

Celebrating Black History Month



Curriculum Ideas by Cathy Abraham



Some History

Taken from Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia



People of color arrived in the United States in the 15th century. Today there are over 36 million African Americans – approximately 1 out of every 8 citizens. Since the 19th century, most African Americans have been born in the United States. Almost half of the black population currently live in the southern states.

African heritage is present in all aspects of current life. Early significant contributions were made in iron-working, music, musical instruments, the decorative arts and architecture. Today, the fabric of American culture reflects the rich texture of African experiences, contributions, and influences.

The inhumane and immoral slave trade began in the early 1500's, when Portuguese traders brought slaves for agricultural labor to the American's. From 1502 – 1860 it is estimated that 10 million slaves were transported from Africa to the America's. Only about 6% of this figure were traded in British North America – with the majority brought to the Caribbean, Brazil, or the Spanish colonies of Central and South America. Most Africans taken to North America came from various cultures of western and west central Africa – territories that are now known as Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria.

African Americans – both free blacks and slaves - played an important role in the American Revolution. A slave from Lexington, Prince Estabrook, was listed among the first injured in the first battle of the war. Before the war was over, more than 5000 blacks from every state except Georgia and South Carolina served bravely for the freedom of this country.

Starting with Vermont in 1777, Northern states began to abolish slavery or passed gradual emancipation laws. By the 1830's, many groups had been formally organized to oppose slavery and promote racial advancement. In 1833, slavery was abolished in Canada. The "Underground Railroad" assisted many courageous blacks to freedom.

The American Civil War (1861 – 1865) was fought between the North - that did not believe in slavery; and the South, that economically benefited from slavery.

Although "free" after the Civil War, African Americans continued to face injustices and societal and economical hardships. In the 1880's, the "Jim Crow" system segregated and unfairly restricted blacks in southern states. Prejudice came in many forms – legal, employment, attitudinal, financial, educational, as well as direct, violent assaults.

Approximately 4,000 black soldiers served in the armed forces in World War I. Over a million black men, and 4000 black women served in the armed forces during WWII.

In the 40's and 50's brought a new awareness, and a movement began to gain momentum. Unfair and unjust treatment of blacks, and Southern segregation laws began to be challenged. In December 1955, a black activist named Rosa Parks refused to give



her seat to a white man, initiating what would become the boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama city buses.

There were many violent, inhumane incidences, and tragic, unnecessary casualties in the fight for civil rights.

Challenges and struggles in various forms are still present – out of which many great African American leaders have been born, and have led the way, with dignity and commitment.

Top 10 African-American Landmarks

Black history was made all over the country in different ways -- these ten reminders uplift and celebrate the African-American experience.

1 [Sweet Auburn District](#) -- Atlanta
Martin Luther King Jr. was born and laid to rest in this neighborhood.

2 [National Underground Railroad Freedom Center](#) -- Cincinnati
Educating visitors on the secret network to freedom.

3 [American Jazz Museum](#) -- Kansas City
A tribute to the music that popularized black culture.

4 [The Rosa Parks Bus](#) -- Detroit
The actual bus where the fight for Civil Rights began.

5 [Schomburg Center](#) -- New York
The largest library of African-American culture and history.

6 [DuSable Museum](#) -- Chicago
An impressive and sizable collection of art and memorabilia.

7 [Port Chicago Monument](#) -- San Francisco
A tribute to an event that led to the desegregation of the armed forces.

8 [Black Heritage Trail](#) -- Boston
Tour the important landmarks of black history in Beantown.

9 [The Ville](#) -- St. Louis
The hub of the black middle class in the midwest during the '20s.

10 [African-American Civil War Memorial](#) -- Washington, DC
Honoring the 209,145 black soldiers who fought in the Civil War

Free music CD, activity book and curriculum ideas on diversity and peacemaking:

Teaching Tolerance
400 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104

www.teachingtolerance.org

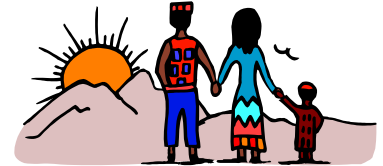
Posters for Black History Month:

www.posters4teachers.com/blackhistory.php



I Am a Black Child

I am a black child.
I am here because of the determination
and strength of those before me.
I come from far away kings and queens.
My people are people of hope and dignity.
I am a black child.



I am a black child.
Only my family welcomed my birth.
But the world will know me, and receive my gifts.
I will force them to look beyond
the poverty, the stereotypes, and
the color of my skin.
I am a black child.

I am a black child.
I carry within me the strength of thousands of years
And the dreams of many.
All things are possible for me
But this came at a high price to those before me.
I am a black child.

I am a black child.
I will change how the world thinks of me.
I will change the world.
I am a black child.

