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26 Black Americans You Don't Know About But Should

What it's About

The article reviews 26 lesser-known Black historical figures who were pioneers in space, education, government, music, and other prominent fields. Each slide exposes readers to people whose accomplishments continue to impact the Black experience and the United States, and each summary serves as a reminder that Black history is American history. [Click here to read it.](#)

Why it's Important

When celebrated historian Carter G. Woodson, along with other prominent African American scholars, began what was then called “Negro History Week,” there was a clear idea that one day this intentional week – now month – would not be necessary. Created to feature the oft-neglected contributions of African Americans in history, Woodson assumed that once special attention was given to these historical figures, their stories would be integrated into the teachings of American History. Although there has been much progress, that time has not yet come. As a result, these 26 lesser-known Black Historical figures are presented in the hope that, as Americans or those living in this country, we would recognize our collective story and the contributions that have led to our country's present-day reality.

Reflect & Discuss

Which story most sticks out to you? Why?

What lessons can be learned from the experiences of Black pioneers?

Take a moment to craft your own superlatives list for this group of stories:

Which most surprised you?

Which most encouraged you?

Which most inspired you?

Which most challenged you?



Want to learn more?

This organization, the [Association for the Study of African American Life and History \(ASALH\)](#), continues the educational legacy started by Carter G. Woodson, the founder of Black History Month.

As an introduction to the National African American History & Culture Museum's diverse catalog on African American history, read [Knowing the Past Opens the Door to the Future: The Continuing Importance of Black History Month](#)

[BlackPast.org](#) provides a global audience with reliable and accurate information on the history of African Americans and of people of African ancestry around the world.