African American History & Culture

*Digital Resources and Children's Books*

*Updated 7/2020*

**Kid-Friendly YouTube Clips:**

ABCs of Black History - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9rQ544fDqI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9rQ544fDqI)

A Look inside the National Museum of African American History and Culture: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uH-tAj4WA2Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uH-tAj4WA2Y)

Black National Anthem sung in January 2009 at President Obamas Inaugural Ball: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyS3HPInHtl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyS3HPInHtl)

African Americans in the American Revolution: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3p-uo3CtE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3p-uo3CtE)

How the Underground Railroad worked: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beTd8RW0ozg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beTd8RW0ozg)

Harriet Tubman Rescued over 300 Slaves: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHc5XcB1fmA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHc5XcB1fmA)

Frederick Douglass, First African American Nominated for Vice President: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka0lRru-JYA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka0lRru-JYA)

Who were the Buffalo Soldiers? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lsqUDqN-NA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lsqUDqN-NA)

The American Civil War, a 3 Minute History: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByFgRP-aWuU&p=5&pos=5](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByFgRP-aWuU&p=5&pos=5)

What is the Juneteenth Celebration? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=He0dxbINs7M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=He0dxbINs7M)
Juneteenth Celebration with Dance and Spoken Word:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QO9ALNn2MJk&p=3&pos=3

The Best Foods to Celebrate Juneteenth with:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NXC4Q_4JVg

W.E.B. Du Bois, Activist Leader of the Niagara Movement and co-Founder of the NAACP: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGOEED_Mexl

How the NAACP Fights Racial Discrimination:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXi2IM7-NB8

African American Cowboy, the Forgotten Man of the West:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLSwRX_9HbQ

WWII Tuskegee Airmen: A Short Biography: https://www.greatblackheroes.com/

Civil Rights Act 1964, Montgomery Bus Boycott for Kids
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKEGou1zPIl

Because of Rosa Parks, We Can (2 videos & a story read):
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfLU3pJkrfY :

Who were the Freedom Riders of the Civil Rights Movement?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1smGpGSa14

Selma to Montgomery: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xv5Fh_dGD64

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. “I Have a Dream” Speech:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyS3HPInHtl

# BlackLivesMatter, A Looking into the Movement’s History:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ml7eHX9u4Q0&p=1&pos=1

Amanda Gorman Youth Poet Laureate on the Black Lives Matter Movement 6/26/2020;
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UN34oO_nPSk

Poet Maya Angelou, “And Still I Rise”:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqOqo50LSZ0

Gullah Traditions of the South Carolina Coast:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INLoxvNjIABl

Jonathan Green, Gullah Artist and Activist: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-4RC8Rgi9o

Quilting in Gee's Bend, Alabama: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLWeW_L3aFE

African American Music, from Spirituals to Jazz and Blues: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9Vk6m6pqt8

The History of the Banjo: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhcBA0WRm88&p=9&pos=9

ABCs of Black Inventors: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYD7rNNsShq-

10 Black Scientists you should know: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gt-ghHyHmEA

The Story of Kwanzaa: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aEbpFb1HZY

African and African American Folktales: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNYBT59j4rk

**YouTube Clips for Adult Preview:**

Why did Europeans Enslave Africans? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opUDFaqNgXc

The Atlantic Slave Trade, What too few textbooks told you: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NXC4Q_4JVg

African American Timeline: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5w05IZ1HCJI

Ida B. Wells, an Anti-lynching Crusader: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fygjGXnaV9w&t=70s

A Lynching Memorial Remembers the Forgotten: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PxAcnfrMow

James Baldwin’s “Black Lives Matter” Speech (1965): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vbj0oZYucKs

Greenwood and the Tulsa Race Riots: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yceK9LHFSA&p=1&pos=1

Black Wall Street Remembered: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QW9-aBPW-QM

Racism Rooted in Oregon History: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLygefLenWI&p=1&pos=1
Websites:


Shirley Chisholm, First Black Woman to Run for President: https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/shirley-chisholm

Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack_Obama


The Legacy of the Pullman Porters: http://www.museumoftheamericanrailroad.org/Learn/TheLegacyofPullmanPorters.aspx


Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, an African American Legacy: https://blog.europeana.eu/2020/06/the-alvin-aley-dance-theatre-an-african-american-legacy/


The Humble History of Soul Food: http://blackfoodie.co/the-humble-history-of-soul-food

Talking to Young Children about Race and Racism: https://www.pbs.org/parents/talking-about-racism
Lesson’s Plans:


NEA Black History Month, 6-8: http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/bhm-curriculum-resources-grades6-8.html


Black History Information Scavenger Hunt (Grades 4-9+): http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson052.shtml

