

Black History Trivia Study Guide

Welcome to the Black History Trivia Study Guide!

We are so excited to celebrate Black History as a community through this engaging trivia event hosted by For the Culture Homeschool! This guide is designed to help you learn about Black history while practicing strong study habits.

Our trivia game will be played in teams to encourage collaboration and fun. Teams will be formed by drawing names, so everyone will have the chance to connect and work with new friends.

Let's honor and celebrate the achievements, contributions, and resilience of Black individuals throughout history. Happy studying and we can't wait to see you at the trivia event!

Black Literature

1. This influential poet and civil rights activist published her famous poem 'Still I Rise' in 1978, addressing themes of resilience and dignity in the face of oppression.
Answer: Who is Maya Angelou?
2. Author of the novel "Beloved," a haunting tale of slavery and its aftermath.
Answer: Who is Toni Morrison?
3. This play by Lorraine Hansberry explores the dreams and struggles of a Black family living in Chicago.
Answer: What is "A Raisin in the Sun"?
4. Ralph Ellison wrote this novel about an unnamed Black man's experiences with racism in America.
Answer: What is "Invisible Man"?
5. This author's work often explored themes of identity, race, and the African American experience.
Answer: Who is Langston Hughes?
6. This novel by Alice Walker tells the story of Celie, a Black woman who overcomes hardship and finds her voice.
Answer: What is "The Color Purple"?
7. This author is known for their powerful poetry collections, including "We Wear the Mask."
Answer: Who is Paul Laurence Dunbar?
8. This novel by Toni Morrison explores themes of family, identity, and the legacy of slavery.
Answer: What is "Song of Solomon"?
9. This contemporary poet and writer is known for the work "The Fire Next Time," which examines racial tensions in America during the 1960s.
Answer: Who is James Baldwin?
10. This Black feminist poet and essayist is known for their book "Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America."
Answer: Who is Melissa V. Harris-Perry?
11. This poet and activist is known for their works such as "A Wreath for Emmett Till," exploring themes of race and identity.
Answer: Who is Marilyn Nelson?
12. This author is known for the novel "Between the World and Me," a letter to his son about race, history, and the African American experience.
Answer: Who is Ta-Nehisi Coates?

Black Sports Icons

1. This athlete broke Major League Baseball's color barrier in 1947 when he debuted with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Answer: Who is Jackie Robinson?

2. Known as "The Greatest," this heavyweight boxer became a global icon for his athleticism and outspoken political activism.

Answer: Who is Muhammad Ali?

3. In 1936, this track and field star defied Hitler's propaganda by winning four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics.

Answer: Who is Jesse Owens?

4. This tennis legend was the first Black player to win the U.S. Open, Australian Open, and Wimbledon and was a prominent civil rights activist.

Answer: Who is Arthur Ashe?

5. This basketball legend led the Boston Celtics to 11 NBA championships and became the league's first Black head coach.

Answer: Who is Bill Russell?

6. Known as the "fastest woman in the world," she won three gold medals at the 1960 Rome Olympics, overcoming childhood polio.

Answer: Who is Wilma Rudolph?

7. This sprinter and long jumper became a cultural icon and six-time Olympic medalist, earning the title of Sports Illustrated's "Athlete of the Century."

Answer: Who is Carl Lewis?

8. The first Black woman to compete on the U.S. Olympic gymnastics team, she also became the first to win all-around gold at the 2012 Olympics.

Answer: Who is Gabby Douglas?

9. Known as "The Tiger" of golf, he became the first Black golfer to win the Masters in 1997 and holds numerous records in the sport.

Answer: Who is Tiger Woods?

10. This pioneering golfer broke racial barriers as the first Black man to compete in a PGA Tour event in 1948.

Answer: Who is Charlie Sifford?