By Cathy Abraham



Black History Month



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Malcolm X</i> A speaker, organizer and activist in <i>Nation of Islam</i> , believing in black power
2 <i>Miriam Wright Edleman</i> Attorney & tireless kids advocate, founder <i>Childrens Defense</i>	3 <i>Medgar Evers</i> Civil Rights Activist, organizer of local chapters of NAACPs in Mississippi	4 <i>Colin Powell</i> First black officer to hold the highest military post in the USA; Presidential advisor	5 <i>Muddy Waters</i> Talented American blues artist, played major role in creating modern R&B	6 <i>Ralph W. Ellison</i> Teacher and author of “ <i>Invisible Man</i> ” 1952; Lecturer on black culture	7 <i>Dorothy Dandridge</i> First black woman to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress	8 <i>Louis Armstrong</i> Gifted jazz musician and composer, credited with originating the ‘scat’ vocal
9 <i>Nat Turner</i> Black American bonds man who led only effective, sustained slave rebellion 1831	10 <i>Maya Angelo</i> Black American poet whose autobiographical pieces explore forms of oppression	11 <i>Scott Joplin</i> Black composer & pianist known as the ‘King of Ragtime’ at the turn of the century	12 <i>Woodson Carter</i> American historian & educator who originated the field of Black Studies	13 <i>David A. Crossley</i> Inventor of the water boiler, adjustable thermostat & a type of vacuum pump	14 <i>Mary Eliza Church Terrell</i> Social activist, co-founder & first president of NACW	15 <i>Bessie Coleman</i> Early black aviator in the 1920’s; Star of air shows and expos
16 <i>Charles Houston</i> American lawyer & educator instrumental in outlawing racial segregation in schools	17 <i>Gwendolyn Bennett</i> Poet, short– story writer & artist during Harlem Renaissance	18 <i>Eubie Blake</i> Musician/composer part of the 1st black written/produced & directed musical	19 <i>Harriet Tubman</i> Leading abolitionist leading 100’s of blacks to freedom thru Underground RR	20 <i>Ida Bell Wells-Barnett</i> Journalist who let an anti-lynching crusade in the 1890’s	21 <i>Joseph Hunter Dickenson</i> Inventor of the player piano and phonograph	22 <i>Rosa Parks</i> Civil Rights activist that refused to give up seat on bus to a white, starting bus boycott
23 <i>Sarah B. Walker</i> 1st black female millionaire in US, created black hair products; Philanthropist	24 <i>Duke Ellington</i> Talented musician & bandleader; figure in big-band jazz, leading to Swing Era	25 <i>James VanDerZee</i> Photographer whose portraits of blacks in NY chronicled the Harlem Renaissance	26 <i>Sojourner Truth</i> Evangelist/Reformer who led abolitionist & women’s rights movements	27 <i>Booker T. Washington</i> Educator/Reformer, founder of Tuskegee University; Author	28 <i>Fredrick Douglas</i> Started anti-slavery newspaper ‘North Star’; Advisor to President Lincoln	

Quotes by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”



“It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can keep him from lynching me, and I think that is pretty important.”

“We must use time creatively and forever realize that time is always hope to do great things.”

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

“In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

“Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice. Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love.”

“We must combine the toughness of the serpent and the softness of the dove, a tough mind, and a tender heart.”

“People don’t get along because they fear each other. People fear each other because they don’t know each other. They don’t know each other because they have not properly communicated with each other.”

Ask:

**What Would
Dr. King Do?**



Open up a discussion with the children about heroes and role models. What makes someone a hero, and someone to look up to? Who do they look up to? Why?...

Activity Ideas:

Friendship Bus:

Tell the story of Rosa Parks and the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. Children can then make a pretend bus out of chairs. Draw a large bus and let children draw their faces in individual “window” of the bus.

“Black is Beautiful” Collage with positive images from magazine pictures

Fairness exercise:

Bring in some type of treat for the children (or a special activity.) Announce that only the children “wearing blue” can have the treat (or participate.) Immediately the children excluded will probably be aware that this is not fair and voice their feelings. Use this as a springboard for discussion, and then tie into Dr King’s message. After discussing, and agreeing that all children should be treated fairly, include everyone in original activity.

Same/Different activities:

Wrap 2 identical objects – one elaborately, one very simply. Open and discuss how things may look different on the outside, but on the inside can be the same.

Painting and decorating rocks can also serve as the same exercise, also illustrating this point. Discuss commonalities and differences among people.

Lay two dolls from homeliving side by side (one black, one white or Hispanic.) Compare what is the same (2 eyes, 2 arms, one mouth, both cry when hungry, etc.)

Dr King “I Have a Dream” pictures:

Cut around the edges of white pieces of paper to make “clouds.” After discussing or listening to the “I Have a Dream” speech by Dr. King, discuss the difference between the kind of dream we have when we are sleeping, and the kind of a dream that is a wish. Offer the children to opportunity to make a picture of what they wish/dream of being different in the world and what they think it would be like if everyone got along. Place multi-cultural crayons or markers out for the children to use, and show them all of the different skin tones.

Kente Cloth patterns

Learn more about the traditional ceremonial cloth once known as the cloth of kings. Read **“Kente Colors”** by Debbi Chocolate. Children can then design or sponge paint patterns onto fabric. Explore patterning activities. Demonstrate weaving.



Make your own Mancala Game!

Mancala is a traditional African counting game (for children ages 5 and up.)

