

# Black History Month

Week 1 Tutorial Video



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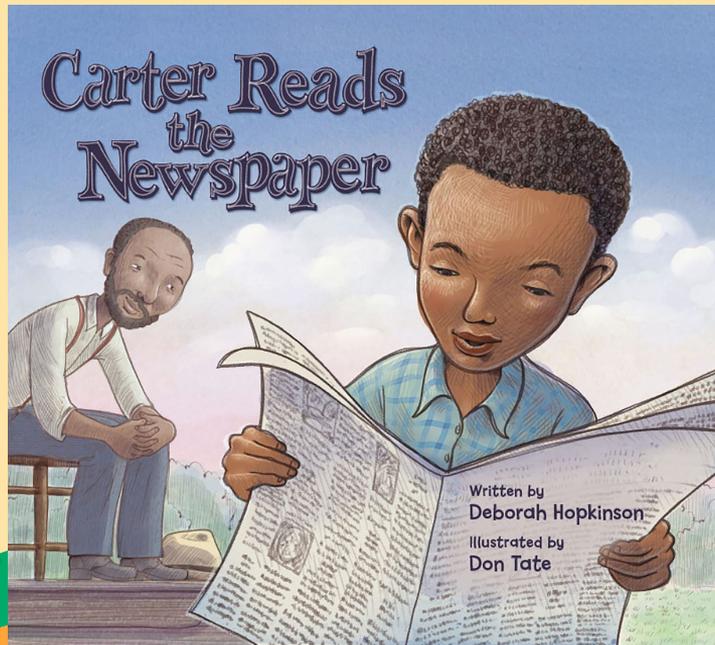
**Creations,  
Culture, and  
Legacy**

**Week 1**

# **Origins of Black History Month**



# Carter Reads the Newspaper by Deborah Hopkinson



# Carter G. Woodson



Carter G. Woodson was a historian, educator, author, journalist and the founder of the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History. Woodson was one of the most important educators of the 20th century because of the education resources he developed throughout his life.

While attending Harvard University, Dr. Woodson had a professor who told him that Black people had no history. He said that Black history should just be a part of American history courses. Dr. Woodson said that wasn't good enough and created ASALH to teach the world about Black history and culture.

Today, African-American studies have become specialized fields of study in history, music, culture, literature and other areas.

# Carter G. Woodson

Day 1

In 1926, Woodson proposed and launched the annual February observance of Negro History Week, which became Black History Month in 1976. Dr. Woodson chose February specifically because there were celebrations built into the month to honor Frederick Douglass and president Abraham Lincoln.

Dr. Woodson is often called “The Father of Black History.” Dr. Woodson’s work to, “promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community” has transformed our understanding of Black history and culture. Today, Black History Month is observed globally. Dr. Woodson’s books, research, journals, education resources and teacher training programs have influenced countless students and educators all over the globe.

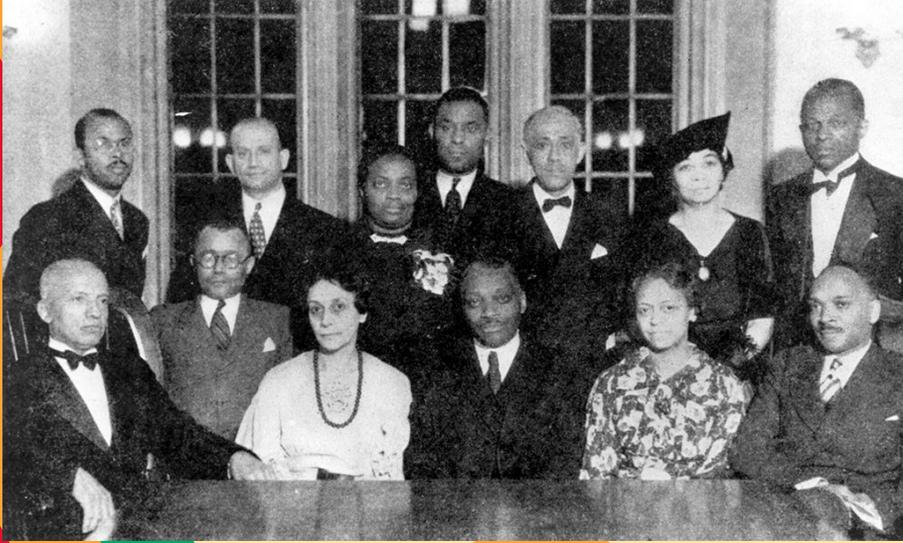


**“To me, **education** means to inspire people to live more abundantly, to learn to begin with life as they find it and make it better.”**

