Black History Month







Timeline

1619	Dutch ship brings 20 Africans to Jamestown, Va., the first enslaved Africans in the U.S.
1793	Eli Whitney's new cotton gin increases demand for slaves

- 1793 Congress passes Fugitive Slave Act, making it a federal crime to assist a slave trying to escape
- 1808 Congress bans importation of slaves
- 1820 Missouri Compromise bans slavery above the southern border of the state
- 1831 Nat Turner leads largest slave rebellion prior to Civil War
- Harriet Tubman escapes to
 Philadelphia and subsequently
 helps about 300 enslaved people to
 freedom via the Underground Railroad
- 1857 In Dred Scott v. Sanford, U.S. Supreme Court declares that Blacks are not citizens of the U.S. and that Congress cannot prohibit slavery
- John Brown leads raid of U.S. Armory and Arsenal at Harpers Ferry, W.Va.
- 1861 South secedes from Union and Civil War begins
- President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free"
- 1865 Civil War ends
- 1865 Thirteenth Amendment is ratified, prohibiting slavery

- 1868 Fourteenth Amendment is ratified, allowing Blacks to become citizens
- 1870 Fifteenth Amendment is ratified, guaranteeing that right to vote cannot be denied because of race, color or previous condition of servitude
- 1870 Hiram Revels becomes first Black member of Congress
- 1896 U.S. Supreme Court rules in *Plessy v.*Ferguson that segregation doesn't violate the 14th Amendment's equalprotection clause as long as conditions provided are "separate but equal"
- 1900 William H. Carney becomes first Black to be awarded Medal of Honor
- 1909 NAACP is founded
- 1926 Carter G. Woodson establishes "Negro History Week"
- **1940** Hattie McDaniel becomes first Black to win an Academy Award
- 1947 Jackie Robinson becomes first Black to play Major League Baseball
- 1950 Ralph J. Bunche becomes first Black to win the Nobel Peace Prize
- 1953 Willie Thrower becomes first Black to play quarterback in the National Football League
- 1954 In Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, U.S. Supreme Court rules that racial segregation in public schools violates the 14th Amendment
- An all-white jury acquits two white men who confessed to murdering a 14-year-old Black boy, Emmett Till, for allegedly whistling at a white woman

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1955	Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus to a white man in Montgomery, Ala., leading to the Montgomery Bus Boycott
1957	Little Rock Nine integrate Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas
1960	Four Black students stage famous sit- in at a whites-only Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C.
1961	Freedom rides begin from Washington, D.C.
1962	James Meredith becomes first Black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi. Violence prompts President Kennedy to send in 5,000 federal troops
1963	More than 200,000 people march on Washington, D.C., in the largest civilrights demonstration in U.S. history; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gives his "I Have a Dream" speech
1963	Four young Black girls are killed in the bombing of a Birmingham, Ala., church
1964	President Johnson signs Civil Rights Act of 1964, giving the government more power to protect citizens against race, religion, sex or national-origin discrimination
1965	Malcolm X, former minister in the Nation of Islam and civil-rights activist, is assassinated
1965	Thousands participate in three protest marches from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., for Black voting rights
1965	President Johnson signs Voting Rights Act of 1965

Thurgood Marshall becomes first Black

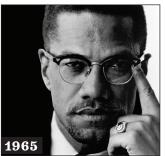
U.S. Supreme Court justice

1967

	Court declares law prohibiting interracial marriages to be unconstitutional
1968	Dr. King is assassinated
1968	President Johnson signs Civil Rights Act of 1968, which prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental and financing of housing
1972	Shirley Chisholm becomes first major-party Black candidate to run for president
1983	Vanessa Williams becomes first Black Miss America
1984	Reverend Jesse Jackson becomes first Black to make serious bid for presidency
1986	First observation of Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday
1990	Douglas Wilder of Virginia becomes first Black to be elected governor
1991	President George H.W. Bush signs Civil Rights Act of 1991, which strengthens laws on employment discrimination
1993	Dr. Joycelyn Elders becomes first Black Surgeon General
2001	General Colin Powell becomes first Black Secretary of State
2009	Barack Obama becomes first Black president
2014	Hundreds gather in various protests across the country after grand juries decline to indict Michael Brown's and Eric Garner's killers
2015	Black Lives Matter movement gains momentum amid the shootings of unarmed Black citizens by white

In Loving v. Virginia ruling, Supreme









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police officers