What You Need:

- 1 cardboard egg carton
- 2 plastic butter dishes
- 1 large piece of cardboard that can hold the items above
- lots of marbles (or small rocks)
- small tokens
- glue, scissors and paint



What You Do:

- Take the egg carton and cut it in half so you have 12 little containers.
- Then take the cardboard and on one end place (do not glue yet) one butter dish and place the other butter dish on the other side.
- The egg carton should fit between the butter dishes.
- Paint everything from the cardboard to the dishes.
- Now you are ready to play.

How to Play:

- Sit across from your opponent and place game between the two of you so that your collection box (the butter dish) is to your right and opponent's box is to left.
- Fill each egg carton bin with 4 tokens, such as buttons or beans.
- The object is to collect the most tokens in your collection box.
- The youngest player can go first.
- Play begins by picking up all tokens in any one bin on your side of the game, which is the row facing you.
- Place a token in the bin to the right of the empty bin and continue dropping tokens one by one counterclockwise.
- If you reach your collection box, drop a token in the box and continue to your opponent's side until all tokens in your hand are distributed.
- Do not drop a token in your opponent's box.
- Gain an extra turn when the last token ends in your box.
- If the last token lands on your side of the game take all of your opponent's tokens from his bin opposite that empty bin.
- Place them in your box.
- Your opponent resumes play.
- When bins from one side of the game are empty, the game stops.
- Count tokens in boxes.

Trace Your Family Tree

in celebration of Black History Month

Celebrate Black History Month, and the richness of family culture by creating and researching your “Family Tree.” Learning about family history – genealogy - helps people to understand and appreciate the past, present, and future. Genealogy enables people to realize an ancestral legacy, and connect with the past. It helps to develop a sense of identity, and a sense of cultural heritage. Family history can also be helpful for medical reasons.

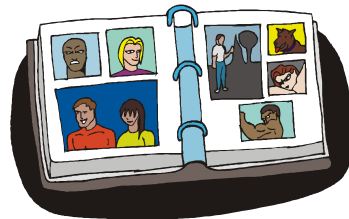
WHERE TO START...

- Talk to older living relatives, and record the information shared
- Host or attend family reunions, and share memories, pictures and experiences
- Pour through old family albums, and try to place people, dates, places and things
- Go through old family documents and personal items

HELPFUL RESOURCES...

Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 73067
Washington, DC 20056

www.rootsweb.com/~mdaahgs



National Genealogical Society
4527 17th Street, No.
Arlington, VA 22207
(800) 473-0060

www.ngsgenealogy.org

Learn all about names/origins of names, go on-line to:

www.pearlmoon.netpmschool/archtheme001.html

www.afrigenease.com

www.cyndislist.com (select “African-American” category)

Songs rooted in African American history and culture:

“We Shall Overcome”

“Amazing Grace”

“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”



Faith, church and gospel music have played a critical role in black history. Internal strength, strong spiritual beliefs, and the support and presence of the church have been credited with making the brutal experiences and the existence in a life of slavery more bearable.

For more historic information: “Rock of Ages: A Tribute to the Black Church” by Tonya Bolden, written in January 2002.

Guidelines for Determining if Children's Books Are Racist or Sexist

Adapted From Anti-Bias Curriculum by Louise Derman-Sparks



Check the copyright dates. Awareness and sensitivity toward stereotypes began in the early 1970's. Although there are many wonderful children's books published before 1970, the likelihood of something that is not "politically correct" is higher in older publications.

Check the illustrations. Look for stereotypes. If minority characters are included, do their features look just like whites, except for being tinted darker? Do the pictures have minorities in only subservient or passive roles? Are characters portrayed as "real people" or as stereotypes?

Check the story line. Is "making it" in the dominant white society portrayed as the only ideal? Is a particular problem faced by a minority character resolved through the benevolent intervention of a white person? Are women and girls acknowledged for initiative and intelligence – or due to good looks or being liked by males?

Look at the relationships between people. Do whites in the story possess all of the power and make the important decisions?

Look for dated words and terminology. Aside from words that are no longer considered appropriate, there are also words that lend themselves to negative assumptions or stereotypes: "savage", "primitive", "crafty", "backward", "superstitious", etc.

Look for tokenism. Is there just one black child and/or one Hispanic child, always in the background?



Partial List of Contributions of African-American Inventors



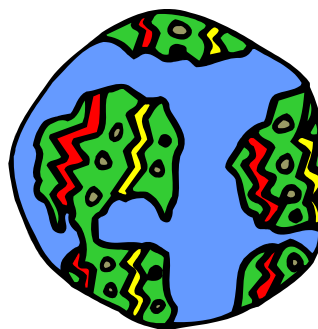
George Grant invented the golf tee, 1899
James Adams invented the propelling means for airplanes, 1891
Alfred Cralle invented the ice cream scoop, 1887
Oscar Brown - horse shoes, 1882
J.L.Love invented the pencil sharpener
W.B.Purvis invented the cartridge for fountain pens, 1890
A.P. Ashbourne - biscuit cutter (to make such round biscuits!)
Garrett Morgan invented the traffic light, 1923
Madame C.J. Walker created hair products for black americans
J.A.Burr -lawn mower, 1899
Sarah Boone - ironing board, 1892
P.B.Dowing - mailbox, 1891
Isaac Johnson – bicycle, 1889
J.M.Certain - bicycle basket, 1899
Robert F. Flemmings Jr – Guitar, 1886
Philip E. Emile – a type of transistorized circuit, 1961
Joseph Hunter Dickinson – player piano, phonograph, 1912, 1918
John Thomas Darkins – Ventilator, 1894
Lewis B. Dorcas – stove, 1907
Philip B. Downing – street railway switch, 1890
George Cruthers – far ultraviolet camera and spectrograph, 1969
John B. Christian – sophisticated chemical combinations, 70's – 80's
Edmond Berger – spark plug, 1839
Henry Blair – corn planting machine/corn harvesting machine, 1834
Dr Charles Richard Drew – blood bank