Carter G. Woodson



# Association for the Study of African American Life and History



The Association for the Study of African American Life and History was established in 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Dr. Woodson formed the organisation shortly after the release of the film *The Birth of a Nation* which represented Black people and Black culture in a negative light. Dr. Woodson wanted to use his organization to combat misrepresentations of Black people and Black history.

The mission of the ASALH is to promote, research, preserve, interpret, and **disseminate**, or spread, information about Black life, history, and culture to the global community.

**Why did Carter G. Woodson  
think it was important to  
expand the view of how history  
is taught?**

# Brown v. Board of Education



# Linda Brown

Linda Brown lived a few blocks away from an elementary school in Kansas called the Sumner School. When she was 8 years old, her father tried to enroll her in school. The school told her that she instead would need to attend an all-Black school that was miles away from her home.

Linda's father filed a lawsuit against the school board, saying that it was unfair that Linda could not go to the Sumner school. The lawsuit, called **Brown v Board of Education**, went all the way to the **Supreme Court**, the most powerful court in the country. Three years later, the Supreme Court decided that segregated schools were illegal and unconstitutional.



**“Linda Brown is one of that special band of heroic young people who, along with her family, courageously fought to end the ultimate symbol of white supremacy – racial segregation in public schools. She stands as an example of how ordinary school children took center stage in **transforming this country.**”**

Sherrilyn Ifill, president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund



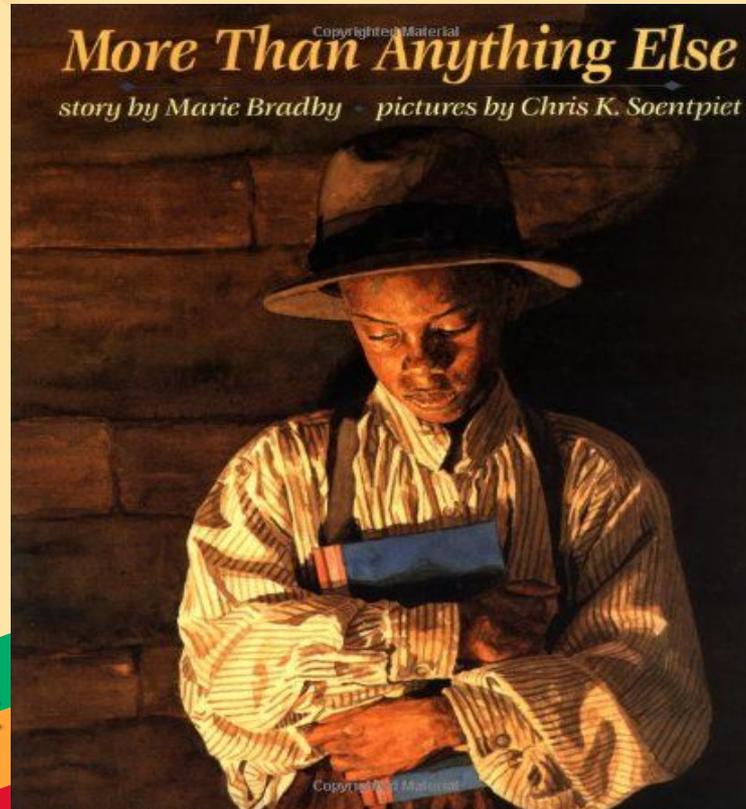
**Why was Linda Brown an  
important person in our  
country's history?**

Writing Prompt

**If you could write a letter to Carter G. Woodson or Linda Brown about their experience with school and education, what would you say to them?**



