

Black History Trivia

Twenty questions celebrating the achievements, leaders, and milestones that shaped Black history ...

Name / Team: _____

Score: _____

1 Who refused to give up her bus seat in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955?

- A. Coretta Scott King
- B. Rosa Parks
- C. Sojourner Truth
- D. Fannie Lou Hamer

2 Who was the first Black President of the United States?

- A. Colin Powell
- B. Barack Obama
- C. Jesse Jackson
- D. Thurgood Marshall

3 What athlete broke Major League Baseball's color barrier in 1947?

- A. Hank Aaron
- B. Willie Mays
- C. Jackie Robinson
- D. Satchel Paige

4 Who led the civil rights movement and delivered the 'I Have a Dream' speech?

- A. Frederick Douglass
- B. W.E.B. Du Bois
- C. Martin Luther King Jr.
- D. Booker T. Washington

5 Who was the first Black Supreme Court Justice?

- A. Clarence Thomas
- B. Thurgood Marshall
- C. Ketanji Brown Jackson
- D. Eric Holder

6 Which formerly enslaved person became a renowned abolitionist, writer, and orator in the 1800s?

- A. Nat Turner
- B. Harriet Tubman
- C. Frederick Douglass
- D. Sojourner Truth

7 What was the Underground Railroad?

- A. An early subway system in New York
- B. A secret network of routes helping enslaved peop...
- C. A railroad built by freed slaves in the South
- D. A mining operation in Pennsylvania

8 Which NASA mathematician's calculations were essential to the success of early US spaceflights?

- A. Mae Jemison
- B. Dorothy Vaughan
- C. Katherine Johnson
- D. Mary Jackson

9 Which movement in the 1920s celebrated Black artistic and intellectual life centered in a New York neighborhood?

- A. The Beat Generation
- B. The Harlem Renaissance
- C. The Jazz Age
- D. The Black Arts Movement

10 Who was the first Black woman to win the Academy Award for Best Actress?

- A. Whoopi Goldberg
- B. Viola Davis
- C. Halle Berry
- D. Lupita Nyong'o

11 What organization was co-founded by W.E.B. Du Bois in 1909 to advance civil rights?

- A. The Urban League
- B. The NAACP
- C. The SCLC
- D. CORE

Black History Trivia

(continued)

12 Which Black inventor created an improved traffic signal and gas mask?

- A. George Washington Carver
- B. Garrett Morgan
- C. Lewis Latimer
- D. Benjamin Banneker

13 What landmark 1954 Supreme Court case declared school segregation unconstitutional?

- A. Plessy v. Ferguson
- B. Loving v. Virginia
- C. Brown v. Board of Education
- D. Sweatt v. Painter

14 Who was the first Black woman elected to the US Congress?

- A. Barbara Jordan
- B. Shirley Chisholm
- C. Carol Moseley Braun
- D. Maxine Waters

15 Which Black surgeon performed the first successful open-heart surgery in 1893?

- A. Charles Drew
- B. Daniel Hale Williams
- C. Ben Carson
- D. James McCune Smith

16 What was the name of the 1955–1956 protest against segregated public transit in Alabama?

- A. The Selma March
- B. The Freedom Rides
- C. The Montgomery Bus Boycott
- D. The Birmingham Campaign

17 Who wrote the novel 'Beloved,' which won the Pulitzer Prize and later the Nobel Prize in Literature?

- A. Alice Walker
- B. Maya Angelou
- C. Toni Morrison
- D. Zora Neale Hurston

18 Who was the first Black astronaut to travel to space?

- A. Mae Jemison
- B. Guion Bluford
- C. Ronald McNair
- D. Robert Lawrence

19 The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of Black military pilots who served during which war?

- A. World War I
- B. World War II
- C. The Korean War
- D. The Vietnam War

20 In 1967, who became the first Black mayor of a major US city when he was elected in Cleveland, Ohio?

- A. Tom Bradley
- B. Carl Stokes
- C. Harold Washington
- D. David Dinkins

Black History Trivia — Answer Key

1. B Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat on December 1, 1955, sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a landmark event in the civil rights movement.

2. B Barack Obama

Barack Obama was elected the 44th President in 2008 and served two terms, becoming the first African American to hold the office.

3. C Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947, becoming the first Black player in modern Major League Baseball. His number 42 is retired across all teams.

4. C Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. was the most prominent leader of the civil rights movement. He delivered the speech during the 1963 March on Washington.

5. B Thurgood Marshall

Thurgood Marshall was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1967 by President Lyndon Johnson. Before that, he argued the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case.

6. C Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass escaped slavery and became one of the most influential voices against slavery through his writing and speeches.

7. B A secret network of routes helping en...

The Underground Railroad was a network of safe houses and secret routes used by enslaved people to escape to free states and Canada. Harriet Tubman was its most famous conductor.

8. C Katherine Johnson

Katherine Johnson's orbital mechanics calculations were critical to the success of Project Mercury and the Apollo 11 mission. Her story was featured in the book and film Hidden Figures.

9. B The Harlem Renaissance

The Harlem Renaissance was a cultural and intellectual movement in the 1920s and 1930s centered in Harlem, New York. It produced writers like Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston,

10. C Halle Berry

Halle Berry won the Best Actress Oscar in 2002 for her role in Monster's Ball. She remains the only Black woman to win in that category.

11. B The NAACP

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded in 1909 and became one of the most influential civil rights organizations in American history.

12. B Garrett Morgan

Garrett Morgan patented a three-position traffic signal in 1923 and a safety hood (early gas mask) that saved lives in a 1916 tunnel disaster in Cleveland.

13. C Brown v. Board of Education

Brown v. Board of Education (1954) unanimously ruled that 'separate but equal' schools were inherently unequal, overturning Plessy v. Ferguson.

14. B Shirley Chisholm

Shirley Chisholm was elected to the US House of Representatives in 1968 and later became the first Black candidate for a major party presidential nomination in 1972.

15. B Daniel Hale Williams

Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performed the groundbreaking surgery at Provident Hospital in Chicago, which he also founded as one of the first non-segregated hospitals in the US.

16. C The Montgomery Bus Boycott

The Montgomery Bus Boycott lasted 381 days and ended when the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

17. C Toni Morrison

Toni Morrison's 'Beloved' (1987) won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. In 1993, she became the first Black woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

18. B Guion Bluford

Guion Bluford flew aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger in August 1983. Mae Jemison later became the first Black woman in space in 1992.

19. B World War II

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first Black military aviators in the US Armed Forces, serving with distinction during World War II. They flew over 15,000 sorties.

20. B Carl Stokes

Carl Stokes was elected mayor of Cleveland in November 1967, making him the first Black mayor of a major American city.