

Name(s) _____

Justice Trailblazers List



Choose a historical trailblazer for your project. Here's some ideas to start, but you can choose your own!

*Trailblazers marked with an asterisk * appear in [McKenzie's Time Machine](#) by Yaritza Villalba.*



Civil Rights & Protest

- **Fred Korematsu (1919–2005)*** – Refused Japanese internment, sparking a landmark civil liberties case.
- **Mamie Till-Mobley (1921–2003)*** – Exposed racial violence by showing the world her son's mutilated body.
- **John Lewis (1940–2020)*** – Led nonviolent protests and risked his life during the Selma march.
- **Colin Kaepernick (1987–)*** – Took a knee during the anthem to protest police violence and racial injustice.
Stacey Abrams (1973–)* – Fought voter suppression and reshaped civic participation in Georgia.



STEM & Education

- **Sadie T. M. Alexander (1898–1989)*** – One of the first Black women with a PhD and JD.
- **Dorothy Vaughan (1910–2008)*** – Mathematician at NASA who led teams under segregation.
- **Katherine Johnson (1918–2020)*** – Calculated key trajectories that sent astronauts into space.
- **Mary Jackson (1921–2005)*** – NASA's first Black female engineer, also an advocate for STEM access.
- **Malala Yousafzai (1997–)*** – Survivor and education activist who fought for girls' rights under Taliban rule.
- **Ofelia Zepeda (1952–)*** – Poet and linguist preserving Indigenous language through storytelling.



Arts, Literature & Cultural Voice

- **Augusta Savage (1892–1962)** – Sculptor who elevated Black artists during the Harlem Renaissance.
- **Langston Hughes (1902–1967)*** – Poet who centered Black experience despite pressure to self-censor.
- **Frida Kahlo (1907–1954)*** – Expressed identity and pain through iconic self-portraiture.
- **Jacob Lawrence (1917–2000)** – Visual artist known for documenting Black history and migration.
- **Kehinde Wiley (1977–)*** – Reimagines classical portraiture with contemporary Black subjects.
- **Amanda Gorman (1998–)*** – Youth poet who called for justice and unity at the U.S. inauguration.
- **Maya Angelou (1928–2014)** – Memoirist and poet chronicling survival, identity, and power.
- **James Baldwin (1924–1987)** – Wrote powerfully about race, sexuality, and responsibility.
- **Abdulrazak Gurnah (1948–)** – Wrote about colonialism, exile, and the refugee experience with quiet power.



Politics, Law & Leadership

- **Shirley Chisholm (1924–2005)*** – First Black woman to run for U.S. President.
- **Sonia Sotomayor (1954–)*** – First Latina Supreme Court Justice.
- **Barack Obama (1961–)*** – First Black U.S. President.
- **Kamala Harris (1964–)*** – First woman, Black, and South Asian Vice President.



Sports & Justice

- **Jesse Owens (1913–1980)*** – Defied Nazi propaganda by winning four golds at 1936 Olympics.
- **Serena Williams (1981–)*** – Dominated tennis while challenging racial and gender bias.
- **Irving Saladino (1983–)*** – Panama's first Olympic gold medalist.