Many important contributions to our daily life have been made by African Americans!

Resources:

National Black Child Development Institute
1023 Fifteenth Street, NW #600
Washington, DC 20005
202/398-1281
www.nbcdi.org



The Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202/628-8787
www.childrensdefense.org

Afro-Am Education Materials
819 S. Wabash Ave.
Chicago, IL 60605
312/791-1611

Interracial Family Alliance
P.O. Box 16248
Houston, TX 77222
713/454-5018

Southern Poverty Law Center
400 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36104
Fax 334/956-8486
"Teaching Tolerance"
magazine (free)
www.teachingtolerance.org

CD-Roms:

First Start Biographies: Martin Luther King, Jr.
Imo and the King
Stories From Africa
Jackie Robinson: Baseball Hero *1st Start Biography*

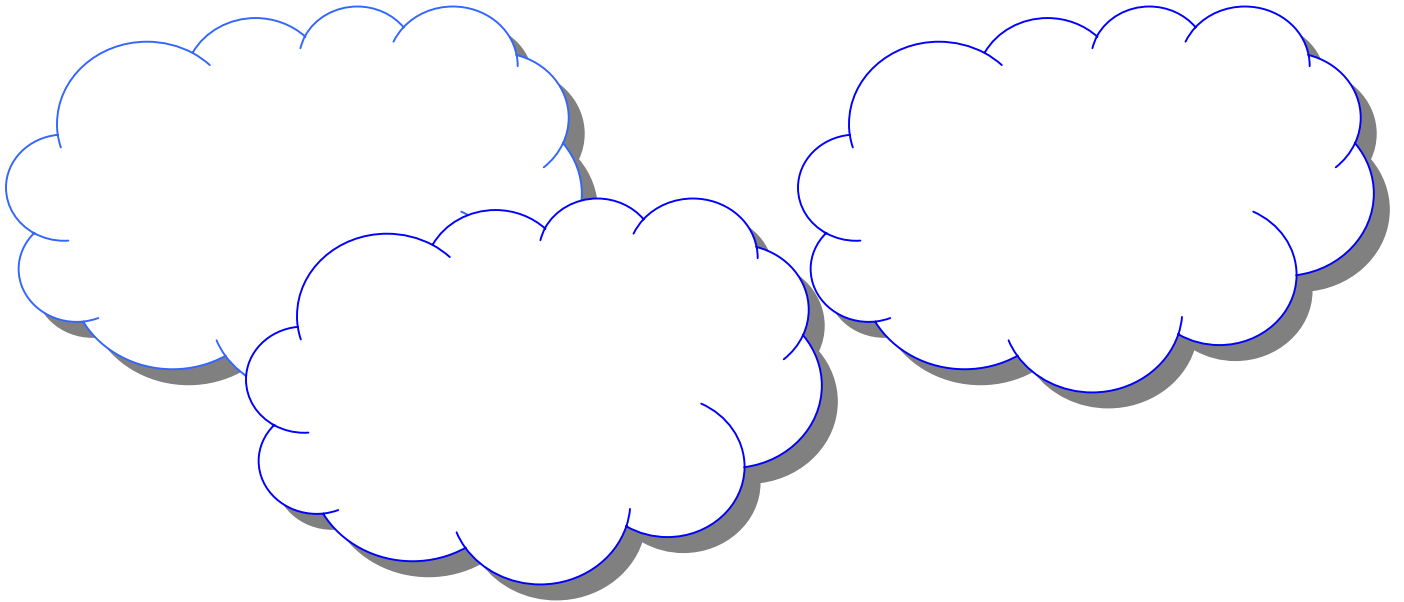
Videos:

American History for Children: African Amer. Life
Koi and the Kola Nuts
The Drinking Gourd
Children's Stories From Africa
Great Americans for Children: MLK, Jr.
Holidays for Children: MLK, Jr. Day
Great Americans for Children: Harriet Tubman

Music CD's:

*Gift Of The Tortoise: A Musical Journey Through
Southern Africa* ~ Ladysmith Black Mambazo
Cajun for Kids ~ Papillion
Multicultural Children's Songs ~ Ella Jenkins
Sharing Cultures with Ella Jenkins ~ Folkways

“I Have A Dream”



“I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”



- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr
August 28, 1963
Lincoln Memorial, Washington, DC

Books Celebrating Black History Month:

Black Books Galore!

