

Black History Month Facts of the Day 2013



DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

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	February	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Fact</u>	<u>Source</u>
1	The 2013 Black History Month theme is "At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington." This year's theme commemorates two events that changed the course of the nation—the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation and the 1963 March on Washington.	
2	Black History Month began as Negro History Week, which was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, an African American historian, scholar, educator, and publisher. The month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln and became a month-long celebration in 1976.	http://www.history.com/topics/black-history-facts
3	Every U.S. President since 1976 has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.	http://www.history.com/topics/black-history-month
4	In the 2010 Census, forty-two million people identified themselves as Black, either alone or in combination with one or more other races, making up 13.6 percent of the total U.S. population. The Black population grew by 15.4 percent from 2000 to 2010.	http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb12-ff01.html

5	<p>Founded in 1942, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) became one of the leading activist organizations of the American Civil Rights Movement. In the early 1960s, CORE worked with other civil rights groups and launched a series of initiatives: the Freedom Rides, aimed at desegregating public transportation; the Freedom Summer voter registration project; and the March on Washington in 1963.</p>	<p>http://www.history.com/topics/congress-of-racial-equality</p>
6	<p>The original of the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, is in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. With the text covering five pages, the document was originally tied with narrow red and blue ribbons, which were attached to the signature page by a wafered impression of the seal of the United States. Most of the ribbon remains; parts of the seal are still decipherable, but other parts have worn off.</p>	<p>http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/emancipation_proclamation/</p>
7	<p>Introduced at the March on Washington as "the acknowledged champion of civil rights in America," Roy Wilkins headed the oldest and largest of the civil rights organizations, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. By the early 1960s, with a new generation of activists trying a more confrontational approach, Roy Wilkins remained a moderate but insistent voice for progressive action, with a direct line to the White House.</p>	<p>http://www.jfklibrary.org/Education/Students/Leaders-in-the-Struggle-for-Civil-Rights/Roy-Wilkins.aspx</p>

8	<p>The March on Washington represented a coalition of civil rights organizations, all of which generally had different approaches and different agendas. The "Big Six" organizers were James Farmer, of the Congress of Racial Equality; Martin Luther King, Jr., of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; John Lewis, of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee; A. Philip Randolph, of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Roy Wilkins, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and Whitney Young, Jr., of the National Urban League.</p>	<p>http://www.biography.com/tv/classroom/black-history-firsts</p>
9	<p>The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's largest and strongest civil rights organization. Founded in 1909, in New York City by a group of Black and White citizens committed to social justice, the NAACP's principal objective is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of minority group citizens of United States and eliminate racial prejudice.</p>	<p>http://www.blackfacts.com/fact/9f0a9876-88f7-409e-8525-665c5dcf13c6</p>
10	<p>On this day in 1964, after ten days of debate, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by a vote of 290–130. The bill prohibited any state or local government or public facility from denying access to anyone because of race or ethnic origin.</p>	<p>http://www.floridablackhistory.com/</p>

11	<p>On May 4, 1961, a group of 13 civil rights activists began the Freedom Rides, a series of bus trips through the American South to protest segregation in interstate bus terminals. The Freedom Riders, who were recruited by the Congress of Racial Equality, departed from Washington D.C. and attempted to integrate facilities at bus terminals along the way into the South. The group encountered tremendous violence from White protestors along the route, but also drew international attention to their cause.</p>	<p>http://www.history.com/topics/freedom-rides</p>
12	<p>The Black population of the United States, including those of more than one race, is projected to be 65.7 million by July 1, 2050, constituting 15 percent of the nation's total population.</p>	<p>http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb12-ff01.html</p>
13	<p>According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the annual median income of Black households in 2010 was \$32,068, a decline of 3.2 percent from 2009.</p>	<p>http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb12-ff01.html</p>
14	<p>In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its ruling in the landmark case of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. The Court's unanimous decision overturned the 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson decision, which allowed for "separate but equal" public facilities. Declaring that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal," the Brown v. Board decision helped break state-sponsored segregation and provided an intricate piece to the American Civil Rights Movement.</p>	<p>http://www.history.com/topics/brown-v-board-of-education-of-topeka</p>

