

black history north carolina

Black History North Carolina: Celebrating a Rich Legacy of Resilience and Achievement

black history north carolina is a tapestry woven with stories of courage, perseverance, and profound impact. From the early days of colonial America through the civil rights movement and into the present, North Carolina has been a crucial stage for African American history. Exploring this heritage reveals narratives of struggle and triumph that have shaped not only the state but also the broader American story. Whether you're a history enthusiast, educator, or traveler interested in cultural heritage, understanding black history in North Carolina offers invaluable insights into the people and events that defined a region and inspired a nation.

The Roots of Black History in North Carolina

North Carolina's black history begins long before the Civil War, with the arrival of enslaved Africans in the early 18th century. The state's economy, heavily reliant on agriculture, particularly tobacco and cotton, was built on the labor of enslaved people. Despite the harsh conditions, African Americans developed rich cultures, communities, and systems of resistance that laid the foundation for future generations.

Early African American Communities and Culture

Enslaved Africans in North Carolina brought with them diverse traditions, languages, and skills that blended with indigenous and European influences. This fusion created unique cultural expressions in music, religion, and storytelling. Spirituals and work songs, for example, were not only forms of artistic expression but also tools for communication and resilience.

By the late 18th century, free African American communities began to emerge in cities like Wilmington and New Bern. These communities established churches, schools, and businesses, fostering a sense of identity and autonomy despite pervasive discrimination.

Black North Carolinians and the Fight for Freedom

The struggle for freedom and equality is a defining theme in black history across North Carolina. From daring escapes via the Underground Railroad to legal battles and organized protests, African Americans in the state have continuously challenged injustice.

The Underground Railroad in North Carolina

North Carolina's geographical location made it a critical passageway for enslaved people seeking freedom. Although the state's participation in the Underground Railroad was clandestine due to the

risks involved, brave individuals and networks helped countless people escape bondage. Towns such as Fayetteville and Greensboro became key points on these secret routes.

Civil War and Emancipation

During the Civil War, thousands of African Americans from North Carolina seized opportunities to fight for the Union and their freedom. Many served as soldiers and laborers in the United States Colored Troops. The Emancipation Proclamation and the eventual defeat of the Confederacy led to the abolition of slavery in North Carolina, but freedom was only the beginning of a long journey toward equality.

Reconstruction and the Era of Jim Crow

The post-Civil War Reconstruction era was a period of significant, though often contested, progress for African Americans in North Carolina. Newly gained political rights allowed black citizens to hold public office and influence policy. However, the rise of Jim Crow laws in the late 19th century ushered in decades of segregation and disenfranchisement that profoundly impacted black communities.

Political Participation and Backlash

During Reconstruction, North Carolina saw some of the first African American legislators in the state's history. Figures like Henry Eppes and George White made strides in advocating for civil rights and education reform. Unfortunately, white supremacist groups and legislation soon curtailed these advances, enforcing segregation in schools, transportation, and public spaces.

Cultural and Educational Institutions

Despite systemic obstacles, African Americans in North Carolina founded important educational institutions such as Shaw University in Raleigh, established in 1865. These schools became beacons of hope and empowerment, training generations of leaders, teachers, and professionals who would continue the struggle for equality.

The Civil Rights Movement in North Carolina

North Carolina played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement, hosting key events and activists who pushed for desegregation, voting rights, and social justice.

The Greensboro Sit-Ins

One of the most iconic moments in civil rights history took place in Greensboro in 1960. Four African American college students from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University staged a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter, sparking similar protests across the nation. This nonviolent protest challenged segregation laws and became a catalyst for broader civil rights activism.

Leaders and Organizations

The state was home to influential civil rights leaders like Ella Baker, whose organizing efforts with the NAACP and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) helped mobilize grassroots activism. Local chapters of the NAACP and other groups fought tirelessly against racial discrimination, voter suppression, and economic inequality.

Black Culture and Contributions in Modern North Carolina

Today, black history in North Carolina is celebrated not only through remembrance but also through vibrant cultural expression, education, and community leadership.