A Guide to Great African American Children's Books About Girls

Black Books Galore!

A Guide to Great African American Children's Books About Boys

The Palm of my Heart

A collection of 20 poems by African American children

Ashley Bryan's ABC of African American Poetry

Shades of Black: A Celebration of Our Children

Scholastic



In The Time Of The Drums

Let It Shine: Stories of Ten Black Women Freedom Fighters

by Andrea D. Pinkney

In Daddy's Arms I Am Tall: African Americans Celebrating Fathers

Uptown *by Bryan Collier*

A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr

By David A. Adler

Portraits of African-American Heroes

By Tonya Bolden

Martin Luther King

By Rosemary L. Bray

Harriet Tubman and Black History Month

By Polly Carter

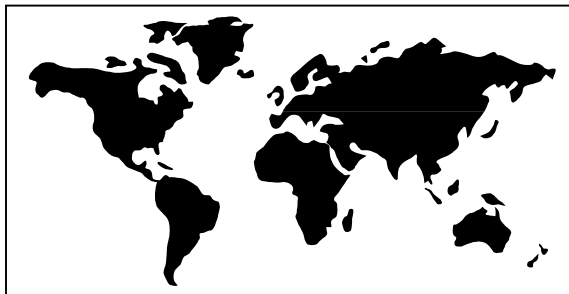
Thank you, Dr King! (Little Bill Series)

By Robin Reed

I, Too

I, too, sing America.
I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.
Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.
Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed-
I, too, am America.

-Langston Hughes



It Happened in Montgomery

for Rosa Parks

Then he slammed on the brakes-
Turned around and grumbled.
But she was tired that day.
Weariness was in her bones.
And so the thing she's done yesterday,
And yesteryear,
On her workdays,
Churchdays,
Nothing-to-do-I'll-go-and-visit
Sister Annie Days-
She felt she'd never do again.
And he growled once more.
So she said:
"No sir...I'm stayin' right here."
And he gruffly grabbed her,
Pulled and pushed her-
Then sharply shoved her through the doors.
The news slushed through the littered streets
Slipped into the crowded churches,
Slimmered onto the unmagnolied side of town.
While the men talked and talked and talked.
She-
Who was tired that day,
Cried and sobbed that she was
glad she'd done it.
That her soul was satisfied.
That Lord knows,
A little walkin' never hurt anybody;
That in one of those unplanned,
unexpected
Unadorned moments-
A weary woman turned the page
of History.

-Phil W. Petrie

Cookbooks: African American

Cookbooks with African American recipes (also known as soul food) and culinary history. *From: About.com*

The African-American Kitchen: Cooking from Our Heritage

by Angela Shelf Medearis

More than 250 culturally rich recipes from Africa, the Caribbean, and the American South. Paperback

Kwanzaa, An African-American Celebration Of Culture And Cooking

by Eric V. Copage

This cookbook celebrates Kwanzaa with stories and more than 125 treasured recipes from people of African descent all over the world. You will find recipes from Texas Chili to Red Snapper En Papillote Caribbean. Paperback

Iron Pots Wooden Spoons: Africa's Gift to New World Cooking

by Jessica Harris

This cookbook explores the influence of African cookery on Cajun, Creole, South American and Caribbean cuisine. 175 recipes that echo the tastes of Africa. Paperback

The Welcome Table: African American Heritage Cooking

by Jessica Harris

Another super cookbook from Jessica Harris, this cookbook offers more than 200 new and traditional recipes. Paperback

A Kwanzaa Keepsake: Celebrating with New Traditions & Feasts

by Jessica Harris

A guide to the seven days of Kwanzaa, celebrated with dozens of innovative recipes. Paperback

Sylvia's Family Soul Food Cookbook

by Sylvia Woods

South Carolina family recipes from well-known Harlem restaurant owner Sylvia Woods. Hardcover

The Taste of Country Cooking

by Edna Lewis

Many simple but wonderful family memories and recipes from Edna Lewis. Dandelion Blossom Wine, Virginia Fried Chicken with Browned Gravy, Fried Green Corn, Hickory Nut Cookies, and many, many more. Paperback

Brief Timeline Overview of the American Civil Rights Movement

1954

Brown v. Board of Education

1955

Montgomery Bus Boycott

"I refuse to accept the view . . . that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality."

Dr. M. L. King

1957

Desegregation at Little Rock

1960

Sit-in Campaign

1961

Freedom Rides

1962

Mississippi Riot

1963

Birmingham

March on Washington

1965

Selma, Alabama



Simple Words in Swahili

Hello! Hi!	Habari!
How are you?	Hujambo?
Good/Fine	Nzuri
Bad	Mbaya
Thank you (very much)	Asante (sana)
Please	Tafadhali
Goodbye	Kwaheri
Welcome	Karibu
Danger	Hatari
Friend	Rafiki
Sorry	Samahani/Pole
Excuse me please	Samahani
Help me, please!	Nisaidie, tafadhali!
Where are you going to?	Unakwenda wapi?
I am travelling	Ninasafiri
Car	Gari
Bicycle	Baiskeli
Motorcycle	Pikipiki
Cold	Baridi
Hot	Moto
Food, Meal	Chakula
Eat	Kula
Please, bring me some hot food quickly!	Naomba chakula moto haraka!
I am (very) hungry!	Nina njaa (sana)! (Nasikia njaa sana!)
Bring me a cold drink, please!	Nipatie kinywaji baridi, tafadhali!
I am (very) thirsty!	Nina kiu (sana)! (Nasikia kiu sana!)
Drink (noun)	Kinywaji
Drink (verb)	Kunywa
I can speak Swahili!	Ninaweza kusema Kiswahili!