15	<p>On August 28, 1963, more than 200,000 Americans gathered in Washington, D.C., for a political rally known as the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Organized by civil rights and religious groups, the event was designed to shed light on the political and social challenges African Americans faced across the United States. The march became a key moment in the struggle for civil rights in the U.S., and it culminated in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.</p>	<p>http://www.history.com/topics/march-on-washington</p>
16	<p>Widely hailed as a masterpiece of rhetoric, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech invoked the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the United States Constitution. In his 17-minute speech, King alluded to Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address by saying "Five score years ago..." and also referenced the abolition of slavery articulated in the Emancipation Proclamation: "It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity."</p>	<p>http://www.blackfacts.com/fact/a02eab5d-4e20-411b-b2a2-3f5dfe2d22c0</p>
17	<p>Among Blacks 25 years of age and older, 82 percent had a high school diploma and 18 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2010.</p>	<p>http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb12-ff01.html</p>
18	<p>According to the U.S. Census in 2010, 2.4 million military veterans were Black.</p>	<p>http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb12-ff01.html</p>

19	<p>The March on Washington began with a rally at the Washington Monument featuring several celebrities and musicians. Participants then marched the mile-long National Mall to the Lincoln Memorial. The 3-hour-long program at the Lincoln Memorial included speeches from prominent civil rights and religious leaders. The day ended with a meeting between the march leaders and President John F. Kennedy at the White House.</p>	<p>http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=96</p>
20	<p>Bayard Rustin, once called the Socrates of the civil rights movement, was the engineer behind the scenes of the March on Washington, and its success was largely due to his planning. Rustin's activism was rooted in his Quaker upbringing and deep belief in the concept of one human family, with all members of that family being equal. Imprisoned for militant pacifist activities during World War II, he was involved in nearly every major civil rights effort from the 1940s on.</p>	<p>http://www.jfklibrary.org/Education/Students/Leaders-in-the-Struggle-for-Civil-Rights/Bayard-Rustin.aspx</p>
21	<p>President John F. Kennedy said after the March on Washington, "We have witnessed today in Washington tens of thousands of Americans, both Negro and White, exercising their right to assemble peaceably and direct the widest possible attention to a great national issue. Efforts to secure equal treatment and equal opportunity for all without regard to race, color, creed, or nationality are neither novel nor difficult to understand. What is different today is the intensified and widespread public awareness of the need to move forward in achieving these objectives—objectives which are older than this nation."</p>	<p>http://www.biography.com/tv/classroom/black-history-firsts</p>
22	<p>In 1948, President Harry Truman enacted Executive Order Number 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces. This order, in time, led to the end of racial segregation in the military forces.</p>	<p>http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/desegregation/large/index.php</p>

23	<p>Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862. It stipulated that if the Southern states did not cease their rebellion by January 1, 1863, the Proclamation would go into effect. When the Confederacy did not yield, Lincoln issued the final Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863.</p>	<p>http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/emancipation-150/10-facts.html</p>
24	<p>The Emancipation Proclamation transformed the Civil War from a war against secession into a war for "a new birth of freedom," as Lincoln stated in his Gettysburg Address in 1863. This ideological change discouraged the intervention of France or England on the Confederacy's behalf and enabled the Union to enlist the 200,000 African-American soldiers and sailors who volunteered to fight between January 1, 1863, and the conclusion of the war. In 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution formally abolished slavery.</p>	<p>http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/emancipation-proclamation-goes-into-effect</p>
25	<p>On this day in 1991, Adrienne Mitchell became the first Black woman to die in combat in the Persian Gulf War in her military barracks in Dharan, Saudi Arabia.</p>	<p>http://www.blackfacts.com/fact/75cf5713-ddcf-4169-9bfd-6f5c21071352</p>
26	<p>The 1963 March on Washington was envisioned by A. Philip Randolph, a long-time civil rights activist dedicated to improving the economic condition of Black Americans. When Randolph first proposed the march in late 1962, he received little response from other civil rights leaders. He knew that cooperation would be difficult because each had his own agenda for the civil rights movement, and the leaders competed for funding and press coverage. He knew that for the March on Washington to be successful all civil right leaders would have to support the event.</p>	<p>http://www.biography.com/tv/classroom/black-history-firsts</p>

27	<p>President Abraham Lincoln declared in the Emancipation Proclamation that African Americans of “suitable condition, would be received into the armed service of the United States.” Five months after the Proclamation took effect, the War Department of the United States issued General Orders No. 143, establishing the United States Colored Troops. By the end of the war, over 200,000 African Americans served in the Union Army and Navy.</p>	<p>http://www.biography.com/tv/classroom/black-history-firsts</p>
28	<p>President Abraham Lincoln considered the Emancipation Proclamation to be the most important aspect of his legacy. “I never, in my life, felt more certain that I was doing right, than I do in signing this paper,” he declared. “If my name ever goes into history it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it.”</p>	<p>http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/emancipation-150/10-facts.html</p>