

Black History Trivia

1. In 1963, he led the historic march on Washington, where he gave his most famous speech, I Have a Dream.

- A) Dr. Seuss
- B) Dr. Oz
- C) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

2. She is the first black person to win a major tennis title and inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. In 1957 and 1958, she won championships at Wimbledon, England.

- A) Tina Turner
- B) Althea Gibson**
- C) Serena Williams

3. Her nickname was Black Moses she escape slavery as a young woman, came to Canada. From here she made 19 trips into the United States to help guide more than 300 slaves to freedom in the Underground Railroad.

- A) Harriet Tubman**
- B) Kay Livingston
- C) Queen Latifa

4. In October 1914, he invented the gas mask and in November 1923, the traffic light.

- A) Harry Jerome
- B) Ben Johnson
- C) Garrett Morgan**

5. He played for 19 years in the major baseball leagues. During that time, he won a Cy Young Award as the best pitcher in the national league.

- A) Michael Jordon
- B) Chris Bosh
- C) Ferguson Jenkins**

6. She is the first woman in America to become a self made millionaire. She invented the hot comb.

- A) Oprah Winfrey
- B) Madame C.J. Walker**
- C) Diana Ross

7. He was born in Montgomery, Alabama. In 1936, he was appointed to the position of chief chemist and director of research at the Glidden Company, becoming the first African American to direct a modern industrial laboratory. He synthesized the hormones testosterone and progesterone from soybeans, one of the greatest achievements in organic chemistry.

A) Dr. Percy Lavon Julian

B) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

C) Dr. Chris Spence

8. She became the first Black woman journalist, editor and publisher for the Provincial Freeman. In 1855, she was also the first woman admitted as a corresponding member on the Black Convention Movement.

A) Michelle Obama

B) Mary Ann Shadd

C) Jean Agustine

9. The son of two fugitive slaves who escaped to Canada via the Underground Railroad, he was born in Ontario on May 2, 1843. In 1872, he patented the “lubricating cup” a device which provided the continuous flow of oil on the gears and other moving parts of a machine in order to keep it lubricated properly and continuously.

A) Dr. Daniel Williams

B) Elijah McCoy

C) Lincoln Alexander

10. After being presented a pocket watch, he studied it endlessly in order to figure out how it worked. With the help of a journal from London that had a picture of a clock, a book on geometry and Isaac Newton’s Principia (law of motion), he drew plans for a clock which he built entirely of wood with all the gears carved by hand. He finished the first clock ever built in the United States in 1753.

A) Alvin Curling

B) Denzel Washington

C) Benjamin Banneker

11. At 16, he joined the US Navel Service. In 1880, he was hired by the United States Electric Lighting Company and began to carry out experiments which resulted in improvements to the new incandescent lamp. His process for producing the carbon filaments which provided the “light” within the bulb resulted in a much longer lasting bulb.

A) Lewis Latimer

B) Mike Ware

C) Marcus Garvey

12. Born on February 4, 1913, she is known as the mother of the modern civil rights movement. On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, she was arrested and put in jail for refusing to move to the back of the bus.

- A) Coretta Scott King
- B) Rosa Parks**
- C) Margaret Best

13. He was a plant scientist who made great contributions to the field of agricultural chemistry. He created more than 300 products from peanuts, soybeans and sweet potatoes. He receives many honours and awards for his work. Many institutions, museums and schools in the United States of America are named in his honour.

- A) George Washington Carver**
- B) Norman Washington Manley
- C) Sir Alexander Bustamante

14. In 1958, about 400 hundred Black families settled in Canada. In which province did they settled?

- A) British Columbia**
- B) Ontario
- C) New Brunswick

15. Baseball was a White man's game for 100 years. That changed forever in 1946 when the Montreal Royals signed him, the first professional Black baseball player in the major leagues.

- A) Jackie Robinson**
- B) Michael Clements
- C) Michael Jordon

16. In February 2010 Canada Post released a stamp to celebrate his remarkable story, the first Black to be honoured with the Victoria Cross.

- A) Alvin Curling
- B) Mike Clements
- C) William Hall**

17. He belonged to the first generation of his affluent, free family to be born in Toronto. His parents had to leave Alabama abruptly for their own safety, and after briefly settling in New York, they chose Toronto as their home He studied medicine and was licensed in 1861, becoming the first Canadian-born Black doctor in Canada.

