

Black History Month Trivia Questions

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■ ■ Civil Rights

1. Who delivered the famous “I Have a Dream” speech at the 1963 March on Washington?
2. What 1955 event sparked by Rosa Parks is seen as the start of the Civil Rights Movement?
3. Which organization did MLK Jr. found to advance civil rights through nonviolence?
4. What 1954 Supreme Court case declared school segregation unconstitutional?
5. Who was the first African American to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court?

Musicians & Artists

6. Who is the “Queen of Jazz” and the first African American woman to win a Grammy?
7. What accordion-driven genre from Louisiana is influenced by African American culture?
8. Which 1920s cultural movement celebrated Black art, literature, and music in Harlem?
9. Who was the first Black woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?
10. What was the first hip-hop group inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?

Pioneering Athletes

11. Who was the first African American to play Major League Baseball?
12. Which athlete won four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, defying Nazi ideology?
13. Who became the first African American heavyweight boxing champion in 1908?
14. Which tennis player was the first Black woman to win a Grand Slam title?
15. Who was the first Black player to compete on the PGA Tour?

Historical Figures

16. Who was the first African American woman elected to the U.S. Congress, in 1968?
17. Who founded the Tuskegee Institute, emphasizing vocational education?
18. Who wrote “The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass”?
19. Who was the first African American woman to serve as U.S. Secretary of State?
20. Who was the first African American billionaire?

Abolition & Freedom

21. Who is known for her role in the Underground Railroad, helping many escape to freedom?

- 22. What famous July 4th speech did Frederick Douglass give criticizing slavery's hypocrisy?
- 23. What was the name of the network that helped enslaved people escape north?
- 24. Which abolitionist published the anti-slavery newspaper "The North Star"?
- 25. What was the Emancipation Proclamation, and who signed it?

■■■ Trailblazing Women

- 26. Who was the first Black woman to receive a Ph.D. in chemistry in the U.S.?
- 27. Which aviator was the first African American woman to earn a pilot's license?
- 28. Who was the first Black woman to own and operate a beauty school in the U.S.?
- 29. Who was the first Black woman to appear on the cover of Vogue?
- 30. Who became the first African American woman justice on the U.S. Supreme Court?

Answer Key

■ ■ Civil Rights

1. Martin Luther King Jr.
2. The Montgomery Bus Boycott.
3. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).
4. Brown v. Board of Education.
5. Thurgood Marshall.

Musicians & Artists

6. Ella Fitzgerald.
7. Zydeco.
8. The Harlem Renaissance.
9. Aretha Franklin.
10. Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five.

Pioneering Athletes

11. Jackie Robinson.
12. Jesse Owens.
13. Jack Johnson.
14. Althea Gibson.
15. Charlie Sifford.

Historical Figures

16. Shirley Chisholm.
17. Booker T. Washington.
18. Frederick Douglass.
19. Condoleezza Rice.
20. Robert L. Johnson.

Abolition & Freedom

21. Harriet Tubman.
22. "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"
23. The Underground Railroad.
24. Frederick Douglass.

25. A proclamation freeing enslaved people in Confederate states, signed by Abraham Lincoln.

Trailblazing Women

26. Marie Maynard Daly.

27. Bessie Coleman.

28. Madam C.J. Walker.

29. Beverly Johnson.

30. Ketanji Brown Jackson.

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