I am (very) happy!	Nimefurahi (sana)!
I can't speak Swahili!	Siwezi kusema Kiswahili!
I am angry!	Nimekasirika!
Where?	Wapi?
When?	Lini?
How?	Vipi?
What?	Nini?
Who?	Nani?
Which?	Ipi?

Between peers: "**Habari!**" and the greeted answers, "**Nzuri!**".

Between peers: "**Hujambo?**" (Are you fine?) and the greeted answers, "**Sijambo!**" (I'm fine!)

Young to older: "**Shikamoo!**" (originally it meant "I touch your feet" as a sign of respect) and the greeted answers, "**Marahabaa!**" (I acknowledge your respect!).

I	Mimi
We	Sisi
You (singular)	Wewe
You (plural)	Nyinyi
He	Yeye
She	Yeye
They	Wao

From: Yahoooligans.com

Related Books:

Ashanti to Zulu *by Margaret Musgrove*

Jambo Means Hello *by Mureal Feelings*

Related Activities:

- Bring in a globe and show children where Africa is
- Teach children how to do "The Limbo"
- Make African drums (from oatmeal containers)
- Ella Jenkins music: "Jambo Means Hello"
- Make African jewelry or masks
- Research and discuss the significant contributions of African Americans



A Real Bouquet

Author Unknown



Everybody has two eyes
Bright as stars they shine
But their color may not be
Just the same as mine.

Brown or blue, gray or green
What difference does it make?
As long as you can see the sun
Shining when you wake

Some folks' hair is very black
Some have blonde or brown
Whatever color it may be
It's a pretty crown

Flowers have so many shades
And I'm sure you know
Many lovely gardens
Where such flowers grow

Children in this great big world
Are flowers in a way
Some are light, some are dark
Like a real bouquet

Did you ever stop to think
How awful it would be
If everybody looked the same...
Who would know you from me?



A Different Language

Author Unknown

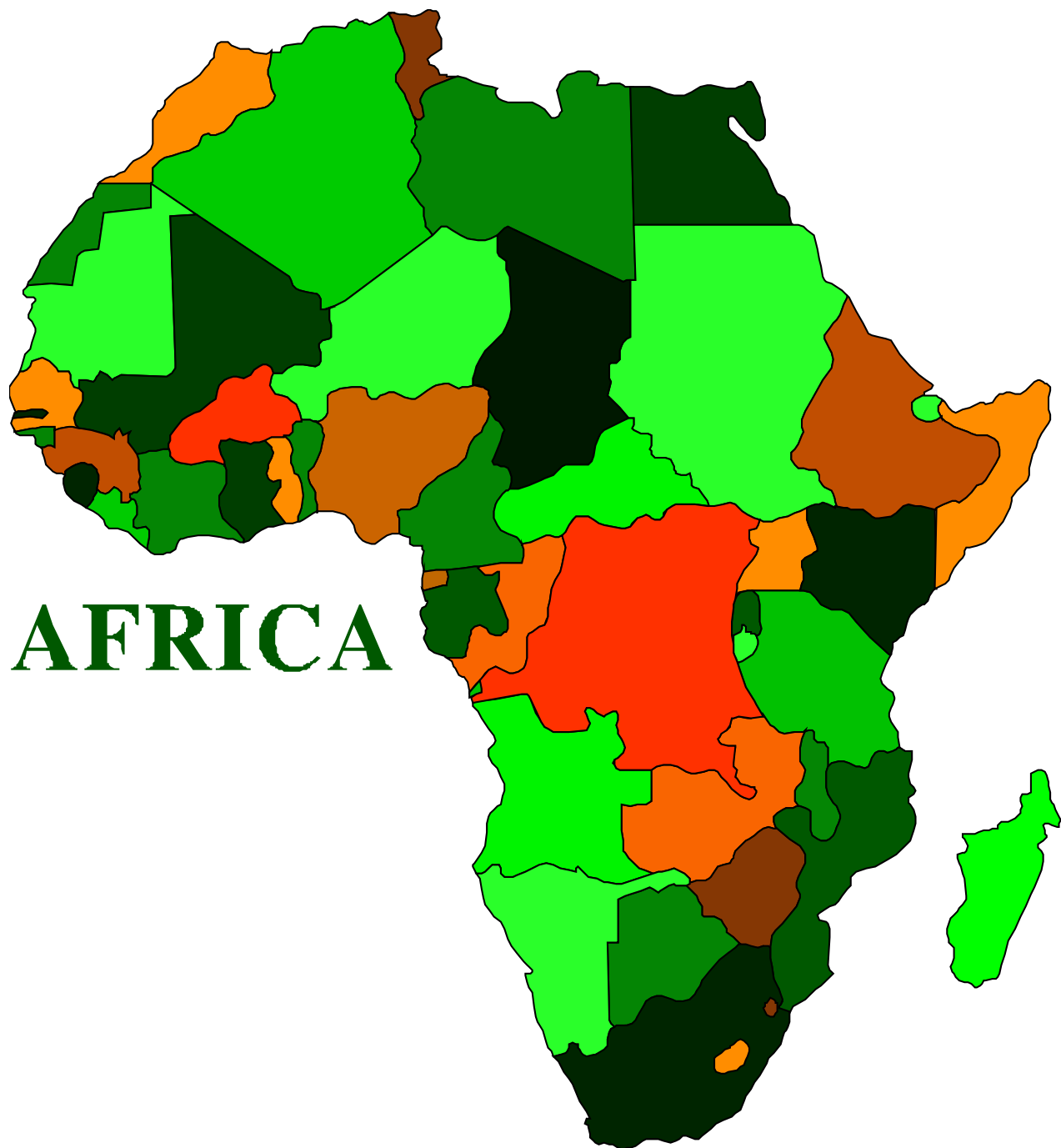
I met a little girl
Who came from another land.
I couldn't speak her language
but I took her by the hand.
We danced together,
Had such fun
Dancing is a language
You can speak with everyone.