Black STEM/ Inventors

1. This inventor developed the first successful blood bank, revolutionizing medicine and saving countless lives.
Answer: Who is Dr. Charles Drew?
2. This mathematician and "human computer" helped NASA by calculating trajectories for astronaut flights, including John Glenn's spaceflight.
Answer: Who is Katherine Johnson?
3. Known as the "Father of Black History," this scholar created the field of African American history and coined the term "Black History Week."
Answer: Who is Carter G. Woodson?
4. This engineer and inventor is credited with developing the modern-day traffic signal.
Answer: Who is Garrett Morgan?
5. This chemist discovered a method to extract vitamins from sweet potatoes and developed a more efficient process for creating insulin.
Answer: Who is George Washington Carver?
6. This physicist and inventor is credited with developing the first patent for the "super soaker" water gun.
Answer: Who is Lonnie Johnson?
7. This physician and NASA astronaut became the first African American woman to travel in space aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour in 1992.
Answer: Who is Dr. Mae Jemison?
8. This inventor created the first automatic lubricating cup for the steam engine and improved the design of early railcars.
Answer: Who is Elijah McCoy?
9. This inventor developed the first integrated circuit, an essential component for the development of modern electronics.
Answer: Who is Dr. Mark Dean?
10. This biochemist and pioneer of organic chemistry was the first African American woman to earn a PhD in chemistry in the United States.
Answer: Who is Alice Ball?
11. This engineer invented the first automatic refrigerated food transport system, improving food preservation and transportation.
Answer: Who is Frederick McKinley Jones?
12. This inventor created a mechanical device to assist people with hearing loss, laying the groundwork for modern hearing aids.
Answer: Who is Granville T. Woods?

13. This mathematician created a system of classification for African plants and helped advance studies in botany and plant genetics.

Answer: Who is Dr. St. Elmo Brady?

Black Civil Rights Activists.

1. This activist famously refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, helping to spark the Civil Rights Movement.

Answer: Who is Rosa Parks?

2. This former slave became one of the most prominent abolitionists and a leading voice for women's rights, famously delivering the "Ain't I a Woman?" speech.

Answer: Who is Sojourner Truth?

3. Known for his advocacy of Black nationalism, this activist led the Nation of Islam and was later assassinated in 1965.

Answer: Who is Malcolm X?

4. This legal scholar became the first African American Supreme Court Justice and fought for civil rights through his work as a lawyer and judge.

Answer: Who is Thurgood Marshall?

5. This singer and activist was an outspoken critic of racial inequality and became involved in the Civil Rights Movement, writing songs like "Mississippi Goddam."

Answer: Who is Nina Simone?

6. This journalist and educator was a leading figure in the fight for Black women's rights and the co-founder of the National Association of Colored Women.

Answer: Who is Ida B. Wells?

7. This influential figure co-founded the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and was involved in sit-ins and Freedom Rides.

Answer: Who is John Lewis?

8. This lawyer and activist became the first African American woman elected to the U.S. Congress.

Answer: Who is Shirley Chisholm?

9. This prominent Black writer and civil rights activist co-founded the NAACP and published "The Souls of Black Folk."

Answer: Who is W.E.B. Du Bois?

10. Known for his "I Am a Man" slogan, this sanitation worker led a 1968 strike that helped bring attention to workers' rights and racial inequality in Memphis.

Answer: Who is Reverend James Lawson?

11. This outspoken activist and journalist founded the Black Panther Party to address issues of racial injustice and police brutality.
Answer: Who is Huey P. Newton?
12. This clergyman and activist led the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and delivered the famous "I Have a Dream" speech during the 1963 March on Washington.
Answer: Who is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?
13. This African American woman, one of the first to integrate a public school in Little Rock, became a symbol of the struggle for desegregation.
Answer: Who is Elizabeth Eckford?

