

# Black History Month

- Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month."
- We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson.
- For the 2005 school year, **2.3 million** black college students were enrolled. This was an increase of roughly 1 million from 15 years earlier.
- **60%** of black citizens age 18 and older voted in the 2004 presidential election. That amounted to 14 million voters. The percentage of those voting is up 3 percentage points from the previous election. Blacks had the highest turnout rate of any minority group in 2004.

## African American Quotes

- I am America. I am the part you won't recognize. But get used to me. Black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my own; get used to me. -**Muhammad Ali**
- Racism is not an excuse to not do the best you can. – **Arthur Ashe**
- You have seen how a man was made a slave; you shall see how a slave was made a man. –**Frederick Douglass**
- I can accept failure. Everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying. –**Michael Jordan**
- Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity. – **Martin Luther King**
- Defining myself, as opposed to being defined by others, is one of the most difficult challenges I face. -**Carol Moseley-Braun**
- Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed. –**Booker T. Washington**
- If you will protest courageously, and yet with dignity and Christian love, when the history books are written in future generations, the historians will have to pause and say, "There lived a great people—a black people—who injected new meaning and dignity into the veins of civilization. –**Martin Luther King**
- We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice. –**Carter G. Woodson**

## African American Icons

- **Rosa Parks**- Her refusal to surrender her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama bus spurred on a city-wide boycott and helped launch nation-wide efforts to end segregation of public facilities.
- **Martin Luther King Jr.** - prominent leader of the civil rights movement.
- **Maya Angelou**- Writer, dancer, African-American activist.
- **Langston Hughes**- Poet, writer, playwright, and one of the founders of the cultural movement known as the Harlem Renaissance.
- **Muhammad Ali**- one of the all-time great boxers, voted BBC Sports Personality of the Century, and was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
- **Oprah Winfrey**- talk show host; named richest African-American of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, most influential woman of her generation, and the greatest Black philanthropist in American history.
- **Bill Cosby**- Comedian, writer, television producer; honored with the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award.
- **Colin Powell**- US Army General and former Secretary of the State.
- **Ray Charles**- Singer, pianist, and composer
- **Booker T. Washington**- Writer, black leader, educator; foremost black leader of the late 1800s.