- A) Dr. Anderson Abbott**
- B) Dr. Bill Crosby
- C) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

18. He was the first Canadian Black lawyer to be allowed to practice as a solicitor by 1885 and a barrister by 1886, after years of struggle, through an act of Provincial Parliament. He was likely the first Black person appointed as a King's Counsel in Canada in 1910.

- A) **Delos Davis**
- B) Elijah McCoy
- C) Garrett Morgan

19. He was the first African Canadian in a provincial legislature when he was elected in Ontario in 1963. He served as a Liberal member of the Ontario legislature from 1963 to 1975. In his first speech to the legislature he spoke out against racial segregation in Ontario schools. Soon after, the Ontario government repealed the law that allowed school segregation.

- A) **Leonard Braithwaite**
- B) Alvin Curling
- C) Lincoln Alexander

20. She was the first woman ombudsman of Nova Scotia and when she became lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia in September 2006, she became the first Black Nova Scotian and the second Black Canadian (after Lincoln Alexander of Hamilton, Ontario) to hold this position.

- A) **Mayann E. Francis**
- B) Harriet Tubman
- C) Althea Gibson

21. As a human rights specialist, historian, and public servant, he was prominent in the movement to overturn racial discrimination in Canada. He came to this country for graduate studies but committed himself to the quest for justice. In the 1950s, he used public awareness as a tool to combat prejudice. With a PhD in sociology from the University of Toronto and a decade of experience with social causes, he became the first director of the Ontario Human Rights Commission in 1962, a position he held until 1971.

- A) **Daniel G. Hill**
- B) Ben Johnson
- C) Farley Flex

22. She was raised in Halifax, where she sang in her church choir as a child. She became a teacher and taught in Black communities. She won a scholarship at the Halifax Conservatory of Music in 1939. In 1941, she made her singing debut, at age 30, in Toronto. She became the first Black Canadian concert singer to win international renown, despite difficulties obtaining bookings because of her race. The high point of her career was a widely acclaimed recital in New York in 1944. She sang for Queen Elizabeth in Charlottetown, PEI, in 1964.

A) Portia White

B) Rose Clarke

C) Margaret Best

23. He played the piano in a way that very few others have matched. Regarded by many in his lifetime as the greatest jazz pianist in the world, he had a profound influence on Canadian music. He was born in Montreal of Caribbean parents in 1925. Among his innumerable awards and honours were Grammy Awards, the International Jazz Hall of Fame Award, Junos, the Order of Canada, the Order of Arts and Letters in France, the Governor General's Performing Arts Award (1992), and numerous honorary degrees. Few Canadians can match his accomplishment or his recognition. He died in 2007.

A) Early Lloyd

B) Oscar Peterson

C) Marcus Garvey

24. He is free man who was hired as a translator for Samuel de Champlain's 1605 excursion. He is regarded as the first named Black person to set foot on Canadian soil.

A) Frederick Douglas

B) Muhammad Ali

C) Mathieu Da Costa

25. He invented "telegraphony," a process that was later purchased by Alexander Graham Bell's company. Allowing operators to send and receive messages more quickly than before, telegraphony combined features of both the telephone and telegraph. The Bell Company's purchase of this invention enabled him to become a full-time inventor.

A) Granville T. Woods

B) Nelson Mandela

C) Julius Isaac

26. He was born a slave in 1860 in Diamond Grove, Missouri and despite early difficulties would rise to become one of the most celebrated and respected scientists in United States history. His important discoveries and methods enabled farmers through the south and Midwest to become profitable and prosperous. He developed peanut butter and 400 plant products!

- A) Marcus Garvey
- B) George Washington Carver**
- C) Garrett Morgan

27. He invented the electronic control devices for guided missiles, IBM computers, and the pacemaker. In total, he invented 28 different electronic devices.

- A) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- B) Ferguson Jenkins
- C) Otis Boykin**

28. In 1975, she became the first Black woman surgeon at the UCLA Medical Center and the first woman faculty member at the UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute. In 1976, she co-founded the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness (AIPB), an organization that aims to “protect, preserve, and restore the gift of sight” for all persons, regardless of race, gender, age or income level. In 1981, she conceived of the invention for which she has become famous -- the Laserphaco Probe, a surgical tool that uses a laser to vaporize cataracts via a tiny, 1-millimeter insertion into a patient’s eye.