Black History 5 Lesson Unit: http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson297.shtml
http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson221.shtml

African Americans in the American Revolution: https://www.ducksters.com/history/american_revolution/african_americans_revolutionary_war.php

Harriet Tubman, A lesson on Character and Bravery: http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/train-freedom


The Harlem Renaissance, Grade 9: http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/harlem-renaissance-retrospective-connecting-252.html

5 African American Artists who inspire my student’s creativity: https://www.weareteachers.com/african-american-artists-creativity/

Children’s Books:

**The Story of Ruby Bridges**
- **Title:** The Story of Ruby Bridges
- **Author:** Robert Coles
- **Age Range:** 4 - 8 years
- **Grade Level:** Preschool - 3
- **Paperback:** 32 pages
- **Publisher:** Scholastic Paperbacks; Rep Anv Sp edition (September 1, 2010)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 0439472261

**Summary:** The year is 1960, and six-year-old Ruby Bridges and her family have recently moved from Mississippi to New Orleans in search of a better life. When a judge orders Ruby to attend first grade at William Frantz Elementary, an all-white school, Ruby must face angry mobs of parents who refuse to send their children to school with her.

**Henry’s Freedom Box**
- **Title:** Henry’s Freedom Box
- **Author:** Ellen Levine
- **Age Range:** 4 - 8 years
- **Grade Level:** Preschool - 3
- **Lexile Measure:** 380L *(What's this?)*
- **Hardcover:** 40 pages
- **Publisher:** Scholastic Press (January 1, 2007)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 9780439777339

**Summary:** Henry Brown doesn't know how old he is. Nobody keeps records of slaves' birthdays. All the time he dreams about freedom, but that dream seems farther away than ever when he is torn from his family and put to work in a warehouse. Henry grows up and marries, but he is again devastated when his family is sold at the slave market. Then one day, as he lifts a crate at the warehouse, he knows exactly what he must do: He will mail himself to the North. After an arduous journey in the crate, Henry finally has a birthday -- his first day of freedom.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>Chains (The Seeds of America Trilogy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author:</td>
<td>Laurie Halse Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Range:</td>
<td>10 - 14 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade Level:</td>
<td>5 - 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexile Measure:</td>
<td>780L (What's this?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series:</td>
<td>The Seeds of America Trilogy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paperback:</td>
<td>316 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher:</td>
<td>Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (January 5, 2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language:</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISBN-10:</td>
<td>1416905863</td>
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</table>

**Summary:** As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>I Love my Hair!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author:</td>
<td>Natasha Anastasia Tarpley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Range:</td>
<td>3 - 6 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade Level:</td>
<td>Preschool - 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexile Measure:</td>
<td>900L (What's this?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paperback:</td>
<td>32 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher:</td>
<td>Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (September 1, 2001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language:</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISBN-10:</td>
<td>0316523755</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Summary:** This whimsical, evocative story about a girl named Keyana encourages African-American children to feel good about their special hair and be proud of their heritage. A BlackBoard Children’s Book of the Year.
| **Title:** Who Was Harriet Tubman?  
**Author:** Yona Zeldis McDonough  
**Age Range:** 8 - 12 years  
**Grade Level:** 3 - 7  
**Lexile Measure:** 650L  
**Series:** Who Was...?  
**Paperback:** 112 pages  
**Publisher:** Grosset & Dunlap (December 30, 2002)  
**Language:** English  
**ISBN-10:** 044842889X  
**Summary:** Born a slave in Maryland, Harriet Tubman knew first-hand what it meant to be someone's property; she was whipped by owners and almost killed by an overseer. It was from other field hands that she first heard about the Underground Railroad which she travelled by herself north to Philadelphia. |
|---|
| **Title:** What Was the Underground Railroad?  
**Author:** Yona Zeldis McDonnough  
**Age Range:** 8 - 12 years  
**Grade Level:** 3 - 7  
**Lexile Measure:** 710L  
**Series:** What Was...?  
**Paperback:** 112 pages  
**Publisher:** Grosset & Dunlap (December 26, 2013)  
**Language:** English  
**ISBN-10:** 0448467127  
**Summary:** No one knows where the term Underground Railroad came from--there were no trains or tracks, only "conductors" who helped escaping slaves to freedom. Including real stories about "passengers" on the "Railroad," this book chronicles slaves' close calls with bounty hunters, exhausting struggles on the road, and what they sacrificed for freedom. With 80 black-and-white illustrations throughout and a sixteen-page black-and-white photo insert, the Underground Railroad comes alive! |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title: Freedom Summer</th>
<th>Title: If A Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author: Deborah Wiles</td>
<td>Author: Faith Ringgold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Range: 4 - 8 years</td>
<td>Age Range: 5 - 9 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade Level: Preschool - 3</td>
<td>Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paperback: 32 pages</td>
<td>Paperback: 32 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher: Aladdin; Reprint edition (January 1, 2005)</td>
<td>Publisher: Aladdin (January 1, 2003)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language: English</td>
<td>Language: English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary:** Joe and John Henry are a lot alike. They both like shooting marbles, they both want to be firemen, and they both love to swim. But there's one important way they're different: Joe is white and John Henry is black, and in the South in 1964, that means John Henry isn't allowed to do everything his best friend is. Then a law is passed that forbids segregation and opens the town pool to everyone. Joe and John Henry are so excited they race each other there...only to discover that it takes more than a new law to change people's hearts.