# More Than Anything Else by Marie Bradby

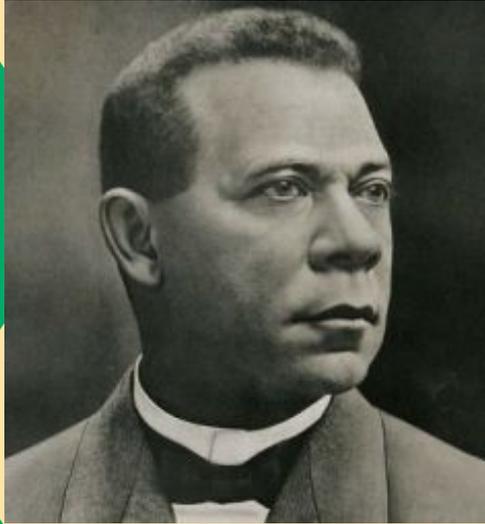


# Booker T. Washington

Day 2



# Booker T. Washington



Booker Taliaferro Washington was on a plantation in Virginia and was forcibly enslaved until the age of 9 when the Civil War ended in the United States. As a child Booker valued education and took every chance he could to acquire an education. He went to school to learn how to read and write at a local elementary school for Black children in Virginia. Later on, he learned about a college for Black students and wanted to attend, so he decided to leave home and travel to Hampton, Virginia to attend the Hampton Institute.

Booker took a job as a janitor to help pay for his education. He was very smart and soon graduated. He enjoyed school, so he stayed there and worked as a teacher. He was known for being an excellent teacher. This began his path to becoming one of the most important teachers and public figures of the late 19th century.

# The Tuskegee Institute

Booker T. Washington worked with a group of people to open a new school for Black students in Tuskegee, Alabama called the Tuskegee Institute. When he arrived, the school had very few students and even fewer buildings or school supplies! At first, Booker had to teach his classes in a nearby church. He spent the rest of his life building the Tuskegee Institute into one of the most important universities in the United States.

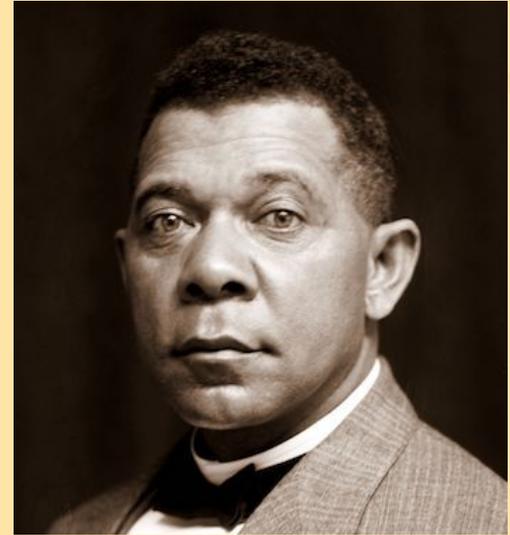
The Tuskegee Institute curriculum focused on core academics and learning a **trade**, or a job that requires special training, like farming, agriculture, construction, and sewing. This made it so that people who graduated from the Tuskegee Institute were ready to go into the workforce or start their own businesses upon graduation.



# Booker T. Washington's Legacy

As his school grew, Booker traveled around the country and around the world to raise money and gain support for the Tuskegee Institute. Booker T. Washington soon became one of the most famous Black men in the world. He was also a very important leader who fought to change our society to make it more just and equitable for everyone, especially for Black people.

Booker worked hard to improve the lives of African-Americans in the United States. He believed that education, Black-owned businesses, and hard work were the keys to African-American success.



“A lie doesn’t become **truth**, wrong doesn’t become **right**, and evil doesn’t become **good**, just because it’s accepted by a majority.”

Booker T. Washington



**Why do you think Booker T. Washington believed that education and business ownership was so important for African-Americans?**

# Mary McLeod Bethune



# Mary McLeod Bethune



Mary was born in South Carolina to parents who had formerly been enslaved. She had 16 siblings.