Historic Sites and Museums

Travelers interested in exploring black history can visit several important landmarks, such as the North Carolina Freedom Park in Raleigh, which honors African American contributions, or the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture in Charlotte, which showcases visual and performing arts. Historic districts like Hayti in Durham preserve the legacy of black entrepreneurship and community life.

Contemporary Influence in Arts and Education

African American artists, musicians, writers, and scholars from North Carolina continue to enrich the cultural landscape. Institutions like North Carolina Central University, a historically black university, remain central to education and leadership development. Festivals, conferences, and community events across the state celebrate black heritage while addressing ongoing challenges.

Preserving and Promoting Black History in North

Carolina

Understanding and sharing black history in North Carolina is crucial for fostering inclusivity and awareness. Educators, historians, and community leaders encourage integrating this rich history into school curricula and public discourse.

Tips for Engaging with Black History Locally

- Visit local museums and historic sites dedicated to African American history.
- Participate in cultural events during Black History Month and Juneteenth celebrations.
- Support black-owned businesses and artists in your community.
- Explore oral histories and archives that preserve personal stories from North Carolina's black residents.

By actively engaging with black history, North Carolinians can build a deeper appreciation for the state's diverse heritage and contribute to ongoing conversations about equity and justice.

The story of black history in North Carolina is one of resilience, creativity, and unyielding hope. It continues to inspire new generations to honor the past while shaping a more inclusive future. Whether through education, exploration, or activism, embracing this legacy enriches the cultural fabric of the state and the nation as a whole.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who are some prominent Black historical figures from North Carolina?

Prominent Black historical figures from North Carolina include Harriet Jacobs, an escaped slave and abolitionist; Dr. James E. Shepard, founder of North Carolina Central University; and Pauli Murray, a civil rights activist and legal scholar.

What is the significance of the Bennett College in Black history in North Carolina?

Bennett College, located in Greensboro, North Carolina, is one of the few historically Black colleges for women in the United States. Founded in 1873, it has played a crucial role in educating African American women and fostering civil rights activism.

How did North Carolina contribute to the Civil Rights Movement?

North Carolina was a key site for civil rights activism, including the 1960 Woolworth's sit-ins in Greensboro, where Black students protested segregated lunch counters, sparking similar protests nationwide and advancing the civil rights movement.

What are some important Black history museums or landmarks in North Carolina?

Important Black history sites in North Carolina include the International Civil Rights Center & Museum in Greensboro, the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture in Charlotte, and the North Carolina Freedom Park in Raleigh.

How has the Black community influenced the culture of North Carolina?

The Black community has profoundly influenced North Carolina's culture through contributions to music genres like blues and jazz, culinary traditions such as barbecue, literature, politics, and education, shaping the state's identity and heritage.

Additional Resources

Black History North Carolina: A Deep Dive into the State's African American Legacy

black history north carolina encompasses a rich and complex narrative deeply intertwined with the broader American experience. From the early days of slavery and segregation to the vibrant cultural and political contributions of African Americans, North Carolina's black history offers critical insights into the struggles and triumphs that have shaped both the state and the nation. Exploring this history unveils stories of resilience, activism, and cultural expression that continue to influence contemporary society.

Historical Context of Black History in North Carolina

North Carolina's black history is rooted in the colonial era, where enslaved Africans were brought to work primarily on tobacco and cotton plantations. By the time of the Civil War, enslaved African Americans constituted a significant portion of the state's population, contributing economically yet enduring brutal oppression. The legacy of slavery laid the foundation for systemic racial barriers that persisted long after emancipation.

The Reconstruction period marked a significant, albeit brief, era of political participation for African Americans in North Carolina. Black men gained the right to vote and held public office, contributing to the shaping of local and state policies. However, the subsequent rise of Jim Crow laws in the late 19th and early 20th centuries systematically disenfranchised black citizens, instituting racial segregation and limiting access to education, employment, and public services.

Slavery and Emancipation: The Early Black Experience

The institution of slavery in North Carolina was characterized by its scale and the diversity of enslaved communities. Unlike the Deep South's large plantations, North Carolina's enslaved population often worked on smaller farms or in urban settings, which influenced social dynamics and community structures. Emancipation in 1865, via the Thirteenth Amendment, was a crucial turning point, but freedom did not immediately translate into equality or economic opportunity.