**Summary:** If a bus could talk, it would tell the story of a young African-American girl named Rosa who had to walk miles to her one-room schoolhouse in Alabama while white children rode to their school in a bus. It would tell how the adult Rosa rode to and from work on a segregated city bus and couldn't sit in the same row as a white person. It would tell of the fateful day when Rosa refused to give up her seat to a white man and how that act of courage inspired others around the world to stand up for freedom. In this book a bus does talk, and on her way to school a girl named Marcie learns why Rosa Parks is the mother of the Civil Rights movement. At the end of Marcie's magical ride, she meets Rosa Parks herself at a birthday party with several distinguished guests. Wait until she tells her class about this!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title: I Can Write the World</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author: Joshunda Sanders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illustrator: Charly Palmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Range: 5 – 8 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade Level: K - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series: Ava Murray Writes the World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardcover: 40 Pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher: Six Foot Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language: English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISBN-10: 1644420015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary: I Can Write the World follows Ava as she explores her vibrant South Bronx neighborhood - buildings whose walls boast gorgeous murals of historical figures as well as intricate, colorful street art, the dozens of different languages and dialects coming from the mouths of passersby, the many types of music coming out of neighbors’ windows and passing cars. In reporting how the music and art and culture of her neighborhood reflect the diversity of the people of New York City, Ava shows the world as she sees it, revealing to children the power of their own voice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title: When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author: Laban Carrick Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illustrator: Theodore Taylor III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Range: 6 – 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade Level: 3 – 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series: Coretta Scott King - John Steptoe Award for New Talent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardcover: 32 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher: Scholastic, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language: English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISBN-10: 133819318X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary: On a hot day at the end of summer in 1973 Cindy Campbell threw a back-to-school party at a park in the South Bronx. Her brother, Clive Campbell, spun the records. He had a new way of playing the music to make the breaks—the musical interludes between verses—longer for dancing. He called himself DJ Kool Herc and this is When the Beat Was Born. From his childhood in Jamaica to his youth in the Bronx, Laban Carrick Hill's book tells how Kool Herc came to be a DJ, how kids in gangs stopped fighting in order to breakdance, and how the music he invented went on to define a culture and transform the world.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Title: The Undefeated
Author: Kwame Alexander
Illustrator: Kadir Nelson
Age Range: 5 – 7 years
Series: Caldecott Medal Book
Paperback: 40 pages
Publisher: Versify
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1783449292
Summary: Originally performed for ESPN's The Undefeated, this poem is a love letter to black life in the United States. It highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the faith and fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes. The text is also peppered with references to the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks, and others, offering deeper insights into the accomplishments of the past, while bringing stark attention to the endurance and spirit of those surviving and thriving in the present. Robust back matter at the end provides valuable historical context and additional detail for those wishing to learn more.

Title: Be a King: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream and You
Author: Carole Boston Weatherford
Illustrator: James E. Ransome
Age Range: 4 – 8 years
Hardback: 40 pages
Publisher: Bloomsbury USA Children's
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1338363093
Summary: Featuring a dual narrative of the key moments of Dr. King's life alongside a modern class as the students learn about him, Carole Weatherford's poetic text encapsulates the moments that readers today can reenact in their own lives. See a class of young students as they begin a school project inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and learn to follow his example, as he dealt with adversity and never lost hope that a future of equality and justice would soon be a reality. As times change, Dr. King's example remains, encouraging a new generation of children to take charge and change the world . . . to be a King.
"On reunion morning, we rise before the sun. Daddy hums as he packs our car with suitcases and a cooler full of snacks. He says there’s nothing like going down home.” Down home is Granny’s house. Down home is where Lil Alan and his parents and sister will join great-grandparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Down home is where Lil Alan will hear stories of the ancestors and visit the land that has meant so much to all of them. And down home is where all of the children will find their special way to pay tribute to family history. All the kids have to decide on what tribute to share, but what will Lil Alan do?