- A) Dr. Patricia Bath**
- B) Dr. Avis Gail
- C) Dr. Melissa Gordon

29. He invented a shoemaking machine that increased shoemaking speed by 900%

- A) Jan Ernst Matzeliger**
- B) Oscar Peterson
- C) Daniel G. Hill

30. In the 1960, approximately two-thirds of Canada's West Indian population resides in the greater Toronto area. On 28 July 1967, ten Torontonians with a common West Indian heritage founded this cultural festival to display their rich cultural traditions. The festival continues to promote cultural pride, mutual respect and social unity.

- A) Toronto Heritage Festival
- B) Toronto's Caribana Festival**
- C) Toronto taste of the Danforth

31. He was born of West Indian immigrant parents. He was sworn in as Ontario's lieutenant-governor in September 1985, the first Black person to hold the vice-regal position in Canada. He was also the first Black MP and federal Cabinet minister.

A) **Lincoln Alexander**

B) Otis Boykin

C) Garrett Morgan

32. In 1995, this Canadian sprinter assumed the title of "World's Fastest Human" by winning the 100-metre sprint at the World Track Championships at Göteborg, Sweden. Taking silver in the same race was Montreal's Bruny Surin. He went on to win gold at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, setting a new world and Olympic record.

A) Carl Lewis

B) Vince Carter

C) **Donavon Bailey**

33. A prominent antislavery activist, he helped facilitate Underground Railroad activity from his home in Pennsylvania, until he moved to Canada.

A) Alvin Curling

B) **Abraham Doris Shadd**

C) Lincoln Alexander

34. Born a slave Frederick Douglass is regarded as a prominent figure in African American and U.S History. In 1872 he became the first Black to be nominated as a Vice Presidential candidate. Douglass was a firm believer of equality for all people.

A) **Frederick Douglass**

B) Elijah McCoy

C) Mike Ware

35. He wrote the poem "Lift Every Voice and Sing". The poem was original written for a celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday. It was later adopted by the NAACP as the Negro Nation Anthem.

A) **James Weldon Johnson**

B) Benjamin Banneker

C) Lewis Latimer

36. He is named as a National Hero for Jamaica. He is known as a Journalist, Black Nationalist and a Pan-Africanist. He is also the founder of Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League.

- A) Lincoln Alexander
- B) Garrett Morgan
- C) **Marcus Garvey**

37. A champion boxer, winning the heavy weight title three times, he has a career record of 56 wins, five losses, with 37 knockouts. In 2005, he was honoured with the Presidential metal for freedom.

- A) **Muhammad Ali**
- B) Donovan Bailey
- C) Harry Jerome

38. He was the first Black to be named chief justice and the first Black to serve on the Federal Court.

- A) William Hall
- B) Jackie Robinson
- C) **Julius Alexander Isaac**

39. An anti-apartheid activist, he was convicted of sabotage by the South African Courts and served 27 years in prison. Following his release, he was elected as the first President of South Africa to be elected in a fully representative democratic election.

- A) **Nelson Mandela**
- B) Alvin Curling
- C) Lincoln Alexander

40. At the age of 22, he became the first Black to play in an NBA basketball game. He was inducted into the basketball Hall of Fame in 2002.

- A) **Earl Lloyd**
- B) Jackie Robinson
- C) Donovan Bailey

41. He played an important role in obtaining a radio license for Canada's first urban radio station, FLOW. This was a first for the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC). He continues to promote Canadian musical talent.

- A) Michael Jackson
- B) Denzel Washington
- C) **Farley Flex**

42. A household name, her career began in radio and progressed in to her own self titled talk show Wining multiply awards she became the first African American billionaire. And she continues to make an impact on the world thorough her humanitarian acts.

- A) Rosa Parks
- B) **Oprah Winfrey**
- C) Tina Turner

43. In 2005, she was sworn in as Canada's first Black Governor General.

- A) Harriet Tubman
- B) Mary Ann Shad
- C) **Michaëlle Jean**

45. A radio host dedicated to social activism, she organized the first National Congress of Black Women of Canada in 1973.

