

African American HerStory



Oprah Winfrey is an American media executive, actress, talk show host, television producer and philanthropist. She is best known for her talk show The Oprah Winfrey Show, which was the highest-rated television program of its kind in history and was nationally syndicated from 1986 to 2011 in Chicago.



Michelle Obama is a lawyer, writer, and the wife of the 44th President, Barack Obama. She was the first African-American First Lady of the United States.

Michelle Obama is helping families in the USA by teaching them about **math**. She also wants girls and boys to **read** and not give up, until they have reached high goals in life.



Stacey Yvonne Abrams is an American politician, lawyer, and novelist who served as Minority Leader of the Georgia House of Representatives from 2011 to 2017. A member of the Democratic Party, she was her party's nominee in the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial election. Abrams was the first black female major party gubernatorial nominee in the history of the United States.



Keisha Lance Bottoms is an American politician and lawyer. Bottoms is Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia. Prior to becoming mayor, she was a member of the Atlanta City Council, representing part of Southeast Atlanta.



Black History Month

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ROSA PARKS is famously known for the bravery she showed when choosing to stay seated and demanding equality on that Montgomery, AL city bus in 1955.



IDA B. WELLS was an American woman born a slave in the middle of the civil war. At the age of 16 both her parents died suddenly of yellow fever, making her the head of her house. She became America's first investigative reporter. She never stopped fighting for gender and race equality.



HARRIET TUBMAN was an American hero. During her ten-year span she made 19 trips into the South and escorted over 300 slaves to freedom. And she "never once lost a passenger!"



SOJOURNER TRUTH was a strong and brave abolitionist and women's rights activist. She was a member of the Seneca Falls Convention and the National American Woman Suffrage Association.



BARBARA JORDAN was a lawyer, educator, and politician. She was the first woman to ever be elected to the Texas Senate in 1966. She used her power for good, helping create the first minimum wage laws. She later won an election into the US House of Representatives in 1972. She spent her time in office guiding people while honoring the constitution.



SHIRLEY CHISHOLM was the first black woman to be elected to the US Congress in 1968. In 1972 she became the first black candidate for a major party's nomination for president of the US and the first woman to run for the democrat's presidential nomination.



MAE CAROL JEMISON was the first female African American astronaut. She made her 8-day voyage into space on September 12, 1992. In 1987 she was one of the 15 chosen out of about 2,000 candidates. She trained hard and proved herself an invaluable asset to the team. Mae has inspired us to never give up.

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George Washington Carver

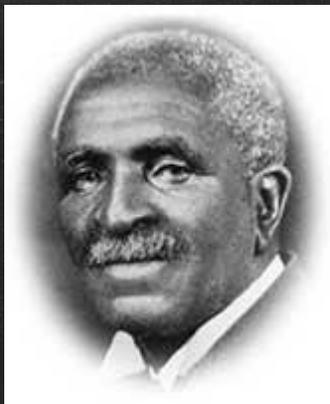
By Mukund K.

Have you ever heard of George Washington Carver? Carver was born in Diamond, Missouri. He then came to Atlanta and created 300 inventions with peanuts. Some people called him the plant doctor.

George Washington Carver's childhood was a slave during his childhood. He worked with plants while he was young. When he was older, people came to him for advice with plants. He became a professor at Tuskegee University. Among the many things he invented with peanuts were paper, oil, and soap. He also created many uses for sweet potatoes and soy beans.

Since there was still slavery in the South during his youth, it was hard for him to get a job. Eventually he was hired to be an instructor at the Tuskegee Institute. They payed him less, but he took the job. He liked to teach others about plants and agriculture. He died on January 5th, 1943, in Tuskegee, Alabama.

In conclusion, George Washington Carver accomplished many things. He created many uses for peanuts, soybeans, and sweet potatoes. He also helped many crops from losing too much nitrogen. He showed that African Americans could be brilliant and do many amazing things.



Who Was Rosa Parks?

By Jillian P.

Who was Rosa Parks and what did she do? Rosa Parks is known for the time that she refused to give up her bus seat to a white man and was sent to jail for it. This showed other African Americans that they could fight for justice.

Her action sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycotts, which was a major event in the civil rights movement.

Parks was born on February 4, 1913, and she died on October 24, 2005, at age 92. Rosa Parks is a role model for many people.



Ida B. Wells

By Keegan B.



Ida B. Wells was an American journalist who fought for her rights and freedom. Ida was born on July 16, 1862, and died on March 25, 1931. Her siblings were Annie, Stanley, George, Eddie, Eugina, Lily, and James Wells. Ida went to Fisk University in Nashville Tennessee.

