“Where there is no vision, there is no hope.”

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER, SCIENTIST

Black History Month

By: The Junction Coalition
Martin Luther King Jr. was an American Baptist minister and also an activist. He is best known for his, "I have a dream" speech which is considered one of the most monumental moments of the Civil Rights era.

During the 1963 March on Washington, King stepped up to the podium with a well-planned speech provided by his writer, Clarence Jones. But as he looked out at the 250,000 person audience, his passion led him to move off course, and say exactly what he was feeling.

The result was one of the most poetic proclamations of American history, which came straight from the heart: "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed..."
Maya Angelou - Poet and Activist

Maya Angelou was an American poet, memorist, and civil rights activist. She is known for many of her autobiographies, books of essays, poetry and has a wide list of accreditations of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years. She has received multiple awards and more than 50 honorary degrees.

“You may kill me with your hatefulness, But still, like air, I'll rise.”
- Maya Angelou
1928-2014
Malcolm X - Activist

Malcolm X was an African-American Muslim minister as well as human rights activist who was a strong figure during the civil rights movement. He acted as a spokesman for the Nation of Islam as well as being an advocate for black empowerment and promoting Islam throughout black communities.

You're not supposed to be so blind with patriotism that you can't face reality. **Wrong is wrong**, no matter who says it.

— Malcolm X

A **man** who stands for **nothing** will fall for **anything**.

Malcolm X

Goalcast
Harriet Tubman – Activist

Harriett Tubman was known as being an abolitionist and political activist. She was born into slavery, escaped, and made more than 13 rescue missions and helped rescue around 70 enslaved people. She used other activists and safe houses, which later became known as the Underground railroad.

If you hear the dogs, keep going.
If you see the torches in the woods, keep going. If there's shouting after you, keep going. **Don't ever stop.** Keep going. **If you want a taste of freedom**, keep going.

– Harriet Tubman
Shirley Chisholm - Politician

Shirley Anita Chisholm was an American politician, educator, and author. In 1968, she became the first black woman elected to the United States Congress. Chisholm represented New York's 12th congressional district. This made her the first woman ever to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.
Nelson Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader, and philanthropist. With this, he was the country’s first black head of state. Mandela showed multiple acts of heroism and selflessness by fighting for justice for his people and risking his life for the equality of all.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
- Nelson Mandela
Katherine Johnson was an American mathematician who was a NASA employee and calculated the orbital mechanics which lead to the success of the first U.S. space flights.

“I felt most proud of the success of the Apollo mission. They were going to the moon and I computed the path to get there.”

KATHERINE JOHNSON
NASA Mathematician
Bessie Coleman – First African American & Native American woman to pilot an airplane

Bessie Coleman had an older brother who fought in World War I and would always share stories with her of female pilots in France.

Since she was a woman, many aviation programs discouraged her because of this, on top of her also being both African American and Native American.

She attended the Caudron Brothers' School of Aviation in Le Crotoy, and in 1921, she became the first African American and Native American woman to pilot an airplane. She became famous for her flight tricks, which included making figure-eight patterns in the sky. Coleman became widely popular and toured the US giving performances, lessons, and encouraging African American women to fly.
Heavyweight Champ: Jack Johnson became the first African American man to hold the World Heavyweight Champion boxing title in 1908. He held onto the belt until 1915.

Famous Protestors and Activists: While Rosa Parks is credited with helping to spark the civil rights movement when she refused to give up her public bus seat to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955—inspiring the Montgomery Bus Boycott—the lesser-known Claudette Colvin was arrested nine months prior for not giving up her bus seat to white passengers.

Supreme Court Justice: Thurgood Marshall was the first African American ever appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. He was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson and served on the court from 1967 to 1991.

Eminent Scientist: George Washington Carver developed 300 derivative products from peanuts among them cheese, milk, coffee, flour, ink, dyes, plastics, wood stains, soap, linoleum, medicinal oils and cosmetics.
Little Known Facts Continued

**Self-Made Millionaire:** Madam C.J. Walker was born on a cotton plantation in Louisiana and became wealthy after inventing a line of African American hair care products. She established Madame C.J. Walker Laboratories and was also known for her philanthropy.

**First Professional Black Baseball Player:** On April 5, 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first African American to play Major League Baseball when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. He led the league in stolen bases that season and was named Rookie of the Year.

**First Black Billionaire:** Before Oprah Winfrey and Michael Jordan joined the billionaire’s club, Robert Johnson became the first African American billionaire when he sold the cable station he founded, Black Entertainment Television (BET) in 2001.

**First Black President:** In 2008, Barack Obama became the first Black president of the United States.

**First Black Vice President:** In January 2021, Kamala Harris became the first woman of African or Asian descent to become vice president. Harris's mother immigrated to the United States from India and her father immigrated from Jamaica.