

Black History Month Teacher Resource Guide

Black History Month is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of Black folks across the world. As a month of celebration, it is crucial that conversations around Black history do not center on racial trauma but instead focus on the achievements of Black people. Every department can find a way to integrate relevant information on black history into its curriculum both within the month of February and beyond. This guide includes resources relevant to various departments to support the acknowledgment of BHM in every classroom. We hope that you take the time to consider some of these resources and work with your students to better understand Black History Month and why we celebrate.

Included are some general resources about why we celebrate BHM and tips on how to integrate it into the curriculum/classroom, as well as some course-specific information.

- Molly Armbrust ('24) and Georgia Winn ('22) for the Student Equity Committee

A note on use... As I began collecting resources for this offering, I quickly became overwhelmed by the sheer number of resources out there. I was obviously not able to include everything I found and there was so much more I wasn't even able to look at. Please interact with this guide with an understanding that it is in no way a complete list of resources, nor does it cover all the relevant topics. What I hope it does do is provide a jumping off point from which you can continue learning and creating/expanding your own approach to incorporating/integrating black history into your classroom in a way that makes sense for you and your students. Not all the recommendations/resources are appropriate for every situation so please use your discretion and knowledge to make conscious decisions about what you present to your classes.

Thank you for working toward a more equitable HHS!

Molly Armbrust ('24)

General Resources

[10 IDEAS FOR TEACHING BLACK HISTORY MONTH](#)

This link is a wonderful resource both for understanding Black History Month and for some support on bringing it into the classroom. It also has many resources attached to it that I will direct you to throughout this guide.

[The Origin of Black History Month—And Why It Still Matters](#)

More context on black history month and why we celebrate it.

[Do's and Don'ts of Teaching Black History](#)

[Five Things Not to Do During Black History Month](#)

[Four Black History Month Must-Haves](#)

[Mining the Jewel of Black History Month](#)

Tips for integrating black history into your curriculum.

[The 45 Days of Black History](#)

This is a webinar that I have not done/vetted, but I am sharing it because it includes a valuable list of resources.

Department specific resources

Art Department

[12 African American Artists You Should Know More About](#)

More artists are included under the first link in general resources.

[Augusta Savage | Smithsonian American Art Museum](#)

Augusta Savage was an American sculptor associated with the Harlem Renaissance. She was also a teacher whose studio was important to the careers of a generation of artists who would become nationally known. She worked for equal rights for African Americans in the arts.

[Brooklyn Museum: Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic](#)

Kehinde Wiley is an American portrait painter based in New York City, who is known for his highly naturalistic paintings of Black people, frequently referencing the work of Old Master paintings.

English Department

[Eight books by Black authors that aren't about Black pain](#)

[Don't Just Read About Racism—Read Stories About Black People Living](#)

['Black English': How AAVE Developed From Slave Resistance & African Dialects](#)

[Black History Month, The Academy of American Poets](#)

[7 Writers of the Harlem Renaissance](#)

[Lesson Plan: The Harlem Renaissance](#) (Also applicable to arts, performing arts, and social studies)

Books by Black authors (varied genres) grounded in Black perspectives and Black joy that your students might enjoy:

Black Leopard, Red Wolf (The Dark Star Trilogy #1), Marlon James

In the first novel in Marlon James's Dark Star trilogy, myth, fantasy, and history come together to explore what happens when a mercenary is hired to find a missing child. Grounded in African Mythology.

My Sister, the Serial Killer, Oyinkan Braithwaite

A satirical novel about a woman whose sister has a troubling habit of killing her boyfriends. *My Sister, the Serial Killer* is a blackly comic novel about how blood is thicker - and more difficult to get out of the carpet - than water.

Children of Blood and Bone (Legacy of Orisha #1), Tomi Adeyemi

Based on Nigerian Yoruba mythology, this novel follows Zélie Adebola, who is fighting to restore magic to the land of Orisha, after the king ordered all the magicians killed.

Catherine House, Elisabeth Thomas

A story about a dangerously curious young undergraduate whose rebelliousness leads her to discover a shocking secret involving an exclusive circle of students and the dark truth beneath her school's promise of prestige.

The Library of the Dead (Edinburgh Nights #1), T.L. Huchu

A contemporary fantasy following a precocious and cynical teen as she explores the shadowy magical underside of modern Edinburgh. When a child goes missing in Edinburgh's darkest streets, young Ropa investigates. She'll need to call on Zimbabwean magic as well as her Scottish pragmatism to hunt down clues. But as shadows lengthen, will the hunter become the hunted?

This is Kind of an Epic Love Story, Kacen Callender

Nathan Bird, who has sworn off happy endings but is sorely tested when his former best friend, Ollie, moves back to town. After a painful mix-up when they were little, Nate finally has the chance to tell Ollie the truth about his feelings.