She started going to school when she was 11 years old. She had to walk 5 miles to get to and from school every day! She loved dancing and music and she was a good student. Her classmates looked up to her as a leader.

# Mary McLeod Bethune

In 1904, Mary started a school for African-American girls in Florida. The school was very successful and in 1923, it merged with a school for boys called Cookman Institute. The new school later became known as Bethune-Cookman College.

Mary served as the president of the college until 1942 when she retired. She was also an adviser to several United States presidents, and Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed her Director of African-American Affairs in the National Youth Administration and a Special Adviser on Minority Affairs.



# National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools



The National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools was a professional organization and union that represented teachers in Black schools in the American South during legal segregation. It was formed in 1906.

In 1924, Mary McLeod Bethune became the first female president of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools.

**“Believe in yourself, learn,  
and never stop wanting to  
build a better world.”**

Mary McLeod Bethune

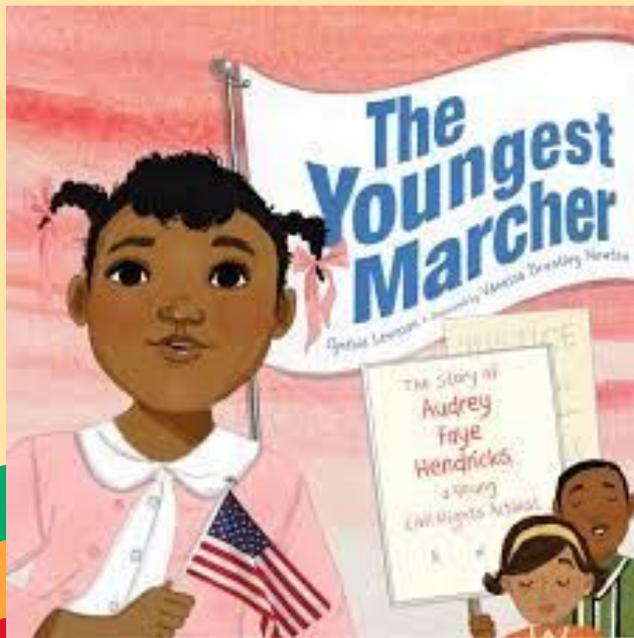


**Mary McLeod Bethune was known for being an amazing educator. What qualities do you think an amazing educator should have?**

Writing Prompt

**Do you think education  
is important? Why or  
why not?**

# The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist by Cynthia Levinson



# Ruby Bridges



# Ruby Bridges

Click the photo below for a Time for Kids article with a read aloud option.



“Somebody has to have  
**courage** enough to stand up,  
to make a **change.**”

Ruby Bridges

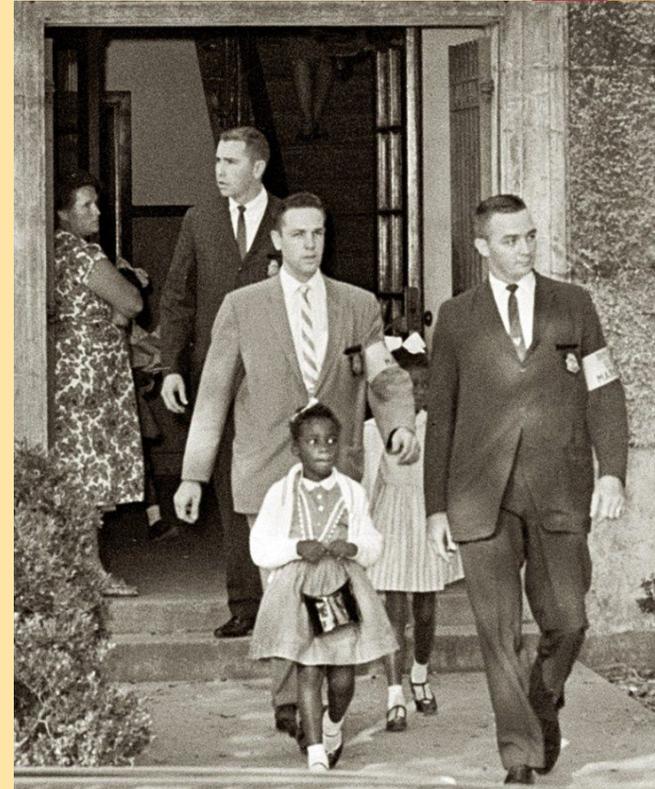


**Ruby Bridges helped create change in our society as a young person. What ways do you think young students can help make change in our society today?**