Children of the Rainbow

Author Unknown

Dancing, singing, let's join hands!
Every child understands
Each one's color is just right
To make our world a rainbow bright.





AFRICAN PARTICIPATION STORY -

TRADITIONAL

This participation story is a very abbreviated and incomplete version of what has really happened in Africa over many centuries.

Nevertheless, it gives a dramatic example of the effect of man, industrialization and weather changes on an indigenous animal kingdom.

ALL PLAYERS:

Africa - drums (on ground)

Drought - tongues flapping

Fire - wave hands above heads for flames

Rain - swoosh, swoosh

Individuals or Small Groups:

Lions - roar

Elephants - trumpet

Birds, bugs and little animals - squeak, zzzzz, whistle

Fish - fins swimming, silent mouthing

Vultures - caw, caw (shrill)

Hunters - bang, bang (gun)

Woodmen - axes chopping

Organize the groups or individuals who will do the sounds. Have everyone practice. Then practice the sounds for "all players". Explain that you will be reading a story, and when you mention their special word, you will pause and they come in with their sound.

Once upon a time, in Africa, the lion was king of the jungle, and the elephant was king of the grassland. The lion and his family (called a pride) roamed all over the jungle, and the elephants with their enormous herds, roamed all over the grassland. The native people, who lived in Africa, in their mud or grass huts, respected king lion and king elephant. In fact, they were a little bit afraid of them! In the jungles of Africa there were millions of birds, bugs and little animals. In the waterholes all over Africa were many fish.

Vultures flew overhead always looking for dead creatures to feed on. Then men came from Europe and they looked for jewels and minerals to make them rich. Hunters came and killed lions because they were ferocious, and elephants because their tusks were valuable as ivory.

The vultures feasted on the dead bodies of the elephants and lions. Woodmen came and cut down the trees in the jungles, because the wood made valuable furniture for rich European homes. Then the birds, bugs and little

animals had nowhere to live. Then came the drought, and the waterholes dried up and the fish died.

The vultures were kept very busy eating all the dead bodies. The native people were starving. Careless hunters and woodmen dropped matches and the dry jungles and dry grasslands were destroyed by fire. Where could the lions, elephants, fish, birds, bugs and little animals live?

It was decided to set aside special wildlife parks where all of the endangered animals could live and be protected. Soon the rains came and the land was beautiful again.

But, don't you think it is sad that wonderful, wild animals such as the lion, elephant, fish, birds, bugs and little animals have to be protected in their own country?



- Traditional -

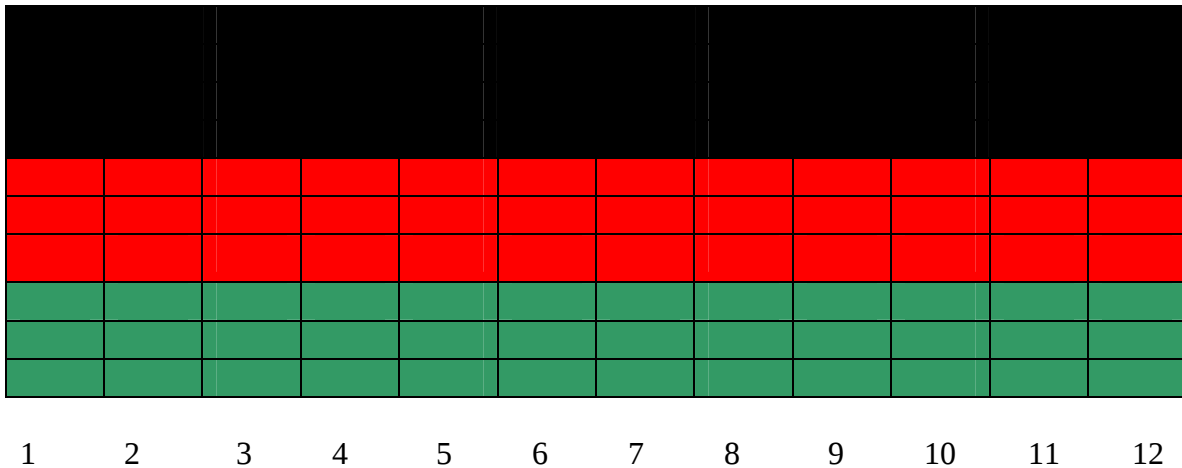
Africa Flag Bead Pin

Materials Needed:

