

Black History in America



1500s-1750
**Slaves Arrive
In America**

Most black Americans trace their original roots to an area in western Africa. During the early 1500's, black slaves from western Africa were brought to European colonies in the Americas. From the 1500's to the mid-1800's, Europeans shipped about 12 million black slaves from Africa to the Western Hemisphere.



1800-1865
**A Movement to
End Slavery**

By the early 1800's, most Northern states had taken steps to end, or abolish, slavery.

Abolitionists won their biggest victory when President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. This famous proclamation declared the slaves free in many parts of the South. In 1865, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery entirely.



1905-1909
**The NAACP
Is Formed**

National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People

During the 1950s, black leaders began to use marches, demonstrations and the courts to defeat racist laws. Their efforts are known as the civil rights movement.



1954-1956
**Fighting for
Civil Rights**

On August 28, 1963, the civil rights movement reached its height of attention and impact with a huge March in Washington, D.C. The March on Washington attracted more than 200,000 marchers to the Lincoln Memorial. At the march, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.



1963-1965
**March on
Washington**

After the march, King and other civil rights leaders met with President John F. Kennedy and Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House. In 1964 following the assniation of President Kennedy, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law. The Act guaranteed equal rights for black Americans in employment, voting, and use of public facilities.



1968
**Martin Luther
King Jr. is Killed**

In 1968 Martin Luther King Jr., who many believe was the most important leader of the civil rights movement, was shot and killed in Memphis Tennessee at the age of 39. A week of rioting in at least 125 cities across the nation followed King's death.



2001
Dr. Rice

General Powell

In 2001, two black Americans were asked to assume roles among the most powerful people in the World. Dr. Condoleezza Rice became the first-ever black (and woman!) Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, commonly referred to as the National Security Advisor; and Colin L. Powell became the first black Secretary of State.

and now...



In November 2008 history was made when Barack Hussein Obama II was elected as the 44th president of the United States. President Obama served as the 44th president from 2009 to 2017.