



# **Black History Month**

**Global Studies**  
**Fontana Unified School District**  
**Teaching & Learning**

**February 2023**

# Introduction

Enjoy Educate Empower

FUSD will continue to provide sites, staff, students and their families the opportunity to explore the contributions, opinions, stories, and daily lives of people from diverse backgrounds throughout our nation's history through various projects, performances, lessons, and/or activities that highlight cultures reflective of our greater community.

Students from every level are encouraged to participate. Let us know how you are honoring African Americans for Black History Month and we will showcase your work on our social media platforms, FUSD homepage, and at various locations throughout the city of Fontana.



# Understanding Why – Part I

- **In order to build communities that are powerful enough to attain significant change, we need large numbers of people working together.** If cultural groups join forces, they will be more effective in reaching common goals, than if each group operates in isolation.
- **Each cultural groups has unique strengths and perspectives that the larger community can benefit from.** We need a wide range of ideas, customs, and wisdom to solve problems and enrich community life. Bringing non-mainstream groups into the center of civic activity can provide fresh perspectives and shed new light on tough problems.
- **Understanding cultures will help us overcome and prevent racial and ethnic divisions.** Racial and ethnic divisions result in misunderstandings, loss of opportunities, and sometimes violence. Racial and ethnic conflicts drain communities of financial and human resources; they distract cultural groups from resolving the key issues they have in common.



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# Understanding Why – Part 2

- **People from different cultures have to be included in decision-making processes in order for programs or policies to be effective.** The people affected by a decision have to be involved in formulating solutions--it's a basic democratic principle. Without the input and support of *all* the groups involved, decision-making, implementation, and follow through are much less likely to occur.
- **An appreciation of cultural diversity goes hand-in-hand with a just and equitable society.** For example, research has shown that when students' cultures are understood and appreciated by teachers, the students do better in school. Students feel more accepted, they feel part of the school community, they work harder to achieve, and they are more successful in school.
- **If we do not learn about the influences that cultural groups have had on our mainstream history and culture, we are all missing out on an accurate view of our society and our communities.**

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# Origin of Black History Month

- A Celebration of the African diaspora, including African-American history (see [blackhistorymonth.gov](http://blackhistorymonth.gov))
- Black History Month's first iteration was Negro History Week, created in February 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, known as the "Father of Black History".
- Woodson chose February because it covered the birthdays of Frederick Douglass (Feb. 14) and Abraham Lincoln (February 12)
- [The history of Black History Month – YouTube ABC News](#)
- [The History of Black History Month – YouTube Stanford University](#)
- FUSD is providing students opportunities to explore the contributions, opinions, stories, and daily lives of people from diverse backgrounds throughout history by encouraging students, classrooms and/or sites to participate in projects or activities that highlight cultures reflective of our community.

# A CELEBRATION OF HISTORY, CULTURE, INNOVATION, AND HEROES

## TK-12 STUDENT SHOWCASE

### POSSIBLE PROJECT IDEAS:

- ESSAYS ON HISTORIC FIGURES PAST AND PRESENT
  - INSPIRATIONAL SPEECHES AND POETRY
- VISUAL REPRESENTATIONS: DRAWING, MODELS, SCULPTURE, PAINTING, POSTERS, MIXED MEDIA
  - VIDEO OF PERFORMING ARTS — HIGHLIGHTING JAZZ ARTISTS FROM PAST AND PRESENT
    - VIDEO PERFORMANCE OF AN EXCERPT FROM A PLAY/THEATRE PRODUCTION

# Getting Started K-12 Resources

- [Black History Month - Wakelet](#)
- [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Wakelet](#)
- [Black History Month | California History-Social Science Project \(ucdavis.edu\)](#)
- [Honoring Jazz \(civilrightsmuseum.org\)](#)
- [Black History Month: Jazz and the Evolution of Music | The Bubble](#)
- [Black History, and Jazz Music in America, a story - African American Registry \(aaregistry.org\)](#)
- [Black History Month 2023: Facts, Origins & More | HISTORY - HISTORY](#)

# Teaching Black History

When teaching Black history, remember to:

- Follow the do's and don't's
- Always promote diversity in your classroom
- Remind students that Black history is American history
- Leverage Black voices as much as you can (use relevant media, invite guest speakers etc.)

P.S. If you want to help parents talk about Black history and racial issues with their kids at home, use these 8 tips for parents as a helpful resource to start with — including additional resources for anyone who wants to learn more.



