

◊ Classroom Spice ◊

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The internet is always a great source of information, but for Black History Month it is truly overflowing with classroom material. In fact there is so much information, the problem may be where to start. Admittedly I have not checked "all" the sites, but I would like to share some of those I have found particularly interesting .

gale.com/gale/bhm contains a Black History quiz online, with a different question each day; biographies of 60 black men and women from a variety of fields; an African American History timeline covering 400 years of milestones; lesson plan/classroom activities, and much much more.

library.advanced.org/10320/BLK_Hist.htm utilizes Black History-Related U.S. postage stamps to teach history. It includes an online & offline black history quiz, internet resource links, information on all referenced stamps, access to games and activities, and more.

Additional information is available at:

freep.com/blackhistory
euronet.nl/users/jubo
afroam.org/history
health.org/mlk/mlk98
lib.lsu.edu/lib/chem/display
netnoir.com/spotlight/bhm98
kron.com/specials
newmedianews.com/020197/hl_blackhistmonth.html

Surf the net for BHM!

In recognition of February, Black History Month, a few of the resources available in the teaching of African-American culture will be featured. Please note that the usage of these resources should not be restricted to the month of February. Black history and culture should be taught throughout the year, whenever it has natural ties with your subject.

There are many excellent collections of books available through Sundance (for a catalog call 1-800-343-8204). Some of their African-American based collections include the Coretta Scott King Award and Honor Books (sample titles—*Roll of thunder, Hear My Cry; Which Way Freedom; Malcolm X: By Any Means; and The Captive*), African American Literature K-3 (sample titles—*Follow the Drinking Gourd, Peter's Chair, and When I Am Old with You*), African American Literature Grades 4-6 (sample titles—

House of Dies Drear, Jump Ship to Freedom, and Sounder), Junior Black Americans of Achievement (sample titles—*Thurgood Marshall, Jackie Robinson, Oprah Winfrey, and Sojourner Truth*), African Myths and Legends (sample titles—*Africa Dream, Hot Hippo, and The Story of the Three Kingdoms*), Profiles of Great Black

Americans (sample titles—*Book of Firsts: Leaders in America, Jazz Stars, Shapers of America, and Female Leaders*).

One of my favorite sources for multicultural teaching materials is Frank Schaffer (1-800-421-5565). It carries a wide variety of teaching resources for K-9; everything from wooden puzzles and bulletin board displays, to resource books such as *African Americans: Voices in History and Culture, Contemporary African Americans* or *Portraits in Black*. In addition they carry Literature Notes, a small folder resource which includes a book synopsis, related cross curricular activities, a sample

bulletin board, and reproducible patterns. These are available for each of several African American related books (e.g., *Sounder, The Snowy Day, The Patchwork Quilt, and A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr.*).

Franklin Watts (1-800-621-1115) is a great source for nonfiction materials. For example it has a set of 16 books "The African-American Experience," which can be purchased as a set or individually. A few of the titles included are "All My Trials, Lord:" *Selections from Women's Slave Narratives; Baseball and the Color Line; Between Two Fires: Black Soldiers in the Civil War; Free Within Ourselves: The Harlem Renaissance; and No Easy Victories: Black Americans and the Vote*. Children's Press (1-800-621-1115), an affiliate of Franklin's Press, is also a wonderful source of factual books in a series and/or individual titles, ranging

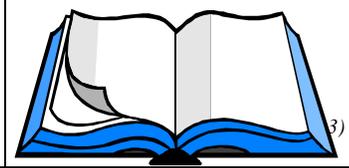


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Famous Black Americans

DID YOU KNOW:

That the first Black woman mayor was an Oklahoman?

Lelia Foley was elected mayor of Taft, OK in 1973.

That one of the first classic blues songs composed by "The Father of the Blues" was originally a campaign jingle ?

W. C. Handy originally wrote "Memphis Blues," with different lyrics, as a jingle for mayoral candidate Edward Crump

Why Mother Hale was identified as an "American Hero" by President Regan in 1985?

Clara Hale of Philadelphia helped raise and send to college 40 children, only two of whom were her own. Later in her life she helped care for over "600" addicted babies, including babies with AIDS, and founded the Hale House to continue and expand her work with addicted children.

