

Name: _____

Date: _____

What is BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

Black History Month is an annual celebration in the United States and other countries that honors the achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout history. It is observed every February and provides an opportunity to reflect on the struggles and successes of Black individuals in shaping society.

The roots of Black History Month can be traced back to 1926, when historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History established "Negro History Week." They chose the second week of February because it coincides with the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two important figures in African American history. Over time, the event gained popularity and in 1976, it officially became Black History Month.

Today, Black History Month is a time to learn about influential Black leaders, inventors, artists, and activists, including Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Maya Angelou. Schools, libraries, and communities host events, read books, and hold discussions to promote awareness and understanding of Black culture and heritage.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

- When is Black History Month celebrated in the United States?
a. March b. January c. February d. November
- Who started "Negro History Week"?
a. Rosa Parks b. Martin Luther King Jr. c. Abraham Lincoln d. Carter G. Woodson
- Why was the second week of February originally chosen for "Negro History Week"?
a. It was the start of spring b. It was the birthday week of famous African Americans
c. It was a national holiday d. It was the end of the school year
- What happened in 1976 related to Black History Month?
a. It was canceled b. It became a month-long celebration
c. It moved to a new month d. It started in Europe
- Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage as a way to celebrate Black History Month?
a. Reading books b. Watching movies c. Going on vacation d. Holding discussions