

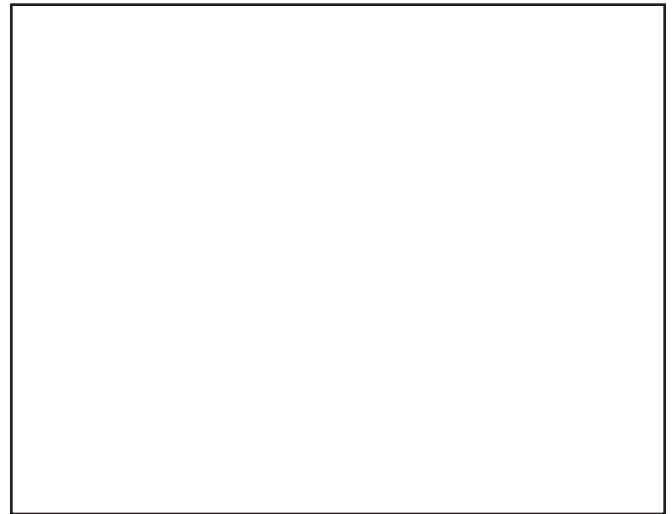
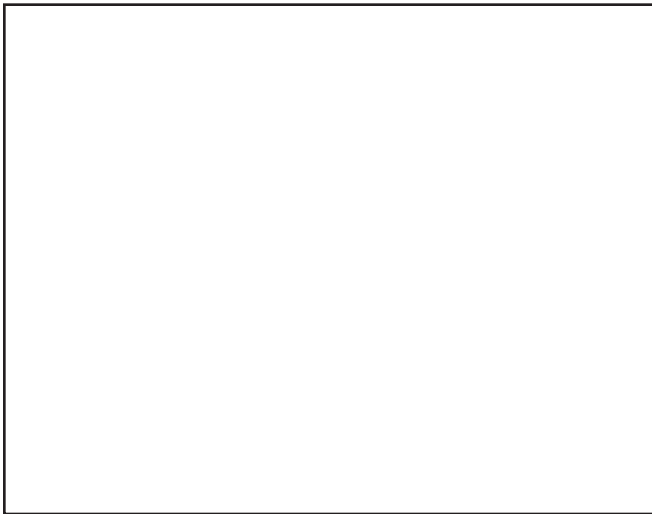
Concentration

This game increases your students' awareness of the important contributions made by individuals throughout history. Students play Concentration by matching the picture and name of a famous African American with his or her biographical sketch.

Directions

1. Provide students with copies of pages 62–65. Read over the biographical information with students. If you would like students to make cards of their own, provide copies of the blank cards at the bottom of this page.
2. Have students glue the cards onto one color of construction paper or tagboard and cut them out. Now each student should have a set of 24 playing cards, 12 portraits (pictures) with names, and 12 biographical sketches.
3. Have students pick partners. Ask them to place their cards face down and play Concentration.
4. A player scores a point each time a portrait is matched with a biographical sketch.

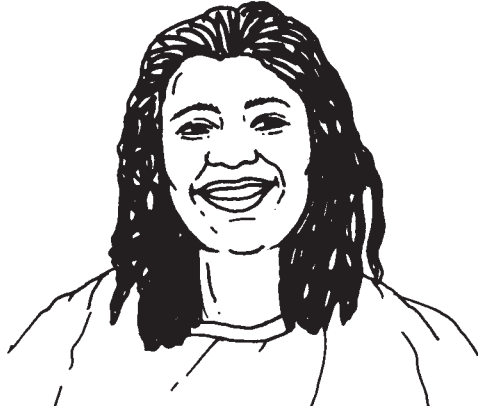
Students may use these blank cards to add more famous African Americans to this game.



Concentration Cards

Alice Walker

(1944-)



In her younger years, she was very involved in the civil rights movement. She became a writer and teacher of literature at Jackson State College. She wrote mostly poetry. In 1970, she wrote her first novel, *The Third Life of Grange Copeland*. In the 1970's, she taught at Wellesley College and wrote many books and poems. In 1982, she wrote her most famous book, *The Color Purple*. This book won the Pulitzer Prize, the American Book Award, and a National Book Critics Circle Award Nomination. Steven Spielberg then produced the story as a movie, and it received several Academy Award nominations.

Harriet Tubman

(1821?-1913)



This woman, who was an escaped slave herself, led as many as 300 people out of slavery in the South to freedom in the North. Despite the fact that there was a \$40,000 reward for her capture, she returned to the South 19 times to help African Americans make the trip using the Underground Railroad. She was able to obtain freedom for her husband and elderly parents making this dangerous journey. She worked as a laundress, cook, and seamstress to pay for these trips. During the Civil War, she worked as a cook, nurse, scout, as well as a spy for the Union Army.