Jim Crow and the Struggle for Civil Rights

The entrenchment of Jim Crow laws entrenched racial segregation in North Carolina's schools, transportation, and public accommodations. Despite these oppressive conditions, African Americans in the state organized to resist discrimination. The establishment of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) such as North Carolina Central University (NCCU) and Shaw University played pivotal roles in education and leadership development during this era.

The Civil Rights Movement found fertile ground in North Carolina, with landmark events such as the 1960 Greensboro sit-ins catalyzing nationwide activism. These peaceful protests at segregated lunch counters challenged the status quo and inspired similar actions across the South. Leaders like Ella Baker and organizations such as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) had strong ties to North Carolina, emphasizing grassroots mobilization and community empowerment.

Contributions of African Americans to North Carolina's Culture and Society

Beyond political activism, black history in North Carolina also encompasses profound cultural contributions. From music and literature to business and education, African Americans have shaped the state's identity in numerous ways.

Musical Heritage and Artistic Expression

North Carolina has been a cradle for African American musical innovation, particularly in genres such as blues, jazz, gospel, and hip-hop. Artists like Thelonious Monk, a pioneering jazz pianist born in Rocky Mount, and Nina Simone from Tryon, have left indelible marks on American music. The state's rich tradition of gospel music and spirituals reflects the enduring cultural and spiritual resilience of its black communities.

Educational Advancements and Leadership

Education has been a cornerstone of black advancement in North Carolina. The founding of HBCUs during the late 19th and early 20th centuries provided educational access at a time when segregation barred African Americans from many institutions. These universities not only fostered

academic excellence but also nurtured leaders who would spearhead civil rights initiatives and community development efforts.

Economic and Political Influence

In recent decades, African Americans in North Carolina have made significant strides in business and politics. Cities like Charlotte and Raleigh have seen an increase in black-owned enterprises, contributing to economic diversification. Politically, figures such as former Governor Beverly Perdue and Congressman G.K. Butterfield exemplify the growing influence of African American leaders in shaping state and national policies.

Preserving and Promoting Black History in North Carolina

The preservation of black history in North Carolina is evident through numerous institutions, landmarks, and cultural events dedicated to educating the public and honoring African American heritage.

Museums and Historical Sites

- The North Carolina African American Heritage Commission works to identify and protect sites of historical significance related to African American history.
- The Harvey Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture in Charlotte serves as a dynamic hub for exhibitions and programs celebrating black culture.
- Historic sites such as the Bennett Place, where Confederate and Union forces negotiated surrender, and the Ayr Mount plantation, explore the complexities of slavery and emancipation.

Annual Celebrations and Educational Programs

Across the state, Black History Month events, Juneteenth celebrations, and cultural festivals foster community engagement and awareness. Schools and universities incorporate black history into their curricula, emphasizing the importance of understanding local and national contexts.

Challenges and Opportunities in Contemporary Black History Research

Despite progress, challenges remain in fully uncovering and disseminating black history in North Carolina. Many stories and records have been lost or marginalized, necessitating ongoing efforts by historians, archivists, and community organizations to recover and preserve this heritage.

The advent of digital archives and oral history projects offers new opportunities for accessibility and engagement. Collaborative initiatives between academic institutions and local communities help ensure a more inclusive historical narrative that acknowledges both struggles and achievements.

Exploring black history north carolina reveals a multifaceted story of endurance and influence. Understanding this legacy is essential not only for historical accuracy but also for informing contemporary discussions about race, equity, and social justice within the state and beyond.

Black History North Carolina

black history north carolina: *A History of African Americans in North Carolina* Jeffrey J. Crow, Paul D. Escott, Flora J. Hatley, 2002

black history north carolina: *James City, a Black Community in North Carolina, 1863-1900* Joe A. Mobley, 1981 Examines the history of James City, a black community located near New Bern. Established in 1863 as a camp for destitute former slaves, James City persisted as a stronghold of black self-determination throughout the nineteenth century. The book provides insight into African American history on the local level.