An interesting activity to see how informed you and/or your students are about successful African Americans is the following quiz. It is a great conversation starter and research motivator. Take a few minutes and see how well you do. Information for these questions came primarily from *Black Americans From Africa to the 80's: Classroom Activities* by Mark Falstein, published by Educational Insight; *Multicultural Teaching: A Handbook of Activities, Information, and Resources (3rd ed.)* by Pamela L. Tiedt and Iris M. Tiedt, published by Allyn and Bacon, ISBN 0-205-12214-0; *African Americans: Voices in History and Culture*, published by Frank Shaffer, ISBN 0-17257-10122-0; and *African Americans in U.S. History: 1877 to the Present* by Fearon/Janus publishers, ISBN 0-8224-0151-7. Good luck! (Answers are on page 3, column 1.)

WHO AM I?

<u>Clue</u>	<u>Identity</u>
_____ Black astronomer, mathematician, inventor	A. Mary McLeod Bethune
_____ Nicknamed "Mr. Civil Rights"	B. Garrett Morgan
_____ First female Black in Congress	C. Jesse Jackson
_____ First person killed in Boston Massacre	D. Frederick Douglass
_____ First black woman to run a federal office, & advised 4 presidents	E. Thurgood Marshall
_____ First Black astronaut	F. Matthew Henson
_____ Well-known contemporary poet & writer	G. Charles Drew
_____ Most famous abolitionist, "Father of the Protest Movement", newspaperman	H. Shirley Chisholm
_____ Inventor of fire fighters' helmet, gas mask, & traffic light	I. Jackie Robinson
_____ First woman millionaire, Black or White	J. Benjamin Banneker
_____ Discovered blood plasma, founded the first U.S. blood bank, invented blood transfusions	K. Ida Wells
_____ Born in Africa, sold into slavery at 5, famous for poetry during colonial times	L. Guion S. Bluford, Jr.
_____ Worked with MLK, ran for President in 1984 & 1988	M. Crispus Attucks
_____ Broke the color barrier in major league baseball	N. Phillis Wheatley
_____ First person to reach the North Pole	O. Langston Huges
_____ Teacher who lost her job for wanting to sit in the "Whites Only" railcar; became a reporter & speaker on Jim Crow, lynching, & segregation; helped start NAACP	P. Madame C.J. Walker

The Literature Connection

(African-American Resources—continued)

from biographies to cookbooks.

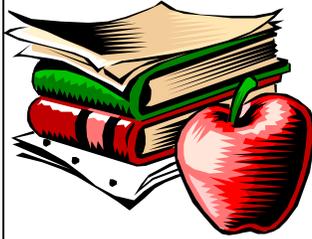
Another source for multicultural books is Econo-Clad (1-800-255-3502). They carry informational, historical, and fictional books; teacher's guides; and even AR books and their software! They clearly delineate grade level (reading and/or interest level as appropriate), servicing K-12.

If you are interested in elementary books with an African American perspective, check out Just Us Books (1-800-788-3123). They carry such items as AFRO-BETS books, Ziggy books (an adventure/mystery series featuring Black boys), NEATE (an adventure series featuring a Black girl), and historical books.

Steck-Vaugh, 1-800-531-5015, is a good source for a variety of multicultural materials. For math materials Mimosa (1-800-646-6721) is a winner. Note that most of the companies listed are not exclusively African American, and can help you in other areas as well.

Introducing the reader to books which can help promote multicultural education is a regular feature of *Classroom Spice*. Since February is Black History Month this issue will concentrate on reviews of children's literature with an African-American emphasis. See what great books are available with a possible tie-in to your content/grade level.

Your History: From the Beginning of Time to the Present, ISBN 0-933121-04-0, by J. A. Rogers (1983) is published by Black Classic Press.



Technically the book's "present" is only up to 1940 when the book was first published. However, with short simple text and pen and ink drawings reminiscent of comic book illustrations it does a nice job of relating the accomplishments, strengths, and historical events of the black experience in the United States and other parts of the world. It is a great book to just thumb through and read random selections. It includes items about both men and women from a wide variety of

fields. Excellent for middle school and older students, especially for those who do not usually like to read.

The Five Negro Presidents: According to What White People Said They Were, originally published in 1965 and available through MacMillan, is also authored by J.A. Rogers. A fascinating booklet relating stories about American presidents/famous American politicians who were alleged to be of Negro descent. It investigates the strengths and weaknesses of said allegations and addresses the issue of proving and/or disproving racial heritage. Very thought-provoking booklet. (Secondary level).

Did you know approximately 5,000 black soldiers fought in the American Revolution? Most of them were slaves whose fight for liberty and independence would not impact their own freedom or that of their children. Yet they fought and died for the cause, with virtually no recognition for at least 75 years and only minimal recognition even up to the twentieth century. *Black Heroes of the American Revolution* by Burke Davis, ISBN 0-15-208561-0, takes a small step in helping to acknowledge the part played by blacks in the fight for America's freedom.

