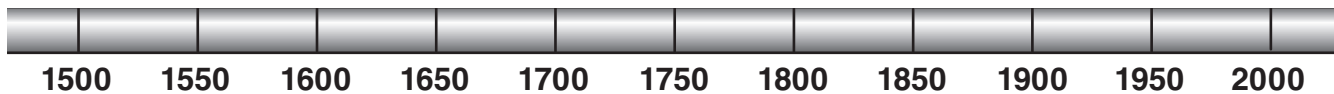


Timeline of African American Events

- 1539**—Esteban the Black guides a Spanish expedition from Mexico through the Southwest searching for seven cities of gold.
- 1619**—The first indentured servants arrive in Jamestown. African slaves arrive soon after.
- 1770**—Crispus Attucks, an African American, dies in the Boston Massacre.
- 1793**—Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin, which makes slavery very profitable in the South.
- 1820**—The Missouri Compromise is passed by Congress to help reduce the conflict over slavery.
- 1822**—The American colony of Liberia is founded in Africa as a self-governing homeland for free blacks.
- 1827**—*Freedom's Journal*, the first African American newspaper, is founded.
- 1847**—Frederick Douglass starts the *North Star*, an abolitionist newspaper.
- 1849**—Harriet Tubman escapes and begins her career as a conductor on the Underground Railroad.
- 1850**—The Compromise of 1850 includes a Fugitive Slave law requiring the return of escaped slaves.
- 1857**—The *Dred Scott* decision of the U.S. Supreme Court declares that slaves are not U.S. citizens.
- 1861**—The Confederate attack on Fort Sumter begins the Civil War.
- 1863**—President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation.
- 1865**—The Civil War ends; President Lincoln is assassinated.
—The 13th Amendment officially ends slavery.
—The Ku Klux Klan is organized in Tennessee to violently deny civil rights to African Americans.
- 1881**—Booker T. Washington becomes the principal of Tuskegee Institute and presses African Americans to focus on economic success.
- 1896**—George Washington Carver begins his long career as an inventor, scientist, and teacher at Tuskegee Institute.
- 1909**—W. E. B. Du Bois and some African Americans from the Niagara Movement found the NAACP to fight for racial equality.
- 1914**—World War I begins. Thousands of African Americans begin the long migration from the South to the Northern cities.
- 1917**—Marcus Garvey brings the Universal Negro Improvement Association to Harlem.
- 1920s**—The Harlem Renaissance, a literary movement, begins with the writing of Langston Hughes.
- 1920s**—Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington lead a jazz movement based on African American folk music called the blues.
- 1929**—Martin Luther King Jr. is born.
- 1939**—Marian Anderson sings at the Lincoln Memorial after she is refused the right to use Constitution Hall.
- 1940**—Benjamin O. Davis Sr. becomes the first African American general in the U.S. Army.
- 1941**—The U.S. enters World War II with more than one million African American troops in segregated units.
- 1947**—Jackie Robinson breaks the color barrier in baseball.



Timeline of African American Events *(cont.)*

- 1954**—The *Brown v. Board of Education* decision by the Supreme Court outlaws racial segregation in public schools.
- 1955**—Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat, sparking the Montgomery bus boycott led by Dr. King.
- 1957**—The Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC) is formed.
—Nine African American students enroll in a Little Rock high school.
- 1960**—The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is formed using sit-ins to counteract discrimination in restaurants.
- 1961**—The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) begins freedom rides on interstate buses throughout the South.
- 1963**—Dr. King delivers the “I Have a Dream” speech during the March on Washington to more than 250,000 marchers.
—Four young girls are killed in a church bombing in Birmingham.
- 1964**—The 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution eliminates the poll tax, a fee for voting, in federal elections.
—The Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination in public facilities and in jobs.
—Dr. King receives the Nobel Peace Prize for his nonviolent leadership.
- 1965**—A peaceful protest movement in Selma, Alabama, leads to violence and national outrage over Selma police brutality.
—President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act.
- 1965**—The Watts riot in Los Angeles causes thirty-four deaths.
- 1967**—Thurgood Marshall becomes the first African American Supreme Court justice.
- 1968**—Dr. King is assassinated.
—President Johnson signs the second Civil Rights Act.
- 1991**—General Colin Powell becomes the first African American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- 1992**—Carol Moseley Braun becomes the first African American woman elected to the U.S. Senate.
- 2001**—Powell becomes the first African American Secretary of State.
- 2008**—Barack Obama is elected as the first African American President.

Assignment

- Find at least ten dates in American history to add to the timeline. These dates could include wars, inventions, presidential elections, disasters, or sporting events, among many others.
- Create a visual timeline with these facts on a roll of white paper, such as shelf paper, rolled computer paper, or small adding-machine rolls.
- Block off squares or rectangles with a ruler.
- Write the date and the event at the top of the square.
- Draw a picture to illustrate each event in the lower half of each square. Use your books and other sources to help you.
- Use colored pencils or thin line markers to color each event.