black history north carolina: *Legacy: Three Centuries of Black History in Charlotte, North Carolina | 2nd Edition* Pamela Grundy, 2023-05-09 The stories told by many generations of Charlotte's African American residents mingle strength and hardship, accomplishment and setback, joy and pain. Through slavery, through war, through Jim Crow segregation and into the 21st century Black residents from all walks of life have played essential roles in making Charlotte the city it is today. Everyone needs to know this history. About the Author Pamela Grundy has lived in Charlotte for three decades, pursuing a range of writing, teaching, museum and education projects. Much of that work has depended on the generosity of the many Black Charlotteans who have shared their wisdom and experience with her, among them Vermelle Ely, James and Barbara Ferguson, James Peeler and Sarah Stevenson. *Legacy* began as a series of articles on Black history published in the Nerve in 2020 and 2021. Grundy's other works include *Color & Character: West Charlotte High and the American Struggle over Educational Equality*. The mural on *Legacy*'s cover, which features early Black leaders Thad Tate, J.T. Williams and W.C. Smith, is by Abel Jackson, one of many Black History murals he has painted around town. This second edition adds new material to chapters 8 and 9; an afterword that describes some of the challenges of researching and writing Black history; and an index. I am also delighted to note that the success of the first edition has connected us with the dynamic staff at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Art + Culture, who are using these stories to expand their efforts to preserve, present and celebrate Charlotte's Black history.

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black history north carolina: *Upbuilding Black Durham* Leslie Brown, 2009-11-17 In the 1910s, both W. E. B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington praised the black community in Durham, North Carolina, for its exceptional race progress. Migration, urbanization, and industrialization had turned black Durham from a post-Civil War liberation community into the capital of the black middle class. African Americans owned and operated mills, factories, churches, schools, and an array of retail services, shops, community organizations, and race institutions. Using interviews, narratives, and family stories, Leslie Brown animates the history of this remarkable city from emancipation to

the civil rights era, as freedpeople and their descendants struggled among themselves and with whites to give meaning to black freedom. Brown paints Durham in the Jim Crow era as a place of dynamic change where despite common aspirations, gender and class conflicts emerged. Placing African American women at the center of the story, Brown describes how black Durham's multiple constituencies experienced a range of social conditions. Shifting the historical perspective away from seeing solidarity as essential to effective struggle or viewing dissent as a measure of weakness, Brown demonstrates that friction among African Americans generated rather than depleted energy, sparking many activist initiatives on behalf of the black community.

black history north carolina: African Americans in Early North Carolina Alan D. Watson, 2005 Draws upon 17th- and 18th-century sources to trace the history of African Americans, slave and free, in North Carolina through 1800. The documents are used to outline the arrival of Africans, mechanisms for maintaining the yoke of slavery, slave resistance, manumission, and the challenges facing free blacks. This book presents in an accessible format a variety of primary sources, which are suitable for classroom use and have appeal for historians, genealogists, and anyone curious about the lives of black North Carolinians during the earliest years of the state's history.

black history north carolina: African American Hospitals in North Carolina Phoebe Ann Pollitt, 2017-10-13 Untold thousands of black North Carolinians suffered or died during the Jim Crow era because they were denied admittance to white-only hospitals. With little money, scant opportunities for professional education and few white allies, African American physicians, nurses and other community leaders created their own hospitals, schools of nursing and public health outreach efforts. The author chronicles the important but largely unknown histories of more than 35 hospitals, the Leonard Medical School and 11 hospital-based schools of nursing established in North Carolina, and recounts the decades-long struggle for equal access to care and equal opportunities for African American health care professionals.

black history north carolina: Black Business in the New South Walter B. Weare, 1993-01-27 At the turn of the century, the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company became the world's largest Negro business. Located in Durham, North Carolina, which was known as the Black Wall Street of America, this business came to symbolize the ideas of racial progress, self-help, and solidarity in America. Walter B. Weare's social and intellectual history, originally published in 1973 (University of Illinois Press) and updated here to include a new introduction, still stands as the definitive history of black business in the New South. Drawing on a wide range of sources—including personal papers of the company's leaders and oral history interviews—Weare traces the company's story from its ideological roots in the eighteenth century to its economic success in the twentieth century.

