (Jack Roosevelt Robinson), 1919–72, American baseball player, the first African-American player in the modern major leagues, b. Cairo, Ga. He grew up in Pasadena, Calif., where he became an outstanding athlete in high school and junior college. While attending (1939–41) the Univ. of California at Los Angeles, he established a wide reputation in baseball, basketball, football, and track.

Robinson left college to support his mother, but in 1941 played professional football with the Los Angeles Bulldogs of the Pacific Coast League. He entered the army in World War II and was discharged as a lieutenant in 1945. In Oct., 1945, Branch Rickey, then president of the Brooklyn Dodgers, signed Robinson to play for the Montreal Royals, a Brooklyn farm club in the International League. Despite several incidents in spring training in the South and many inconveniences during the season, Robinson—the first African-American ballplayer in that league—excelled as a second baseman and won the league batting crown.

In 1947 precedent was shattered when Robinson was brought up to the Brooklyn club. African Americans had not played in big-league competition in the 20th cent., but resistance dwindled as Robinson excelled. In 1949 he won the National League batting crown, hitting .342, and was named the NL's most valuable player. Robinson played his entire career (1947–56) with Brooklyn, where he set fielding and batting records and gained a reputation for base stealing. Other African Americans began playing in the major leagues soon after his debut. In 1962 Robinson became the first African American to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

See his autobiography (1972); J. Tygiel, *Baseball's Great Experiment* (1983) and *Extra Bases* (2002); A. Rampersad, *Jackie Robinson* (1997); S. Simon, *Jackie Robinson and the Integration of Baseball* (2002).