

Celebrating African-American History month!

Jacob Lawrence celebrated the African American experience in his colorful paintings of the everyday and the ordinary. He taught at the University of Washington and his art is found in many places around Seattle. Visit the Seattle Convention Center to view one of his murals.

#africanamericanhistory #jacoblawrence #muralartist #themigrationseries
#highschool librarian #highschool library

Ella Fitzgerald, the Queen of Jazz, earned 13 Grammy Awards, sold over 40 million albums, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom during her nearly-60 year career. Fitzgerald was a civil rights activist, used her fame to promote equality and was recognized as a "cultural ambassador". #ellafitzgerald #africanamericanhistory #queenofjazz #jazzmusician
#highschool library #highschool librarian

Playwright **Lorraine Hansberry** was the first African-American and the youngest person to win the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award. Her most well-known play, A Raisin in the Sun, was the first Broadway play produced by an African American. It is still winning awards today.

#africanamericanhistory #lorraineansberry #araisinthesun #broadwayplay
#highschool library #highschool librarian

As a "computer" for NASA, **Katherine G. Johnson** calculated complicated formulas that catapulted astronauts into space. She was responsible for plotting the path of Alan Shepard's journey into space in 1961 as well as checking the calculations for several more flights. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, saw her story on the big screen as "Hidden Figures", and had a new research building in Langley named in her honor. #africanamericanhistory
#katherinengjohnson #hiddenfigures #humancomputer #nasacalculator #girlsareawesomeatmath

Mae C. Jemison was the first African American female astronaut flew into space on the Endeavor in 1992. She is a medical doctor, former Peace Corps volunteer, speaks four languages, and is passionate about encouraging a love of science in students. #africanamericanhistory
#maecjemison #100yearstarship #thejemisongroup

Astrophysicist **Neil deGrasse Tyson** is known for making difficult science concepts accessible. Astrophysics for People in a Hurry has been on the NY Times bestseller list for over a year selling over a million copies. (We have it here at NCHS!) He is the director of the Hayden Planetarium and has hosted the NOVA ScienceNow series. #africanamericanhistory #neildegrassetyson
#astrophysicsforpeopleinahurry #NOVAscienceNow

Joe Louis was the heavyweight champion of the world from 1937-1949 and in 2005 was named as the greatest boxer of all time by the International Boxing Research Organization. He was also instrumental in breaking down the racial barriers in golf. He is considered the first African American to have achieved national hero status. #africanamericanhistory #joelouis #joelouisboxer
#heavyweightchampion #nationalhero

Marian Anderson was the first African American to perform at the New York Metropolitan Opera. She was also the first African American to be invited to perform at the White House, guest of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. She performed the National Anthem at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy who also honored her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
#africanamericanhistory #mariananderson #newyorkmetropolitanopera
#presidentialmedalloffreedom

Jimi Hendrix is a Seattle-born musician who excited the world with his outrageous guitar skills and innovative sounds. He closed out the Woodstock Music Festival beginning with a haunting rendition of the “Star-Spangled Banner” and is considered one of the finest guitar players of all time.
#africanamericanhistory #jimihendrix #starspangledbanner #woodstock #rockguitarist

Dorothy Dandridge was the first African American to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress (for the 1954 musical, Carmen Jones). Although she was featured on the cover of Life Magazine in 1955, she had difficulty finding suitable roles because of her race.
#africanamericanhistory #dorothydandridge #carmenjones #porgyandbess
#academyawardnominee

Tupac Shakur was a hip-hop legend murdered in a drive-by shooting at the age of 25. He is one of the top selling musicians of all time with sales of over 75 million albums. Before he became a rapper, he wrote poetry. His book of poems written while a teen, The Rose That Grew From Concrete, is available at NCHS! Before his death, he financed programs for at-risk youth including sponsoring sports teams and setting up a phone help line for teens. In 2017 he was inducted into the Music Hall of Fame.
#africanamericanhistory #tupacshakur #therosethatgrewfromconcrete

Congressman **Andrew Young Jr.** was the first African American to serve as US Ambassador to the United Nations where he advocated for human rights on a global scale. He later became the mayor of Atlanta and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Earlier, as a pastor, he was active in the Civil Rights Movement and organized voter registration drives.
#africanamericanhistory #andrewyoungjr #UNambassador #civilrightsactivist
#goodworksinternational #georgiastateuniversity #awayoutofnoway

Bessie Coleman was the first African American woman and first Native American to be a licensed pilot. Racial and gender bias prevented her getting a job as a commercial pilot so she instead became a successful stunt pilot.
#africanamericanhistory #bessiecoleman #aviator #stuntpilot

John Coltrane was a jazz saxophonist, composer, and bandleader who is considered one of the most influential saxophonists in music history. After his death, he received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1981 and the Pulitzer Prize in 2007.
#africanamericanhistory #johncoltrane
#jazzsaxophone #myfavoritethings #alovesupreme #grammylifetimeachievementaward