Modern Activists

1. This activist and co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement became an advocate for racial justice and police reform after the deaths of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown.
Answer: Who is Patrisse Cullors?
2. Known for his activism against police brutality, this former NFL player sparked national conversation with his kneeling protests during the national anthem.
Answer: Who is Colin Kaepernick?
3. This educator and activist is known for organizing youth-led protests and pushing for racial justice through education reform, including her advocacy for restorative justice practices.
Answer: Who is Tamika Mallory?
4. A prominent voice in the Black Lives Matter movement, this activist has called for an end to systemic racism and inequality through policy reform and grassroots organizing.
Answer: Who is Alicia Garza?
5. This organizer was a leader in the #MeToo movement, advocating for survivors of sexual violence and working to create a more inclusive society for women of color.
Answer: Who is Tarana Burke?
6. This activist became known for her role in protesting police violence and advocating for justice reform, particularly in the wake of George Floyd's death.
Answer: Who is DeRay Mckesson?
7. A strong advocate for LGBTQ+ rights, this activist fights for racial equality and is known for their involvement with the Black Lives Matter movement.
Answer: Who is Marsha P. Johnson?
8. This political strategist and activist is known for her work in organizing for voting rights and promoting Black political power.
Answer: Who is Stacey Abrams?
9. This journalist and activist has focused on racial justice issues, particularly in the context of education, and is the author of the book *Between the World and Me*.

Answer: Who is Ta-Nehisi Coates?

10. A key leader in the fight for racial equality, this activist works to dismantle voter suppression laws and has been a vocal advocate for civil rights in the Trump era.

Answer: Who is Kimberlé Crenshaw?

Black Politics/Laws

1. This 1964 law, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Answer: What is the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

2. This landmark 1954 Supreme Court case declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional.

Answer: What is Brown v. Board of Education?

3. This 1965 act aimed to eliminate racial discrimination in voting, securing the right to vote for African Americans.

Answer: What is the Voting Rights Act of 1965?

4. The first African American U.S. President, elected in 2008, was a transformative figure in politics and policy.

Answer: Who is Barack Obama?

5. This politician was the first African American to serve as a U.S. Senator, representing Mississippi from 1870 to 1871.

Answer: Who is Hiram Revels?

6. This amendment, ratified in 1865, officially abolished slavery in the United States.

Answer: What is the 13th Amendment?

7. This 1968 act, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, provided equal housing opportunities for all, regardless of race.

Answer: What is the Fair Housing Act of 1968?

8. This U.S. Supreme Court case in 1896 upheld the doctrine of "separate but equal," legally sanctioning segregation.

Answer: What is Plessy v. Ferguson?

9. The first African American woman to be elected to Congress, representing New York from 1969 to 1983.

Answer: Who is Shirley Chisholm?

10. This amendment, ratified in 1870, granted African American men the right to vote.

Answer: What is the 15th Amendment?

11. In 1963, this march in Washington, D.C., was a turning point for civil rights, where Dr. King delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech.

Answer: What is the March on Washington?

12. This 1890 law in the South enforced racial segregation and disenfranchised African Americans, significantly restricting their political rights.

Answer: What are Jim Crow Laws?

13. This influential 1967 Supreme Court case ruled that state laws banning interracial marriage were unconstitutional.

Answer: What is Loving v. Virginia?

14. The first African American woman to serve as a U.S. Supreme Court justice, appointed in 2022.

Answer: Who is Ketanji Brown Jackson?

15. This law, signed in 1866, granted citizenship to all persons born in the U.S., including formerly enslaved individuals.

Answer: What is the Civil Rights Act of 1866?

Black Musicians

1. This singer was the first African American woman to win a Grammy Award for Best New Artist in 1976.

Answer: Who is Natalie Cole?

2. This artist became the first African American woman to win an Academy Award for Best Actress in 2002 for her role in *Monster's Ball*.

Answer: Who is Halle Berry?

3. This rapper became the first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 2018 for his album *DAMN*.

Answer: Who is Kendrick Lamar?

4. This groundbreaking artist was the first African American woman to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1990.

Answer: Who is Aretha Franklin?

5. This singer was the first African American artist to have a solo album debut at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart with her self titled album.

Answer: Who is Whitney Houston?

6. This artist became the first woman to win five Grammy Awards in one night in 2002, including Song of the Year for 'Fallin'.

Answer: Who is Alicia Keys?

7. This artist is the first African American to headline the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in 2018, making history as a solo headliner.

Answer: Who is Beyoncé?

8. In 1963, this artist became the first African American male to host *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

Answer: Who is Sammy Davis Jr.?

9. This musician became the first African American to win the prestigious Kennedy Center Honor for his contributions to jazz music.