- A) **Kay Livingstone**
- B) Jean Agustine
- C) Althea Gibson

46. Through non-violent actions this Black man spearheaded (led) the Civil rights movement in the USA.

- A) **Martin Luther King**
- B) Satchel Paige
- C) Ernie Banks

47. Her mission was called the Underground Railway.

- A) Maggie Lee Walker
- B) **Harriet Tubman**

C) Wilma Rudolph

48. This brave Black woman refused to move to the back of the bus as the law required black people to do. Who was she?

- A) Ethel Waters
- B) Phylicia Rashad
- C) Rosa Parks**

49. He was an anti-apartheid activist who was convicted of sabotage by the courts and was sent to jail for 27 years,

- A) Harry S. Truman
- B) James H. Merideth
- C) Nelson Mandela**

50. On November 25, 1993, Canada elected its first black member of parliament. What was her name?

- A) Katherine Dunham
- B) Jean Augustine**
- C) Marian Wright Edelman

51. This Canadian was elected to the Canadian parliament in 1968 and held the seat for four (4) successive elections.

- A) Lincoln Alexander**
- B) Gustave Le Bon
- C) James Horton

52. She graduated from McGill University in Montreal with a Master's Degree in social Work but later entered politics and served as a member of the legislative assembly in British Columbia in 1993.

- A) Rosemary Brown**
- B) Mae Jemison
- C) Lorraine Hansberry

53. In 1968 she became the first Black Congress woman who fought for education opportunities and social justice for minorities.

- A) **Shirley Chisholm**
- B) Mary McLeod Bethune
- C) Jane Bolin

54. She is an enforcer of minority rights. In 1958 she became involved with the Canadian Negro Women's Association and later formed the Congress of Black Women of Canada.

- A) Barbara Maxton
- B) April Tyese Thomas
- C) **Kay Livingston**

55. Served three (3) terms as a Jamaican Prime Minister.

- A) John Standard
- B) William Alexander Clarke Bustamante
- C) **Michael Manley**

56. Before pursuing a political career this Black individual worked as a teacher and a Civil Rights lawyer.

- A) George Washington Carver
- B) **Barrack Obama**
- C) Harry S. Truman

57. Who was the first Black person to win a Nobel peace prize?

- A) **Ralph Bunche**
- B) G.F. Grant
- C) John Standard

58. Rosa Parks is known for which courageous act?

- A) **Refused to give up her seat**
- B) Read her poem to the First U.S president
- C) Popularize the slogan "Black Power"

59. Arthur Ashe was a famous _____.

- A. Basketball player
- B. Tennis player**
- C. Track star

60. Garrett Morgan is responsible for which two inventions?

A. Traffic light, gas mask

- B. Traffic light, cars
- C. Gas mask, stop sign

61. Charles Drew is responsible for which of the following?

A. Refrigerator

B. Blood banks

C. Plastic surgery

62. Jackie Robinson was the first black to do what?

A. Play major league football

B. Play major league baseball

C. Hit a home run at Yankees Stadium

63. He started the "Back to Africa Movement" and was later deported back to his homeland in Jamaica

A. Malcolm X

B. James Del Rio

C. Marcus Garvey

64. She was the first Black to publish her writings

A. Phyllis Wheatly

B. Ida Wells

C. Marion Shea

65. Who were the Black singer, actress and civil rights leader who got her start singing at the Cotton Club in New York City at age 16?

A. Dionne Warwick

B. Lena Horne

C. Diana Ross

66. Who was last Black actress to win the Academy Award's Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 2006?

A. Whoopi Goldberg

B. Jennifer Hudson

C. Haddie McDaniel

67. Who was the Ladies World Figure Skating Championship in 1986?

- A. Peggy Flemming
- B. Dorothy Hamil
- C. Debbie Thomas**

68. Who holds the record of 100 points scored in a single NBA game?

- A. Earl "the Pearl" Monroe
- B. Wilt Chamberlain**
- C. Lebron James

69. What was the nickname for the all Black 332d Fighter Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps which escorted Allied Bombers through European airspace on 1,578 missions during World War II?

- A. Flying Blue Aces
- B. Tuskegee Airmen**
- C. 92nd bomber squadron

70. What service did the first Black female millionaire, Madame C.J. Walker, provide?

- A. Food distribution
- B. Investment advice
- C. Beauty products**

71. Who was the pitcher in the Negro Baseball league who developed bat-badger, and jump ball and was elected into Baseball Hall of Fame in 1971?