Wilma Rudolph

(1940-1994)



This woman made incredible achievements in athletics. She was born into a family of 22 children. At the age of four, she suffered scarlet fever and polio. This left her weak and partially crippled. The doctors said she probably would never walk again. She worked hard to prove that the doctors were wrong. She did learn to walk again and later found that she loved to run in track and field events. At the age of 16, she won the Bronze Medal in a relay at the 1956 Olympics. In the 1960 Olympics, she earned three gold medals in the races that she ran.

Concentration Cards *(cont.)*

Martin Luther King, Jr.
(1929-1968)



This man was one of the most important and influential leaders of the twentieth century. In 1955, he organized the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott. Throughout the 1950's and 1960's he worked for the civil rights of all people. He was strongly influenced by the words of Ghandi and stressed the use of nonviolent protest to cause change. In 1964, he received the Nobel Peace Prize. On April 4, 1968, he was assassinated by James Earl Ray. Today his birthday is celebrated as a federal holiday.

Oprah Winfrey
(1954-)



This woman graduated from Tennessee State with a degree in speech and drama. She began working as a reporter and anchorperson in Chicago. She hosted a talk show in Chicago which was syndicated nationally in 1986. This was the first time an African-American woman had hosted her own national talk show. It is now the leading talk show in the country. She then created her own production company and named it Harpo Productions. In addition, she was Miss Black Tennessee in 1971 and was nominated for an Academy Award for her work in the film "The Color Purple."

Duke Ellington
(1899-1974)



He is known as the greatest of all jazz composers and musicians. He wrote his first song at the age of 17. He went on to introduce the human voice as an instrument, use echo chambers to create sound effects, add Cuban/Latin elements to jazz, and create the "jungle" sound. He played at the Cotton Club in Harlem from 1924-1927. He received a Grammy for his achievement in the music industry.

Concentration Cards *(cont.)*

Mary McLeod Bethune
(1875-1955)



This woman was a teacher and was strongly concerned with educational needs of African-American children. In 1904, with only \$1.50, she created the Daytona Normal and Industrial School now called Bethune-Cookman College. She became the vice president of the National Urban League in 1920 and a member of the National Association of Colored Women from 1924–1928. She also began a hospital that treated African Americans.

Elijah McCoy
(1843-1929)



Although born in 1843, this man was never a slave. His inventions were primarily the lubricating parts of a steam engine. His parts were so far superior to all others that when customers bought these parts, they would ask if they were the “real McCoy.” When he died, he had over 57 patents for inventions, such as the lawn sprinkler and the folding ironing board. However, he could not afford to finance the refining of his inventions. Consequently, those who paid for this work to be done made the huge profits off his inventions, and he died having made little money.

Ida Wells
(1862-1931)



She began working as a teacher, but she was dismissed in 1891 because of her militant resistance to segregation. She is best known for her anti-lynching campaign. In 1892, she became half-owner of an African-American newspaper called *The Memphis Free Speech*. In this paper, she strongly criticized the lynching of African Americans. Her work was not limited to the anti-lynching campaign. She also organized the Black Women’s Suffrage Organization, the National Afro-American Council, and the Committee of Forty which led to the development of the NAACP.

Concentration Cards *(cont.)*

Thurgood Marshall
(1908 -)



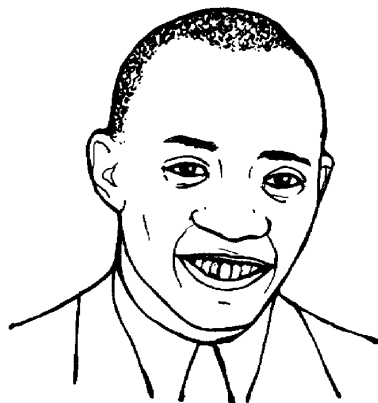
This man was the first black justice of the United States Supreme Court. He started practicing law in 1933. From the late 1930s until 1961, he was chief counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). His legal arguments led to the 1954 Supreme Court decision making racial segregation unconstitutional in public schools.

Shirley Chisholm
(1924 -)



She was the first African-American woman to become a member of the United States Congress. This woman was born in Brooklyn, New York. She graduated from Brooklyn College and moved on to Columbia University to earn her master's degree. Throughout her political career, this woman has worked toward reform in the legislature that would help more citizens. In addition to her valuable years of service in politics, she wrote an autobiography called *Unbought and Unbossed*, published in 1970.

Jesse Owens
(1913 - 1980)



This famous African American won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. He was born in Oakville, Alabama, but later moved to Cleveland, Ohio. At Ohio State University, his athletic ability was recognized, when, in 1935, he broke three world records. In his career, this man set seven world records.