

Black History IS American History

What does it mean to be an American?

Some American historical events, like The Civil Rights Movement, are our shared stories that are primarily told through African American voices.





We are made by history. It defines us and instructs decision-making. History is made by many voices and experiences.

For older students, "What are the stories from American history that define who we are?" Brainstorm a list of major historical events like Native American history, the Revolutionary War and Declaration of Independence, the Civil War, The Civil Rights Movement, the Suffragist Movement, and more recent events like 9/11 and mass shootings.



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For younger students, "Our country is made up of people from all over the world whose families settled here or were already here, and we all call the U.S.A. home. Just like our families tell stories of our past, people in our country have histories, and together the stories are all of OUR histories."



Our History Is Philanthropic

One of the things that is shared in American culture is philanthropy.

From the Native Americans' ethic of community, to the Pilgrims collaborating to survive, to suffragists advocating for women's rights, to survivors helping victims of disaster, our instinct is to come together for the common good.

People from all faiths, economic levels, and ethnic backgrounds in America have a desire to work together for the common good and help others.

Philanthropy is "giving time, talent, or treasure and taking action for the common good."



Research One Person

Research one historical black philanthropist and teach the story to others.

What is the contribution, impact, and role they played in the civil society sector in history? Some people to consider:

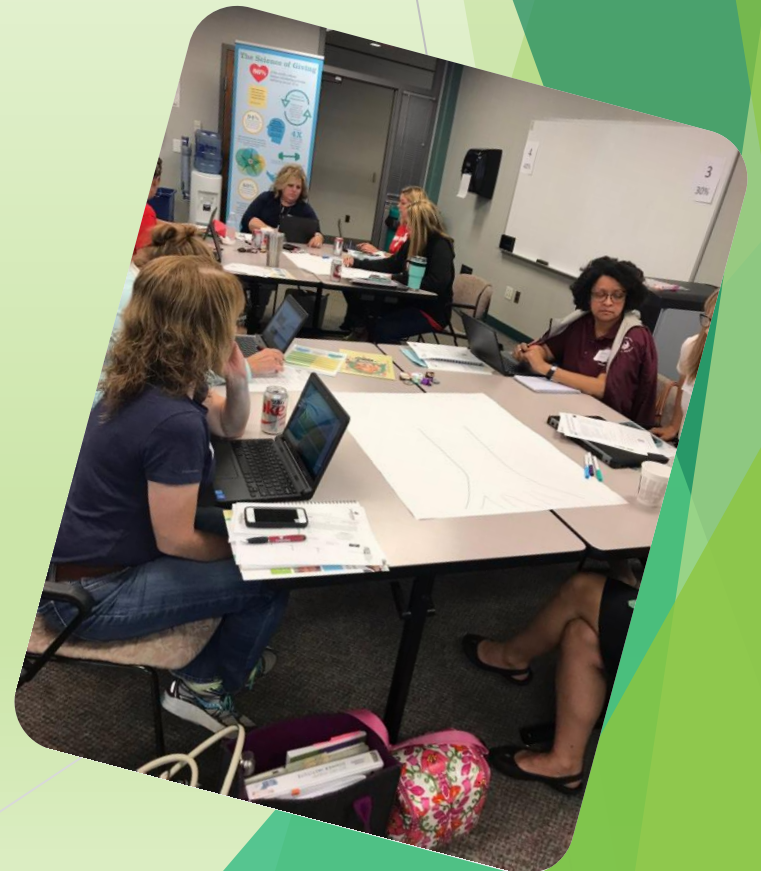
- John Lewis
- Martin Luther King
- Thurgood Marshall
- Shirley Chisholm
- Madam CJ Walker
- Ruby Bridges
- Langston Hughes
- Maya Angelou
- James Weldon Johnson
- Henrietta Lacks



Each group will share information and a picture of the person.

Whole Group

Reflect as a whole class on what you learned
in your research.





Service Project:

Create a pop-up museum with stories of different African Americans illustrated visually and with facts.