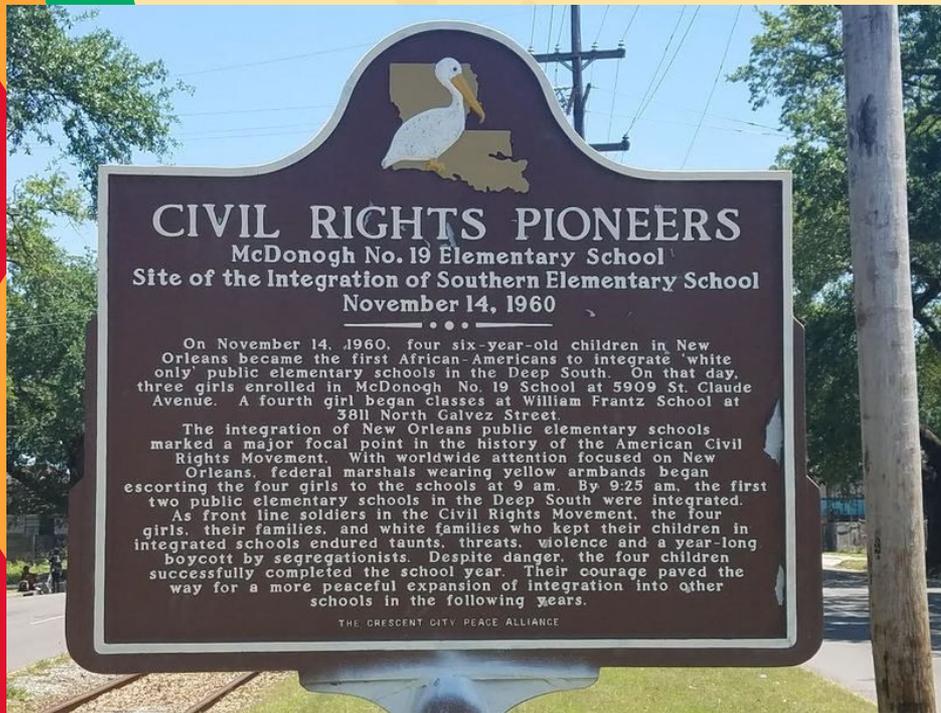
# McDonogh Three

In New Orleans in the 1950s, schools were segregated. However, on November 14, 1960, a school called McDonogh 19 was **integrated** by three first grade African-American girls named **Leona Tate, Tessie Prevost, and Gail Etienne**. McDonogh 19 had been an all-white school before this, even after the **Brown v. Board of Education** decision that declared segregation of schools **unconstitutional**, or a violation against the rights of United States citizens.

Leona, Tessie, and Gail became known as the “McDonogh Three.” On the morning of November 14, federal marshals escorted the girls to their first day of first grade. As the McDonogh Three were sitting outside the principal’s office waiting to go to class, many of the white parents were pulling their children out of school.



# McDonogh Three



In January 1962, the New Orleans School Board decided to convert McDonogh 19 into an all-Black school. Because of this change, the parents of the McDonogh Three took them out of the school and transferred them to an integrated school.

McDonogh 19 is not an active school anymore; however, it has now become a Civil Rights Museum thanks to the hard work of Leona Tate and her foundation.

# McDonogh Three

Click the link below to watch an interview with Leona Tate about her first day of school at McDonogh 19.



“The primary focus was never to sit next to white children in a classroom as much as it was about **equality** in books, classrooms and quality scholastic materials. It was never about forced integration: it was, and is, about **fairness** and **equality**.”

Leona Tate



**How was the experience of the  
McDonogh 3 similar to the  
experience of Ruby Bridges?**