Answer: Who is Duke Ellington?

10. This pioneering artist was the first African American to perform at the Metropolitan Opera House in 1955.

Answer: Who is Marian Anderson?

11. This singer is the first African American artist to receive the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy.

Answer: Who is Dorothy Dandridge?

12. This artist was the first African American woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993.

Answer: Who is Toni Morrison?

13. This influential R&B singer became the first African American woman to chart at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 with the song "Respect."

Answer: Who is Aretha Franklin?

Black Business Leaders

1. This entrepreneur became the first African American to appear on the Forbes 400 list, with his company BET (Black Entertainment Television).

Answer: Who is Robert L. Johnson?

2. This woman became the first African American woman to become a self-made millionaire through her beauty and haircare products.

Answer: Who is Madam C.J. Walker?

3. He became the first African American to own a major league sports team, purchasing the NBA's Charlotte Hornets.

Answer: Who is Michael Jordan?

4. This businessman was the first African American to own a large chain of radio stations, including the iconic WBLS in New York.

Answer: Who is Percy Sutton?

5. This woman was the first African American woman to serve as a CEO of a publicly traded company, BET Networks.

Answer: Who is Debra Lee?

6. This entrepreneur became the first African American woman to found a national fashion brand, focusing on designing and selling women's apparel.

Answer: Who is Ann Lowe?

7. This businessman was the first African American to build a major hotel chain, including the establishment of the first black-owned luxury hotels in the U.S.

Answer: Who is Robert L. Johnson?

8. This real estate developer became the first African American to own a skyscraper in downtown Chicago.

Answer: Who is John W. Rogers Jr.?

9. This man was the first African American to head a major insurance company, leading the Aetna company in the 1990s.

Answer: Who is Ron Williams?

10. This woman became the first African American woman to establish a company that was listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Answer: Who is Ursula Burns?

11. This automotive executive became the first African American Vice President of Global Design at General Motors, serving from 2003 to 2016.

Answer: Who is Ed Welburn?

12. This man became the first African American to own and operate a nationwide restaurant franchise chain, particularly in fast food.

Answer: Who is Herman J. Russell?

13. This African American businessman was the first to own a major franchise in the 7-Eleven chain, significantly growing the franchise's impact.

Answer: Who is Earl G. Graves Sr.?

14. This woman became the first African American woman to serve as the CEO of a publicly traded technology company.

Answer: Who is Rosalind Brewer?

15. This entrepreneur was the first African American to successfully bring a national bank to the U.S., founding OneUnited Bank.

Answer: Who is Kevin Cohee?

Black Fashion

1. This Somali-American model became the first Black supermodel to achieve international fame in the 1970s and is known for her work with designers like Yves Saint Laurent.

Answer: Who is Iman?

2. This hip-hop mogul launched the pioneering urban fashion brand Phat Farm in 1992, helping establish the fashion-hip hop connection.

Answer: Who is Russell Simmons?

3. This pioneering Black fashion designer was the first African American to have her designs featured in the prestigious Coty Award ceremony in 1954.

Answer: Who is Ann Lowe?

4. This Harlem-based designer is known for popularizing luxury streetwear, making custom clothes for hip-hop moguls in the 1980s and '90s.

Answer: Who is Dapper Dan?

5. This iconic fashion style, popular in the 1940s and often associated with African American culture, featured high-waisted, wide-legged trousers and oversized jackets.

Answer: What are Zoot Suits?

6. This African American designer was the first to launch a line of high-end fashion clothing specifically for African American women, blending haute couture and Black heritage.

Answer: Who is Tracy Reese?

7. This groundbreaking Black designer became the first African American to be inducted into the Fashion Walk of Fame in New York City.

Answer: Who is Patrick Kelly?

8. This Black fashion icon was the first African American to become the creative director for the luxury brand Louis Vuitton, shaping the brand's direction in the 21st century.

Answer: Who is Virgil Abloh?

9. Known for blending African-inspired textiles with modern designs, this designer was the first to show collections at the New York Fashion Week, representing African culture.

Answer: Who is Ozwald Boateng?

