

# Black History Month

## How to do it:

In advance, prepare a set of facts about Black History Month so that you have one fact for each student.

- 1 Introduce the activity: “In honor of Black History Month, we’re going to share interesting facts about important African Americans in U.S. history.”
- 2 Explain how to do the activity: “Everyone will get one fact. When I say ‘Go,’ mix and mingle until I say ‘Stop.’ Then pair up with someone close to you. The first person will say ‘Did you know?’ and read their fact. The other person will respond with ‘I do now!’ Then switch roles. After everyone has shared, you’ll mix and mingle again to find a new partner.”

Jackie Robinson was the first African American to play major league baseball in the 20th century.	Dr. Charles Drew was an American surgeon whose pioneering research in blood transfusions saved thousands of lives in World War II. He also invented what are now known as bloodinhibiles.
Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery. She then led many more slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad.	Toni Morrison is a writer and editor. She was the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize in literature.
In 2008, Barack Obama became the first African American president of the United States.	W.E.B. DuBois was a scholar who co-founded the NAACP in 1909.
Alvin Ailey started a modern dance company in 1958. It has performed for millions of people around the world.	Katherine G. Johnson solved hard math problems at NASA. Her work helped put astronauts into space.
Mae Jemison is an American astronaut and physician. She was the first African American woman in NASA's astronaut training program, and she became the first African American to travel into space when she served aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour.	In 1955, Marian Anderson became the first African American to sing with the New York Metropolitan Opera.
Ruby Bridges was only six years old when she became the first African American student to integrate an elementary school in the South in 1960.	Thurgood Marshall was the first African American justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.
Jesse Owens was a record-breaking athlete. He won four gold medals in track and field in the 1936 Olympics.	Ralph Bunche helped form the United Nations in the 1940s. He was the first African American to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
In 1951, Althea Gibson was the first African American tennis player to compete at Wimbledon. She was also the first African American woman ever to compete on the professional golf tour.	John Lewis was an American civil rights leader known for leading the 1965 march on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. He served 17 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.

- 3 After students have shared with three or four partners, have everyone return to the circle. Ask reflective questions: “What’s one fact you were most surprised to learn?” “Which person would you like to learn more about, and why?”

## VARIATION

- Have students research their own facts to share about a figure of their choosing.

## EXTENDING THE SOCIAL STUDIES LEARNING BEYOND MORNING MEETING

- Have students choose one person they learned about in this activity to research. They can find three or more new facts and write an essay, make a poster, or create a slideshow that highlights their discoveries.

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<p>Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery. She then led many more slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad.</p>	<p>Toni Morrison is a writer and editor. She was the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize in literature.</p>
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