In a similar vein is *Black Pioneers of Science and Invention*, ISBN 0-15-208566-1. This book by scientist Dr. Louis Harber tells

(Continued on page 4)

Answers to Quiz:

1-j, 2-e, 3-h, 4-m, 5-a, 6-l, 7-o, 8-d, 9-b, 10-p, 11-g, 12-n, 13-c, 14-i, 15-f, 16-k

Discovery Themes



Discovery Themes is a teacher resource published by T. S. Denison. Themes range from Animals from Around the World to Famous People. The

latter is of particular interest for our readers as it includes sets dealing with Famous African-Americans, Famous Hispanics and Their Culture, Famous Asians and Their Culture, Famous Women and Their Contributions, Famous Native Americans, Famous Inventors, Famous Explorers of

Yesterday, and Famous Explorers of Today. The people in each set represent a cross-section of talents, accomplishments, fields, and time periods. Each set includes ten 4" x 6" biography cards, and ten 4" x 6" activity cards. The activity cards are designed to provide students and/or teachers with research questions and projects related to the featured biography.

The Famous African Americans Set includes such names as playwright/novelist James Baldwin, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, athlete Jesse Owens, physician Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, and abolitionist Harriet Tubman. The Native American Set includes such names as Kiowa artist James Auchia, Nez Perce

leader Chief Joseph; physician Susan LaFlesche, athlete Jim Thorpe. The Famous Hispanics & Their Culture Set addresses labor activist Cesar Chavez, writer Octavio Paz, athlete Lee Trevino, and political leader Bentio Juarez. The Famous Asian Set includes musician Yo-Yo Ma, athlete Sadaharu Oh, children's book illustrator Ed Young, and political leader Mao Tse-tung. Activity cards are interdisciplinary, with a wide range of ideas such as martial arts, map skills, designing a building, authoring and/or illustrating a story, talent show, track & field day, and encoding messages. Pick up a packet at your local teacher supply store.



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<p>(Literature Connection—Cont'd)</p> <p>of the remarkable stories of fourteen black individuals who made significant contributions to science, medicine, and/or industry. From open heart surgery, to traffic lights, from carbon filaments to cell physiology, the lives of brilliance, intertwined with racism makes for fascinating reading for secondary students and up.</p> <p><i>Iggie's House</i>, is typical of children's author Judy Blume. Her interest is in addressing real life contemporary issues. This</p>  <p>book written at a fourth grade reading level, but which</p>	<p>would interest even middle school or junior high readers, reveals some of the inner workings of racism as it tells the story of the first black family to move into a neighborhood. The reader follows as attitudes of adults and children evolve. ISBN 0-440-44062-9.</p> <p><i>The Color of Culture</i> by Mona Lake Jones, ISBN 0-9635605-9-X, was cited in the first issue of <i>Classroom Spice</i> for a description of culture. This book is a collection of poetry which is at times funny, at times sad, but always insightful. Whether talking about "motherhood" or "dancin" Mona reaches out and touches the reader's heart.</p> <p>Well-known author Gary Paulsen tells the story, in <i>Nightjohn</i>, of a slave who having escaped slavery once, returns to try and teach those slaves who are willing to risk</p>	<p>their very lives to learn to read. Is twelve-year-old Sarny willing to learn to read? Nightjohn captured and enslaved again has already given up his freedom. Will he really risk continuing his mission? Easy reading, 4th grade and up. ISBN 0-440-82072-3.</p> <p>Perhaps the book by Mildred Taylor, <i>Mississippi Bridge</i>, will enlighten a reader about Jim Crow. Set in Mississippi in the 1930s it revolves around a young black boy's attempts to take the bus to his new job. Riveting short story that the reader cannot put down.</p> <p>If you are not familiar with Walter Dean Myers, you are missing out on a wonderful award winning author. He writes historical as well as contemporary books, predominantly for middle school and secondary students.</p>	<p>He addresses such issues as gangs, sports, poverty, racism, and war. His titles include <i>Fallen Angels</i>; <i>Scorpions</i>; <i>Hoops</i>; <i>Fast Sam, Cool Clyde, and Stuff</i>; <i>The Young Landlords</i>; <i>Young Martin's Promise</i>; and <i>Now Is Your Time! The African American Struggle for Freedom</i> to name a few. Check out his work, it is very insightful and moving!</p> <hr/> <p>Books, books , books</p> <p>Historical or contemporary, books with a message, or books for entertainment.</p> <p>Help find books to enrich you and your students.</p>