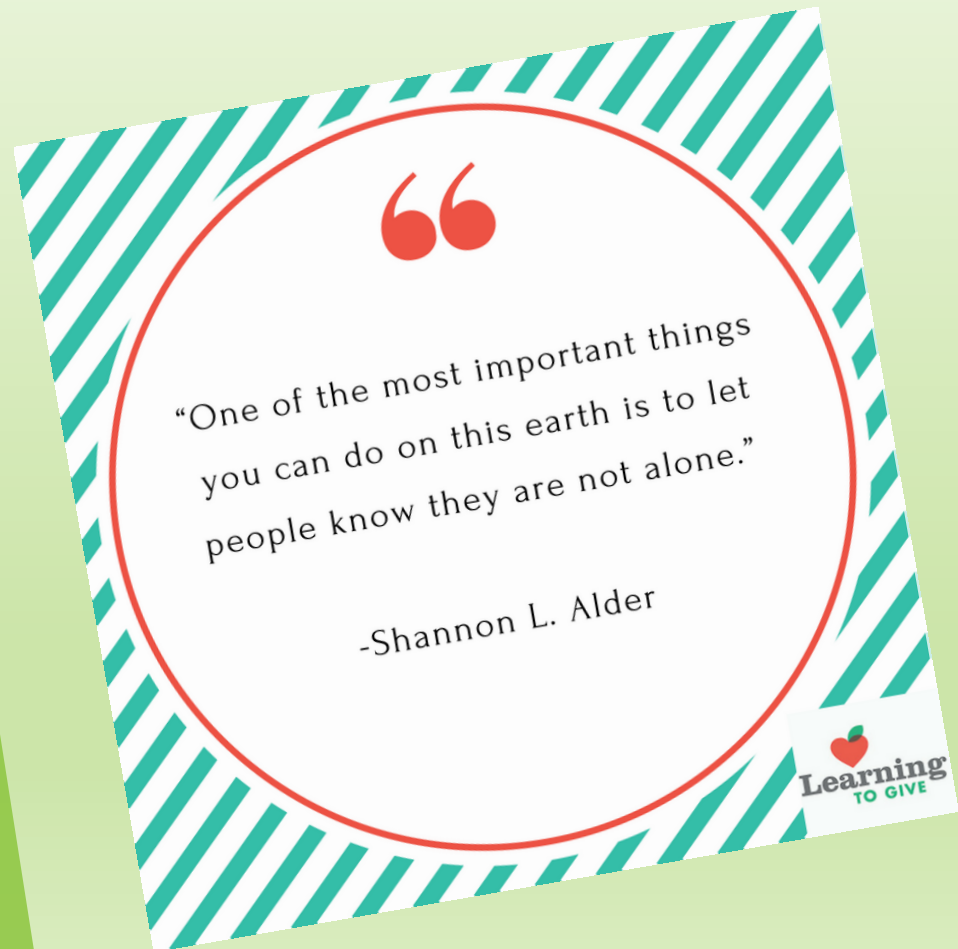
A pop-up museum is an informative multimedia illustration of events, people, or things that occurred around a theme or time. The pop-up museum may be shared with others to teach our story of people working for the common good in our shared history.

Service Project:

Procedure:

1. Work in groups to create one piece for the pop-up museum.
2. Collect and create illustrations using a variety of media, like a 3-D collage. These may include headlines, artifacts, articles, pictures, short stories and activities to tell the story of their person in African American History.
3. In small groups, put the pieces together to create a display for the museum in poster form or in a diorama, or other creative display.
4. The pop-up museum will be flexible enough to travel to different venues for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
5. Senior citizens, elementary, middle school, and high school students are all great audiences for the pop-up museum.

Reflection:



Why are the stories of diverse Americans considered OUR stories, even when they don't share my faith or ethnicity?

Follow-up: Discuss – What would you like to do next to continue impacting the community?

Philanthropy Benchmarks

- Define philanthropy as individuals and organizations providing their time, talent, and/or treasures intended for the common good throughout history and around the world. Give examples.
- Give examples of how individuals have helped others.
- Explain why acting philanthropically is good for the community, state, nation, or world.
- Give political and historic reasons why civil society groups have formed in the nation and world.
- Describe and give examples of characteristics of someone who helps others.
- Describe civil society advocacy organizations and their relationship to human rights.
- Analyze philanthropic traditions of diverse cultural groups and their contributions to civil society.
- Describe how women and minority groups have used the civil society sector as an alternative power structure.
- Explain the role of philanthropy in major themes and social issues in the nation's history.
- Utilize the persuasive power of written or oral communication as an instrument of change in the community, nation or the world.
- Identify reasons why historic figures acted for the common good.