Ida working for the *New York Age* from her home in Chicago. Her articles were about the poor treatment of black people, especially black men. More than any other person in America, she spoke and wrote about the crime of lynching. She believed in equal justice for all.

Ida's children were Charles, Alfreda, and Herman Barnett. This amazing woman also wrote famous books like *The Red Record*, *Southern Horrors*, *Crusade for Justice*, *Mob Rule in New Orleans*, and *The Memphis Diary of Ida B. Wells*. This brave, kind, and talented woman never took no for an answer.

Harriet Tubman

By Catherine L. & Caroline M.



Harriet Tubman was an important woman in our history. Harriet Tubman was born in Dorchester County, Maryland, in 1820. Tubman was born as a slave. The state that she lived in was called a border state. Her real name was Araminta Harriet Ross. She worked on a plantation that packaged peanuts. Finally, in 1849, Harriet Tubman decided to escape to freedom, which was all the way in the North.

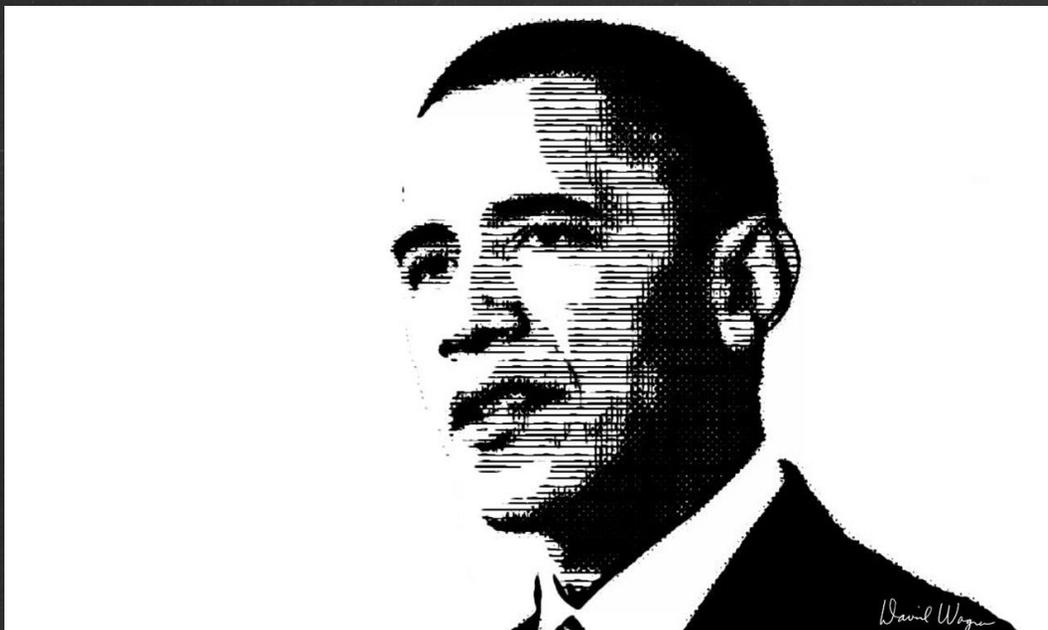
When she finally reached Freedom, she decided to go back and help other people escape, so she guided people to what was called the Underground Railroad. Over the years, she made 19 trips and helped over 300 slaves escape to freedom. She never lost a “passenger.” She also helped John Brown in his the raid on Harpers Ferry. She eventually died on March 10th. 1913.

This is why Harriet Tubman was an important woman in our history.



President Barack Obama

By Ford H.



Barack Obama was the 44th President. He was the president from 2009 – 2017. Obama was born on August 6, 1961, in Honolulu, Hawaii. He was most known for being the first African American president.

As a kid, Barack's nickname was "Barry." He graduated from Columbia University in 1983, and then went to law school at Harvard University. He was elected as president on January 20, 2009. There were two wars going on during his two terms. The economy made a remarkable recovery during his terms as president.

After his presidency, he went to Indonesia, made \$5.5 million, and he no longer likes ice cream! Barack Obama was an amazing president!

Ms. Smith: An interview with our Assistant Principal

By Keegan B. & Catherine L.



Do you want to be a principal one day?

Yes, one day I would like to be a principal.

What do you see yourself doing in ten years?

Ten years from now, I plan to be retired.

Besides Brandon, do you have any other children?

I have a four-legged son named Marley. He is an 8-year old yellow lab mix.

What are your responsibilities as assistant principal?

My main responsibilities are to oversee all aspects of standardized testing, create and maintain the school's master schedule, monitor student discipline and school safety, and to assist Dr. Culbreath in the daily operations of our school.

Do you like helping in Triple A?

I absolutely love working in Triple A and the G5 group!!!

How many years have you been the assistant principal?