# Elementary School: TK-5

Submissions due by Thursday, February 2, 2023

1. Do a Collage of Historical Figures
2. Do a Virtual Tour of the Harriet Tubman Museum
3. Explore the Hip-Hop Movement ([Hip-hop | Definition, History, Culture, & Facts | Britannica](#))
4. Learn the History of Jazz
5. Watch an Interview with Oprah Winfrey
6. Study Jackie Robinson and His Baseball Career
7. Read Books by Black Authors
8. Incorporate Black Health and Wellness into Health Lessons
9. Jazz Craft Activity *(Perfect for every creative child! This craft activity lets your little ones add some color to their jazz instruments. Give them a blank trumpet (or any other instrument) and let their imaginations go! Add some glitter for extra fun.)*
10. Study Ruby Bridges



# Middle School 6-8

Submissions are due by Thursday, February 2, 2023

1. Learn the History of Jazz
2. Read Books by Black Authors
3. Read about Rosa Parks and her Role in the Civil Rights Movement
4. Watch or Read Amanda Gorman's Inauguration Speech and create a writing or art piece that describes her message.
5. Research Black Female Artists and re-create one of their pieces.
6. Explore Famous Black Scientists in History
7. Bring art and history together by recreating civil rights freedom movement posters.
8. Poetry Project: Langston Hughes ([The Poet's Voice: Langston Hughes and You | NEH-Edsite](#))

# High School 9-12

Submissions are due by Thursday, February 2, 2023

During Black History Month students can study civil rights, historical Black leaders or celebrities, and important milestones. While these are still great topics to explore, there are also plenty of other important concepts you should consider introducing to your students this year, such as:

1. Current Black political issues
2. The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity
3. Stereotypes and microaggressions
4. The history and impact of Black culture
5. The history of hip hop
6. African Americans and the Vote
7. Black Resistance (this year's Black History Month theme!)

For Black History Month 2023, this year's theme is Black Resistance. People are encouraged to explore how "African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial pogroms and police killings," since the nation's earliest days.

# Secondary Essay Prompt

## Essay Assignment: Writing Assignment - Black History Writing Prompt #2

**Spotlight On:** Author James Baldwin **Text Type:** Argumentative Writing

**Background:** Tell students that James Baldwin (1924–1987) wrote novels, essays, plays, and short stories that forced readers to confront racism in America. Baldwin lived during a time when our government wrote laws to keep Black and white people separated in public places, like schools, restaurants, and churches. The impact of racism drove Baldwin to move to France. His 1953 novel *Go Tell It on the Mountain* is considered an American classic.

**Talk It Over:** Read aloud this quote by Baldwin: "I knew I was Black, of course, but I also knew I was smart. I didn't know how I would use my mind, or even if I could, but that was the only thing I had to use." Ask: Why do you think Baldwin says he didn't know if he could use his mind? (*Baldwin is saying that racism tries to make Black people feel like they aren't smart. He eventually used his mind to become a great writer who fought against racism with his words.*) How can we apply Baldwin's quote to education? How might racism affect what we're taught in school? What effect might it have on the way students learn?

**Writing Prompt:** Write a five-paragraph argumentative essay arguing for ways to encourage empathy in our classrooms. Be sure to explain how the change will help improve student motivation and thinking.



# American Heroes Past and Present

Here are some leaders students may research and learn more about their great accomplishments.



**Bayard Rustin** was a close advisor to Martin Luther King and an American leader of the civil rights movement. Rustin organized and led several protests, including the 1963 March on Washington.



**Jesse Owens** was an American track and field athlete and four-time gold medalist in the 1936 Olympic Games in Germany. Owens specialized in the sprints and the long jump.



**Zora Neale Hurston** was an American author, anthropologist, and filmmaker. In 1937, she published her famous novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.



# American Heroes Past and Present

Here are some leaders students may research and learn more about their great accomplishments.



**President Barack Obama**, the first African American president of the United States from 2008-2016



**Oprah Winfrey**, a billionaire media mogul, TV Talk show host, producer, entrepreneur.



**Neal Degraase Tyson**, an astrophysicist, author,

# How to Celebrate Black History Month

- Discover African American artists
- Read African American authors
- Listen to African American musicians
- Learn important moments of African American history
- Attend local parades, town halls, and festivals hosted by your city or county.



*Illustration (featured from left to right): James Baldwin, Amy Sherald, Katherine Johnson, Kimberly Bryant, and Stevie Wonder*

# City of Fontana

Our great city will display completed projects for public viewing during the month of February for the **Jazz Festival!**

**Exhibition Dates: February 4, 2023, through March 7, 2023**



Steelworkers' Auditorium, 8437 Sierra Avenue. Fontana, CA 92335



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**Thank you!**