How to Love a Jamaican, Alexia Arthurs

A stunning debut collection of short stories, Alexia Arthurs unpicks a wide range of elements of Black culture with huge warmth, comedy and nuance. The stories are about Jamaican immigrants living in America and their families back home. They delve into love, marriage, friendships and inter-generational displacement.

Legendborn (Legendborn #1), Tracy Deonn

After 16-year-old Bree's mom dies in a tragic accident, A residential program for bright high schoolers at UNC–Chapel Hill seems like the perfect escape—until Bree witnesses a magical attack on her very first night on campus. Bree then discovers a magical secret society on campus, where she is able to look further into her mother's death (**Content Warning: This book includes discussion about Bree's experience at a PWI, and though it is not the central focus of the novel, it is a prominent element**).

Other authors to explore:

[Reading Pathways: The Best Jamaica Kincaid Books | Book Riot](#)

[Edwidge Danticat \(Author of Breath, Eyes, Memory\) | Goodreads](#)

[#ArtsJustice: Edwidge Danticat on how literature connects us - YouTube](#)

[Octavia Butler | Books, Biography & Education | Study.com](#)

Math Department

[11 Famous African American Mathematicians You Should Know About - YouTube](#)

[11 Famous African American Mathematicians You Should Know About — Mashup Math](#)

This link provides more information on the people featured in the above video.

 [Hidden Figure Gladys West](#) mathematician

Gladys West was known for her contributions to the global positioning systems (GPS).

[David Blackwell](#), statistician

David Harold Blackwell was an American statistician and mathematician who made significant contributions to game theory, probability theory, information theory, and Bayesian statistics. He is one of the eponyms of the Rao–Blackwell theorem.

[Jesse Ernest Wilkins](#), mathematician, mechanical engineer, nuclear scientist

Jesse Ernest Wilkins was a world-class American mathematician, mechanical engineer, and nuclear scientist. He attended the University of Chicago at the age of 13, becoming its youngest ever student. He earned five science degrees during his life. Wilkins worked as a contributor to the Manhattan Project during World War II. He wrote almost 100 scientific papers

(over 55 in mathematics). He was the second African American elected to the National Academy of Engineering (1965). In 1970, Wilkins served Howard University as its distinguished professor of Applied Mathematical Physics and founded the university's new PhD program in mathematics.

[Katherine Johnson](#), mathematician

After receiving her doctorate, she joined the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics' West Area Computing group, a group of human computational experts (called "computers" before the advent of modern mechanical computers) composed entirely of African American women. In 1962, she provided the orbital entry and launch window calculations that enabled John Glenn's orbit around the moon. She also provided calculations that coordinated the Apollo moon landing. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015, and her work was profiled in the film *Hidden Figures*.

[Mark Dean](#), inventor, computer engineer

Mark E. Dean is an American inventor and computer engineer. He developed the ISA bus, and he led a design team for making a one-gigahertz computer processor chip. He holds three of nine PC patents for being the co-creator of the IBM personal computer released in 1981.

[Lonnie Johnson](#), inventor, mathematician

Lonnie Johnson is a famous inventor, mathematician, and engineer who holds over 120 patents. He served as an engineer for the U.S. Air Force, where he worked on developing the stealth bomber, and later for NASA's Jet Propulsion program. He is best known for inventing the Super Soaker water gun while working in the U.S. Air Force, a product which has grossed nearly \$1 Billion since 1990. He also invented a "toy projectile gun," which eventually became the Nerf Gun.

Performing Arts Department

▶ Katherine Dunham and the Dances of the African Diaspora Changing Lives | KQED Arts

[Katherine Dunham Launched a Black Dance Revolution on Vimeo](#)

Katherine Mary Dunham was an American dancer, choreographer, creator of the Dunham Technique, author, educator, anthropologist, and social activist. Dunham had one of the most successful dance careers in African-American and European theater of the 20th century, and directed her own dance company for many years

[How Bill T. Jones' 'Deep Blue Sea' explores the collective 'we' of the American people](#)

▶ Honoring Choreographer Bill T. Jones

William Tass Jones, known as Bill T. Jones, is an American choreographer, director, author and dancer. He is the co-founder of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company

▶ Remembering Groundbreaking Jazz Icon, Actress Lena Horne

Lena Mary Calhoun Horne was an American dancer, actress, singer, and civil rights activist. Horne's career spanned over seventy years, appearing in film, television, and theater.

▶ Gounod: Roméo et Juliette - "Ah, je veux vivre dans ce reve"

Kathleen Battle is an African-American operatic, light lyric soprano who is known for her pure and versatile voice. She debuted in operas in 1975 and progressed to lyric and coloratura soprano in the 1980s. She has maintained her career in broad recitals and recording repertoire, which led her to receive many Grammy awards. She has worked with some of the great opera houses all over the world. She has received six honorary doctorates from universities in America. She is hailed as one of the greatest coloratura sopranos.