I've been an assistant principal for 12 years. I was an AP at a middle school for three years before coming to Austin in August 2009.

How many years did you have to teach before you got to be an assistant principal?

I taught math at the elementary and middle school level for a total of 16 years.

Dance, Dance, Dance!

By Audrey A.

Have you ever heard of the dance studio Dan and Company? This is a very popular dance studio with amazing teachers, including Ms. Tina, Ms. Katrina, and Ms. Hailey. The manager is a kind man named Mr. Dan. He was a well-known dancer back in the day. The studio offers many classes, including lyrical, jazz, hip-hop, ballet, and more. I take lyrical, jazz, and hip-hop classes. There is a program called The Atlanta Jazz Theatre, which is where really good dancers are asked to be in specific classes and perform at places like Light Up Dunwoody. There are also camps there like, Popstar Camp, Little Princess Camp, and Atlanta Jazz Theatre Summer Intensive.

Hip-Hop

Hip-hop is a dance of cool tricks, attitude, and lots of detail. You wear normal clothes (T-shirts and shorts) and sneakers. Your teacher will either be Mr. AJ or Ms. Hailey. You dance to songs that are loud, fast, and that get people excited. There is NO - and I repeat NO - splits, leaps, dramatic walks, or

fancy spins. The spins in hip-hop are on the heel and are very fast. This class is not like a lot of other dance classes.

Lyrical

Lyrical is a dramatic, slow, and graceful dance. You dress in a leotard and you are usually barefoot. The songs that you dance to sometimes tell a sad story and sometimes a loving story. You have to be quite flexible to be in lyrical. For example, you should be able to do splits. Everything that you do in hip-hop is banned from lyrical. They are the exact opposite. If you join a lyrical class, you could have Ms. Tina or Ms. Katrina as a teacher.



Dance, Dance, Dance! (continued)



Jazz

Jazz is what I would say is a mix between hip-hop and lyrical. You do graceful leaps and splits, but the dances include some lyrical moves and some hip-hop moves. You can wear casual clothes or a leotard. You can either be barefoot or wear Jazz Shoes. Jazz includes lots of kicks, leaps, and spins. You will either get Ms.Tina or Ms.Katrina.

Thanks for reading!

My Trip to Greece

By Keegan R.



My experience in Greece over the summer was wonderful! I had lots of fun in the ocean, at the restaurants, meeting many friendly people, and the sights.

First on my trip, I went to an amazing restaurant called Dinner in the Sky. Dinner in the Sky's food was outstanding! They had one of the best steaks I have ever had! They had good service, a friendly waitstaff, and they had amazing food. When I left to go back to our condo, I asked my parents if we could go back the next day.

Next on my trip, I went on a cruise to visit different islands. My favorite one was the Red Indian Mountain.

After that, we went to an island that had really cold water around it. My mommy and daddy went in and they told me that it was. Lastly, there were the sights. They were probably the best things about my trip because we went to see a big structure where the Ancient Greeks would fight. I think that some day you should go to Greece and experience it for yourself and see, taste, and feel all of the things that I did.



Writing Blind

Fiction by Janey W.

“Mom, Mom! Look at this flyer that I just found on the sidewalk when I was selling my flowers!” I rushed inside our old, partly-broken down house and into my mom's bedroom. She looked ill.

“What is it, sweetheart?” Mom replied in a sick-sounding voice. “It says there is a Solar Eclipse in only two days. I was thinking we could go to see it. Are you ok? Are you ill?”

“I am sorry sweetie,” said Mom. “I am afraid, if I do say so myself, medicine isn't so good these days. I might not make it, but just always remember, always do, that I love you. You will have to go to the orphanage which is about one mile away. At least you will get a lot of exercise by walking for a mile.”

I began sobbing. I began thinking of things that could happen to Mom and me. *What if mom really doesn't make it? I thought. I wish the medicine these days would actually be better at curing people. Mom has been sick for weeks now, and we don't have enough money to hire a doctor!*

Then, with that, I heard two breaths, and then 10 more, but realized that those breaths were just mine.



Writing Blind (continued)

“Ding, Dong!”

“Who is it?” An elderly woman opened the door to the most wretched looking orphanage, which was called We Are Still Angels. She had a pleasant smile.

“Hi. I have to, um, uh, well, my parents both died. In fact, my mom just died yesterday, so...” I paused. I felt panic rushing down my body with the thought of that night when mom died. I continued.

“Before she died...” I started, but I couldn’t finish my sentence. I started sobbing hard and couldn’t catch my breath. The elderly woman looked at me sweetly and then patted my shoulder. When I felt her hand on my shoulder, a sense of calm came over my body.