10. This rapper turned designer was the first African American to collaborate with Adidas to launch a line that merged music, fashion, and sport.

Answer: Who is Kanye West?

11. Known for his boundary-pushing designs and sartorial elegance, this designer was the first African American to launch a collection for the prestigious Fashion Week in Paris.

Answer: Who is André Leon Talley?

12. This fashion icon was the first African American male to become a prominent model for luxury brands such as Ralph Lauren and Jean Paul Gaultier in the 1980s.

Answer: Who is Tyson Beckford?

Black Historical events

1. This event, occurring in 1963, marked a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement when over 250,000 people gathered in Washington D.C. for jobs and freedom.

Answer: What is the March on Washington?

2. This 1965 act signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson aimed to eliminate racial discrimination in voting practices across the U.S.

Answer: What is the Voting Rights Act of 1965?

3. This violent 1921 event in Tulsa, Oklahoma, saw the destruction of the wealthiest Black community in the U.S., known as "Black Wall Street."

Answer: What is the Tulsa Race Massacre?

4. This Supreme Court decision in 1954 declared that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional.

Answer: What is Brown v. Board of Education?

5. This 1865 amendment to the U.S. Constitution officially abolished slavery in the United States.

Answer: What is the 13th Amendment?

6. On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks' arrest led to this boycott, which lasted over a year and helped end segregation in public transportation.

Answer: What is the Montgomery Bus Boycott?

7. This 1968 event was a watershed moment in the Civil Rights Movement when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

Answer: What is the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?

8. In 1964, this law was enacted to outlaw discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in public places and employment.

Answer: What is the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

9. This 1965 act aimed to ensure that every child in America, regardless of their race or background, could receive a fair and equal education.

Answer: What is the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)?

10. In 1960, four Black students staged the first sit-in at a segregated lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Answer: What is the Greensboro sit-ins?

11. This 1868 amendment granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, including formerly enslaved people.

Answer: What is the 14th Amendment?

12. This event in 1967 led to riots and protests across several U.S. cities, including Detroit and Newark, as tensions over race and police brutality boiled over.

Answer: What are the 1967 race riots?

13. This 1919 event, known as the "Red Summer," saw race riots erupt in multiple cities across the U.S., fueled by racial tensions after World War I.

Answer: What is the Red Summer of 1919?

14. This pivotal 1961 event involved students and activists from across the nation challenging segregation on interstate buses in the South.

Answer: What are the Freedom Rides?

BLACK LGBTQIA+

1. This iconic Black trans woman, who became an advocate for trans rights, was also a prominent figure in the 1969 Stonewall Riots.

Answer: Who is Marsha P. Johnson?

2. This Black lesbian activist co-founded the Combahee River Collective in the 1970s, advocating for Black feminism and lesbian rights.

Answer: Who is Barbara Smith?

3. In 1990, this Black, queer activist founded the first LGBTQIA+ advocacy organization for people of color, focusing on Black LGBTQIA+ rights.

Answer: Who is Essex Hemphill?

4. This 1970s documentary chronicled the lives of Black LGBTQIA+ individuals, bringing attention to their struggles and triumphs.

Answer: What is "Word Is Out: Stories of Some of Our Lives"?

5. This groundbreaking Black lesbian singer-songwriter is known for her activism in both the LGBTQIA+ and civil rights movements, as well as her song "Till It's Gone."

Answer: Who is Meshell Ndegeocello?

6. In the 1980s, this Black gay man founded the National Black Gay and Lesbian Alliance, aiming to address both racial and LGBTQIA+ issues.

Answer: Who is Keith Boykin?

7. This Black transgender activist helped organize the first National Transgender Day of Remembrance in 1999.

Answer: Who is Gwendolyn Ann Smith?

8. This pioneering Black gay author wrote the groundbreaking 1991 novel "*Invisible Life*" about the challenges of being Black and gay in America.

Answer: Who is E. Lynn Harris?

9. This Black bisexual activist, poet, and playwright was influential in the Black Arts Movement, often exploring themes of race, sexuality, and identity.

Answer: Who is Audre Lorde?