- Twelve (12) 1 1/16-inch small Safety Pins (small safety pins)
- One (1) large 2-inch Safety Pins (a large safety pin, to put smaller ones onto)
- Small seed Beads in red, green, black and white

Instructions:

Each number column represents a pin; for example, your first pin will 3 green beads, 3 red beads, 4 black beads; Your other pins will be the same; Thread these beaded pins onto your larger pin – hanging in a row. If you have done the sequence correctly on the small pins, the pins/beads will line up to make a flag of Africa pattern....



Order of colors of beads to put onto on each individual small safety pin (12 pins total):

1: **3 green beads, 3 red beads, 4 black beads**

2: **“**

3: **“**

4: **“**

5 - 12 **All pins will be made with the beads in the same color order...**

Variation(s): Make a fence “flag” with black, red and green streamers woven through a chain link fence; **Or:** Draw the outline of flag colors onto a piece of posterboard or butcher paper. Children can tear and glue small pieces of paper of that color in the 3 designated places, creating the flag. (or items of that color, making a 3D “I Spy” flag); **Or:** Create a patterning activity – with children repeatedly putting these 3 colors in order.

Culture and family traditions can be found in:



- Things we eat
- Ways we dress
- What and how we celebrate
- The language we speak
- What is important to us
- The stories handed down
- Artwork
- Music
- Our genetics

Shades of Black



I am Black
I am Unique
I am the Creamy White frost
in a vanilla ice cream
And milky Smooth Brown
in a chocolate bar
I am the Midnight Blue
in a licorice stick
And Golden Brown
in sugar
I am the Velvety Orange
in a peach
And the Coppery Brown
in a pretzel
I am the Radiant Brassy Yellow
in popcorn
And the Gingery Brown
in a cookie
I am Black
I am Unique
I come from ancient
Kings and Queens.
When you look at me,
What do you see?
I am Black
I am proud to be me

By Sandra L. Pickney
From the book "Shades Of Black" © 2000

BIRMINGHAM SUNDAY

By Richard Farina, 1964

Come round by my side and I'll sing you a song.
I'll sing it so softly, it'll do no one wrong.
On Birmingham Sunday the blood ran like wine,
And the choirs kept singing of Freedom.

That cold autumn morning no eyes saw the sun,
And Addie Mae Collins, her number was one.
At an old Baptist church there was no need to run.
And the choirs kept singing of Freedom,

The clouds they were grey and the autumn winds blew,
And Denise McNair brought the number to two.
The falcon of death was a creature they knew,
And the choirs kept singing of Freedom,

The church it was crowded, but no one could see
That Cynthia Wesley's dark number was three.
Her prayers and her feelings would shame you and me.
And the choirs kept singing of Freedom.

Young Carol Robertson entered the door
And the number her killers had given was four.
She asked for a blessing but asked for no more,
And the choirs kept singing of Freedom.

On Birmingham Sunday a noise shook the ground.
And people all over the earth turned around.
For no one recalled a more cowardly sound.
And the choirs kept singing of Freedom.

The men in the forest they once asked of me,
How many black berries grew in the Blue Sea.
And I asked them right with a tear in my eye.
How many dark ships in the forest?

The Sunday has come and the Sunday has gone.
And I can't do much more than to sing you a song.
I'll sing it so softly, it'll do no one wrong.
And the choirs keep singing of Freedom

Note: The piece “Birmingham Sunday” is meant more for us adults, and not to be used with the children. It is included to remind us of the pain, suffering, ignorance, sacrifices and the costs and casualties involved in the Civil Rights movement.



People of Color Role Models:

Music:



Sports/Athletes:



The Arts:



Politics:



Writers:



Education:



Science:



Research and list several individuals in each area.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER - AMERICAN HERO

The farmers of the south were frightened
By a little bug!
It's name was the boll weevil,
Smaller than a slug.

It ate up all the cotton crops,
And no one knew what to do,
Until Professor Carver
Showed them a thing or two!



“Plant some peanuts!” Carver said,
“Those weevils won’t eat them!
Peanuts will help the soil...
And those weevils – we’ll defeat ‘em!”

The farmers did what Carver said,
The peanuts grew and grew!
“We’ve got too many nuts”, said the farmers
“Now what to do?”



Professor Carver went into his lab
And had a long think.
He worked with peanuts day and night.
And as quick as a wink...
He used nuts to make all kinds of things
From bread to ink!

~ *Helen H. Moore*