“It’s okay, it’s okay. Come inside. I know how that feels. Maybe you can tell me later, but not the sad parts, okay? You shouldn’t judge this orphanage by the way it

looks. We are very poor, but the girls and I all have jobs and make money so that we can have water and food served on the table. You will make lots of friends here. They’ve had a lot of unfortunate moments in their lives, as well. And as I tell all my girls, and now you, we are all angels. No matter what. Even if we’re poor.”



Writing Blind (continued)



“We were poor,” I said. I had interrupted, but I felt better when the woman said these things to me. It felt like home. “Yes, yes, but as I was saying, even if we’re poor or we’ve had terror in our lives, just like you had, we will have better lives in the future. So just forget about the past and be in the present.” I walked inside the wretched orphanage and listened to what my new “Mom” said to me. I heard her words like an echo. “Even if we’re poor, or we’ve had terror in our lives, just like you had, we will have better lives in the future. So just forget about the past and be in the present.”

The woman said, “By the way, you’ve probably been wondering what you should call me. You should call me Ms. Erla.” “Hi, Ms. Erla!” “Oh, come upstairs. I think the girls are in the playroom reading books to each other. Do you want to come join and meet them? They are wonderful girls just like you!” I said, “Well, I am nervous a little, but oh well!” I tried to sound cheerful as I said this to Ms. Erla. I walked up the brown wooden stairs and saw a door with a sign on it that said: Girly-Girl Playroom.

When I opened the door, I couldn’t believe my eyes. It was a lovely room. The walls were painted yellow, which made a warm and cozy light. The floor was carpeted. Paintings were taped to the yellow walls that looked like they had been done by orphans to make the room more fun. In one corner, I spotted two long couches. Between the couches were wooden tables.

Calm music played. Sitting in a cushioned chair was a beautiful girl with curly black hair, wearing a long dress. She looked a little bit like what my Mom looked like as a girl. Around her was a crowd of children listening to her read from a book. All of the girls wore gowns.

“Hello?” I said nervously. At that moment, all of the girls looked up at me. I continued, shyly, “I’m ,uh, I’m named, um, Kirena. I’m a, uh, new orphan here now. Also, if this was a poor orphanage, then why is this room so fancy and why are all of you wearing gowns?”

The girl who was reading looked at me. “That is a great question,” she said. “Ms. Erla makes us do jobs, and she also works a lot, so that we can have money. We share our earnings and give them to Ms. Erla. She lets us save a little money for buying cotton and silk for clothes, so that we can make them ourselves. We like to make them fancy.”

I smiled at the girl talking. I asked, “And why is this room so fancy?” Another girl, with straight brown hair and freckles on her cheeks, replied, “My home was burned down by a fire, but I managed to take some of the wood. I managed to find some scraps of carpet, too.”

I smiled at that girl, too. Then I pointed to the first girl, who was reading. “What is your name?” She replied, “Oh, my name is Carrie. And her name is...” Carrie pointed to the other girl with freckles. “Her name is Annie.” “Great! Have you all heard of the Solar Eclipse happening tomorrow? Want to come with me? It’s supposed to be amazing. After all, I think we’re all friends!”

“Wait!” Carrie stopped us from getting some sacks to put fruit in for the trip. “Will we have enough money? Doesn’t seeing this thing that is supposed to be amazing cost money?” “Oh, no. When I saw a flyer about it, it said we just had to go to where it is, on Mount Erv.”

“Let’s get seats over there on that beautiful grass!” Annie yelled to Carrie and me. And with that, we did. This was so exciting! Actually, I have really wanted to be a journalist, I will write about my whole interesting life when we’re done watching this! We were all looking down until we looked up. It was blinding. Then, when I opened my eyes from the brightness after two minutes of watching, I just saw black. What happened? I couldn’t see anything!

“What is wrong with you? Are you blind?” someone said, sounding like Annie. And sure enough, she was right! I felt how I did when I saw my mom die. I yelled and yelled. After all, I could never become a journalist now! My life was ruined! Annie and Carrie started yelling with me, too. They carried me by my arms, Annie on one side and Carrie on the other. They dragged me to the playroom and laid me down on the soft carpet. I felt done for.

Then I heard a soft voice talking. It sounded like Ms. Erla. She was teaching me English even though I’d been blinded. Every week, she would teach me how to write. I built up more and more knowledge until I could write blind. I made a newspaper about my life titled “Writing Blind.” Everybody in the town paid money to read it. The orphanage got more money from my writing, now that I had become known as a miracle through my life’s challenges. I was what I wanted to be.

I followed what Ms. Erla said to me when I first met her. I was a girl who went through challenges. I was a girl who could fight through the hard times and become what I always wanted to be: a journalist and a person with great friends. I was Kiera.

THE END