black history north carolina: African Americans of Durham County Andre D. Vann, 2017-07-31 Durham County, North Carolina, once called the Chicago of the South and the Capital of the Black Bourgeoisie, has long occupied an important place in the hearts and minds of those who called Durham County home. African Americans have played a vital role in the growth and development of the region over the years, from antebellum times to Reconstruction to the Civil Rights era and in the present. The African American citizens of this historic Tar Heel county share an impressive story marked by determination, economic achievement, and resilience, and they have made a difference in all walks of life—educational, religious, civic, and commercial. This pictorial history reflects upon the rich and vibrant role that African Americans played in the area following emancipation. In its earliest stages, residents in such neighborhoods as Hayti, Hickstown, Crest Street, Pearisontown, the West End, the East End, and Walltown each created sturdy surviving communities that have shaped Durham.

black history north carolina: The New Black History E. Hinton, 2016-04-30 The New Black History anthology presents cutting-edge scholarship on key issues that define African American politics, life, and culture, especially during the Civil Rights and Black Power eras. The volume includes articles by both established scholars and a rising generation of young scholars.

black history north carolina: The Black Presence in North Carolina North Carolina Museum of

History, Robert E. Winters (Jr.), 1978

black history north carolina: *American Black History* Walter Hazen, 2004-09-01 American Black History is a concise yet thorough treatment of 500 years of African American history from its origins in the civilizations of Africa through the grim early years in America and the quest for freedom and civil rights. Richly illustrated, the book vividly details the rise of slavery, the abolitionist movement, the Civil War, Reconstruction, the role of blacks in the nation's wars, the Harlem Renaissance, the emergence of the civil rights era, and the arduous struggle for the full claims of citizenship. Lively portraits of key cultural and political figures such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and countless others make clear the enormous contributions of blacks in America. Tests, answer key, and bibliography are included.

black history north carolina: *Black History* Mike Henry, 2013 Some of the most interesting people and events of the past often get bypassed in a classroom. This includes a large number of African-Americans who helped build this country. Black History: More Than Just A Month pays tribute to these forgotten individuals and their accomplishments. Some of the people included are war heroes, inventors, celebrities, athletes, etc. This book is a great supplement to any history class.

black history north carolina: *African American History Reconsidered* Pero Gaglo Dagbovie, 2010 This volume establishes new perspectives on African American history. The author discusses a wide range of issues and themes for understanding and analyzing African American history, the 20th century African American historical enterprise, and the teaching of African American history for the 21st century.

black history north carolina: *North Carolina* Sara Pitzer, 2008-11-18

black history north carolina: *What is African American History?* Pero Gaglo Dagbovie, 2015-06-04 Scholarship on African American history has changed dramatically since the publication of George Washington Williams' pioneering *A History of the Negro Race in America* in 1882. Organized chronologically and thematically, *What is African American History?* offers a concise and compelling introduction to the field of African American history as well as the black historical enterprise—past, present, and future. Pero Gaglo Dagbovie discusses many of the discipline's important turning points, subspecialties, defining characteristics, debates, texts, and scholars. The author explores the growth and maturation of scholarship on African American history from late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries until the field achieved significant recognition from the 'mainstream' U.S. historical profession in the 1970s. Subsequent decades witnessed the emergence and development of key theoretical approaches, controversies, and dynamic areas of concentration in black history, the vibrant field of black women's history, the intriguing relationship between African American history and Black Studies, and the imaginable future directions of African American history in the twenty-first century. *What is African American History?* will be a practical introduction for all students of African American history and Black Studies.

black history north carolina: *The Free Negro in North Carolina, 1790-1860* John Hope Franklin, 1995 John Hope Franklin has devoted his professional life to the study of the American South and African Americans. Originally published in 1943 by UNC Press, *The Free Negro in North Carolina, 1790-1860* was his first book on the subject. As Franklin shows, fre

black history north carolina: *Writing North Carolina History* Jeffrey J. Crow, Larry E. Tise, 2017-10-10 *Writing North Carolina History* is the first book to assess fully the historical literature of North Carolina. It combines the talents and insights of eight noted scholars of state and southern history: William S. Powell, Alan D. Watson, Robert M. Calhoon, Harry L. Watson, Sarah M. Lemmon, and H. G. Jones. Their essays are arranged in chronological order from the founding of the first English colony in North America in 1585 to the present. Traditionally North Carolina has not received the same scholarly attention as Virginia and South Carolina, despite the excellent resources available on Tar Heel history. This study, derived from a symposium sponsored by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History in 1977, asks questions and describes methodologies needed to redress past neglect. Besides providing a comprehensive evaluation of what has been