- A. Satchel Paige**
- B. Jackie Robinson
- C. Larry Doby

72. In what year did Harriet Tubman escape slavery?

- A. 1797
- B. 1849**
- C. 1929

73. Who was the first African American Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?

- A. Clarence Thomas
- B. Thurgood Marshall**
- C. Hugo Black

74. What was the first Black owned company to be traded on the New York Stock Exchange?

- A. Johnson and Johnson
- B. BET Black Entertainment Television**
- C. Jump man

75. Who was the first Black poet to win a Pulitzer Prize?

- A. Maya Angelou
- B. Terry McMillian
- C. Gwendolyn Brooks**

76. Who was the first Black car manufacturer in 1916?

- A. Henry Ford
- B. Charles Richard Patterson**
- C. Charles Buick

77. What tennis champion and golfer earned her place in the Black Hall of Fame in 1974?

- A. Zina Garrison
- B. Serena Williams
- C. Althea Gibson**

78. Who is the author who wrote "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings"?

- A. Maya Angelou**
- B. Alice Walker
- C. June Jordan

79. How old was Martin Luther King when he entered Morehouse College?

- A. 12 years old
- B. 15 years old**
- C. 8 years old

80. What is the largest Black University in the United States?

- A. Grambling State University
- B. Spelman College**
- C. Fisk University

81. Who wrote the novel THE COLOR PURPLE?

- A. Whoopi Goldberg
- B. Toni Morrison
- C. Alice Walker**

82. November 1945 was the date this well known Black magazine went on sale.

- A. Jet
- B. Ebony**
- C. Essence

83. Langston Hughes is best known for his:

- A. poetry**
- B. novels
- C. invention of the traffic light

84. Kunta Kinte was a character in what Alex Haley book?

- A. I know why the Caged Bird Sings
- B. Out of Africa
- C. Roots**

85. Who signed the Emancipation Proclamation?

- A. George Washington
- B. Abraham Lincoln**
- C. Theodore Roosevelt

86. In what year was the historic march on Washington?

- A. 1943
- B. 1953
- C. 1963**

87. What was the slave voyage to the Americas known as?

- A. The Slave Trade
- B. The Middle Passage**
- C. The Great Pilgrimage

88. Stevie Wonder, blind writer, composer, and singer helped make what national holiday?

- A. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- B. Black History Month
- C. Washington's Birthday

89. Name the bandleader known as "Pops" or "Satchmo"

- A. Louis Armstrong**
- B. Malcolm X
- C. John Coltrane

90. What did this Black individual , Richard B. Spikes invent?

- A. The Tire
- B. Automatic Car Wash
- C. Anti-Lock Brake System**

91. Who was the first Black person to have his or her own TV show?

- A. Hattie McDaniel
- B. Bill Cosby**
- C. Red Fox

92. Who was the first Black astronaut?

- A. Robert Lawrence**
- B. Neal Armstrong
- C. Curtis Brown

93. What city is considered the birthplace of gospel music?

- A. Chicago**
- B. Las Vegas
- C. Atlanta

94. The parents of Colin Powell immigrated from what country?

- A. Barbados
- B. Jamaica**
- C. Haiti

95. What major U.S. city elected the first black mayor in 1967?

- A. Cleveland**
- B. New Orleans
- C. Atlanta

96. What is Tiger Woods' real first name?

- A. Elmer
- B. Samuel
- C. Eldrick**

97. What is the name of the great Civil Rights leader who won the Nobel Peace Prize and was assassinated in 1968?

- A. Martin Luther King Jr.**
- B. Malcolm
- C. Dred Scott

98. What is the name of the Black individual who served on the U.S Supreme Court?

- A. Barack Obama
- B. Thurgood Marshall**
- C. Rosa Parks

99. What is the name of the Black woman who helped over 300 escaped slaves flee to freedom in the North via the Underground Railroad?

- A. Rosa Parks
- B. Harriet Tubman**
- C. Nat Turner

100. Jean –Baptist-Point Du Sable was a Haitian- French pioneer who founded the settlement that would later become which large U.S. city?

- A. New York City
- B. Chicago**
- C. New Orleans

101. What is the name of the slave, who sued for this freedom & lost, in a major Supreme Court case before the Civil War?

- A. Dred Scott**
- B. Nat Turner
- C. Carl Lewis

102. The First Black player in the NHL was Wille O'Ree. What team did he play for?

- A. Toronto Maple Leafs
- B. New York Rangers
- C. Boston Bruins**

103. Which track & field star was the first athlete to win 4 gold medals in an Olympic Games?

- A. Jesse Owens**
- B. Carl Lewis
- C. Michael Johnson

104. Which Black basketball star made history becoming the first women to dunk a pro game in 2002?

- A. Michelle Snow
- B. Lisa Leslie**
- C. Teresa Weatherspoon

Did you know...

Black History Month originated in 1926 by Carter Godwin Woodson. February was picked in honor of Frederick Douglass & Abraham Lincoln, who were both born in that month.