▶ Dance Theatre of Harlem: Arthur Mitchell Tribute

Arthur Mitchell was an American ballet dancer, choreographer, and founder and director of ballet companies. In 1955, he was the first African-American dancer with the New York City Ballet, where he was promoted to principal dancer the following year and danced in major roles until 1966.

See the first link under general resources for resources on music (page 7).

Science Department

▶ Black History Month - Black Scientists and Inventors Part 1 (Animated)

[Famous Black Scientists - Discoveries & Inventions - Biography](#)

[15 Famous Black Scientists in History](#) (not detailed but useful for choosing individuals for to learn more about)

▶ Black Scientists in History (Music Video)

▶ Biography: Otis Boykin scientist/inventor

Otis Boykin invented electrical resistors that were used in the development of pacemakers.

[Kizzmekia S. Corbett, Life Science \(2021\) | The Franklin Institute](#)

Immunologist talking about her work on creating the Covid-19 vaccine.

▶ Black History Month #10 - The Scientists: Jim Gates

[Jim Gates | NOVA | PBS](#)

Theoretical physicist, videos about his life and work.

[Percy Julian](#), chemist

Percy Julian was a research chemist and pioneer in the chemical synthesis of medicinal drugs from plants, such as cortisone, steroids and birth control pills. He was inducted into the National Academy of the Sciences, National Inventors Hall of Fame and the American Chemical Society for his lasting work.

[Marie M. Dalie](#), chemist

Marie Daly was the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in chemistry in the United States. She worked closely with scientist Dr. Quentin B. Deming and their work opened up a new understanding of how foods and diet can affect the health of the heart and the circulatory system.

[Annie Easley](#), rocket scientist, computer scientist

Annie Easley worked at NASA as a “human computer,” performing complex mathematical calculations. She evolved with the technology -- becoming an adept computer programmer and helped develop and implement code for numerous projects.

[Marie Van Brittan Brown](#), nurse, innovator

A full time nurse, Marie Van Brittan Brown contributed to a safer society with her invention of the first home security system. Her invention was the first closed-circuit television security system and paved the way for modern home security systems used today.

[Patricia Bath](#), ophthalmologist, laser scientist

Patricia E. Bath, an ophthalmologist and laser scientist, was an innovative research scientist and advocate for blindness prevention, treatment, and cure. She was the inventor of laser cataract surgery. Her invention was called Laserphaco Probe

[Daniel Hale Williams](#), surgeon

Williams became the first surgeon to perform open-heart surgery on a human. Dr. Williams performed the nation's first open-heart surgery at the Provident hospital in the summer of 1893. The operation was done without X-rays, antibiotics, surgical prep-work, or tools of modern surgery.

[Valerie Thomas](#), chemist, physicist, computer scientist

At NASA, Thomas helped develop the image-processing systems for LANDSAT (the first satellite to send images from space). She is best known as the inventor of the Illusion Transmitter, which has proved highly influential for NASA research. Her invention would be widely adopted by NASA and is still used in the production of televisions and video screens. She retired from NASA in 1995.

Social Studies Department

Harlem/Harlem Renaissance:

- ▶ [The Harlem Renaissance's cultural explosion, in photographs](#)
- ▶ [The Harlem Renaissance](#)

[Lesson Plan: The Harlem Renaissance | Lesson Plan | PBS NewsHour Extra](#) (Also applicable to English, Art and Performing arts)

Legal system:

- ▶ [Moments In History: Remembering Thurgood Marshall](#) **Trigger warning: this video discusses lynching and shows a brief image of the KKK (2:40-3:30).**
- [5 Revolutionary Black Lawyers That Changed America - Law Preview.](#)

Civil rights:

[Civil Rights Leaders | NAACP](#)

[7 Civil Rights Leaders You Need to Know | History Countdown - YouTube](#)

Other:

[How Black Culinary Historians Are Rewriting the History of American Food - YES! Magazine](#)

(Also applicable to culinary)

[Black Fashion Is Fashion History: Meet Three Women Preserving Style Innovators' Stories | Vogue](#)

[23 Black leaders who are shaping history today](#)

Health and Wellness Department

(Bellow links are also applicable to Social Studies)

-Heath and Wellness is the theme of this year's BHM

 [Richmond educator shows students transformative and healing power of music](#)

Dr. Ram Bhagat, founder of Drums No Guns on drumming/music as healing.

[Farming at Susu CommUNITY Farm and honoring Vermonts indigenous heritage](#)

World Language Department

I encourage you to find media/videos in the relevant language focused on black people who have contributed or are contributing to that culture. I am not sharing any resources for this category as it would be difficult for me to vet them, not being fluent in any of the languages. I also encourage you to find resources in English for lower level students relevant to the culture/cultures in which the target language is spoken.

*We are working with language teachers on this category and so may send out a follow up with some resources for the World Language Department.

Resources collected by Molly Armbrust ('24) and Georgia Winn ('22)