written about North Carolina, the essayists offer perspectives on how historians have interpreted the state's history and what directions future historians need to take. Particularly important, the book provides a bibliography and suggests opportunities for future historical investigation by discussing topics, themes, and source materials that remain untapped or underused. North Carolina's unique and colorful culture, folklore, geography, politics, and growth demand new and creative historical analysis. Collectively the authors and editors of Writing North Carolina History offer a welcome, necessary guide to the study of Tar Heel history. Originally published in 1979. A UNC Press Enduring Edition -- UNC Press Enduring Editions use the latest in digital technology to make available again books from our distinguished backlist that were previously out of print. These editions are published unaltered from the original, and are presented in affordable paperback formats, bringing readers both historical and cultural value.

black history north carolina: The Black History Bowl: Mini Biographies of African Americans Cadmus S. Hull, 2018-12-07 When I spoke at book signings for my first book, I found that people, in general, knew very little about many of the African Americans that I had on the display board. Thus, this second book in The Black History Bowl series was written to make people aware of the contributions that African Americans have made to American and World history. The African American history quiz that is included in the book is divided into eight (8) sections. Each section begins with a worksheet. The worksheet is followed by short biographies of the African American history contributors. There is an answer sheet at the end of each section. In addition, note sheets have been included with each biography for you to use to take notes when researching and gathering information. Additional information on each African American can be found on the web site that is listed at the bottom of the page after the biography. Also, included in this book is information on some points of interest that I think are important to the knowledge base of the average American. The information includes the African American holiday of Kwanzaa, the NAACP's Spingarn Medal, and information on Juneteenth (the actual day when all slaves were freed). In addition, this book includes a section for Women's History Month which highlights African American women from my first book. A timeline of African American history is also included. It is hoped that you will enjoy reading the book as you continue to enrich your knowledge of the contributions that African Americans have made to history. Dr. C. Sam Hull earned an Associate Degree in Education from Cumberland County College and further pursued his academic corridor to Glassboro State College (GSC), now Rowan University. Glassboro State College would continue Sam's educational tour leading to both a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree. Armed with a Bachelor's in Elementary Education and Master's in Student Personnel Services and School Administration, Sam's educational path led him to Nova University where he achieved his ultimate goal of a Doctorate in School Leadership. Dr. Hull's achievements as an educational leader have been well documented through numerous contributions to the education field. Currently, Dr. Hull is a member of the New Jersey Association of School Administrators and Cumberland County Principals and Supervisors Association. Fairfield Board of Education enjoyed the fruits of this dedicated and committed educator for twenty-nine years. Dr. Hull retired June 30, 2004, after 33 years in education. A little known black history fact is that Dr. Hull was Cumberland County's first black Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Hull enjoys writing books, reading, and traveling. In addition, Dr. Hull keeps busy by serving as a Clinical Teaching Supervisor for Fairleigh Dickinson University and Grand Canyon University, serving on the Cumberland County College Foundation Board and as the Managing Member of his family-owned tutoring program for children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

black history north carolina: A Kid's Guide to African American History Nancy I. Sanders, 2007-06-01 What do all these people have in common: the first man to die in the American Revolution, a onetime chief of the Crow Nation, the inventors of peanut butter and the portable X-ray machine, and the first person to make a wooden clock in this country? They were all great African Americans. For parents and teachers interested in fostering cultural awareness among children of all races, this book includes more than 70 hands-on activities, songs, and games that teach kids about the people, experiences, and events that shaped African American history. This

expanded edition contains new material throughout, including additional information and biographies. Children will have fun designing an African mask, making a medallion like those worn by early abolitionists, playing the rhyming game Juba, inventing Brer Rabbit riddles, and creating a unity cup for Kwanzaa. Along the way they will learn about inspiring African American artists, inventors, and heroes like Harriet Tubman, Benjamin Banneker, Rosa Parks, Langston Hughes, and Louis Armstrong, to name a few.

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