

THE 50 BLACK PEOPLE YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW

[The following are radio scripts of the popular annual vignettes presented each year on WYLD-FM radio during Black History Month by Mtumishi St. Julien between 1981 and 1987 as part of the Ahidiana Black History Educational Program]

1. MAHALIA JACKSON

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE BLACK WOMAN WHO IS POPULARLY KNOWN AS “THE GREATEST GOSPEL SINGER OF ALL TIME”?

Mahalia Jackson was born October 25, 1911 in New Orleans, Louisiana. A daughter of a New Orleans preacher, she made her first record of gospel music in 1934 but did not begin to receive national acclaim until 1945 when she recorded the anthem “Move On Up A Little Higher”. This record sold more than a million copies. Mahalia moved to Chicago and her reputation grew to such an extent that she is still popularly known as ‘The greatest gospel singer of all times’. Mahalia Jackson later received worldwide recognition and sang at the 1963 March on Washington and at the funeral services of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. By the time she died in January of 1972 she established gospel music as one of the true American Art Forms. MAHALIA JACKSON IS A BLACK WOMAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

2. BENJAMIN BANNEKER

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THAT THE FIRST CLOCK MADE IN AMERICA WAS MADE BY A BLACK MAN?

Benjamin Banneker was an essayist, inventor, mathematician and astronomer. Because of his great intellect he was called a “sable genius”. Born in Maryland, Benjamin Banneker was a self-taught mathematician and astronomer. While still a youth he made a wooden clock, which kept accurate time until he died. This clock is believed to be the first clock wholly made in America. Deeply interested in natural phenomena Banneker started publishing an almanac in 1791 and continued its publication until 1802. He published a treatise on bees, did a mathematical study on the cycle of the seventeen-year locust and became a pamphleteer for the anti-slavery movement. He was internationally known for his accomplishments and became an advisor to President Thomas Jefferson. One of his best-known accomplishments is designing the layout for the Nation’s Capital. BENJAMIN BANNEKER IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

3. MRS. MAGGIE L. WALKER

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THAT THE FIRST BLACK TO RUN A BANK IN THE U.S. WAS A WOMAN?

While being honored for her many contributions to the City of Richmond, Virginia, the governor of the State of Virginia said, “If the state of Virginia had done no more in fifty years with the funds spent on the education of Blacks then to educate Mrs. Maggie L. Walker, the State would have been amply repaid for its outlay and effort.” Maggie L. Walker’s contributions could be seen in a huge structure

which housed St. Luke Bank & Trust Company, the national headquarters of the Independent Order of St. Luke and an insurance company. The Bank was the first Black bank in the United States.

As well as the news about the St. Luke Bank and insurance company, newspaper readers could follow the case of her progress in the St. Luke Herald, another of her enterprises. Mrs. Walker was also a prime mover in establishing a home for delinquent girls in Richmond, having organized fourteen hundred women into a council which paid the first five thousand dollars to purchase the land for the institution. Richmond could also boast of the community center in 1924 mainly because Mrs. Walker spurred an interracial group of women to build one. **MRS. MAGGIE L. WALKER IS A BLACK WOMAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.**

4. JEAN BAPTIST POINT DE SABLE

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THAT CHICAGO, THE SECOND LARGEST CITY IN AMERICA, WAS STARTED BY A BLACK MAN?

Jean Baptist Point De Sable, a black man from Haiti, founded the city of Chicago. Yet one hundred and fifty years after his death the third largest city in the United States had done little to commemorate its first settler. Records indicated that in 1772 on the north bank of what is now the Chicago River, De Sable erected a large cabin to which he later brought his wife and a small band of Indians. They developed a settlement which they called "Eschikagou". This little settlement continued to grow and became a stopping place of virtually all traders coming to the area. De Sable took keen interest in the plight of the enslaved Africans, many of whom he purchased and set free. In gratitude these emancipated blacks composed songs exulting his virtues, but when De Sable died on August 28, 1818, he was buried in an unmarked grave in the St. Borromeo Cemetery. Finally, on October 25, 1968 in a ceremony marking the grave with granite stone, the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago recognized De Sable as the founder of Chicago, now one of the greatest cities in the world. **JEAN BAPTIST POINT DE SABLE IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.**

5. JAN ERNTS MATZELINGER

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE BLACK MAN WHO REVOLUTIONIZED THE SHOE INDUSTRY?

Jan Ernsts Matzeling laid the foundation of the shoe industry in the United States and made Lynn, Massachusetts in his time the shoe capital of the world. Before Matzeling hundreds of inventors had labored and thousands of dollars had been spent in an effort to make a complete shoe by machinery. The problem was shaping the upper leather over the last and attaching this leather to the bottom of the shoe. The process stymied inventors for years. The hand lasters had to do this process by hand and no matter how fast the rest of the shoe was made, each hand laster could only do forty to fifty pairs of shoes each day.

In March 1883, Matzeling was issued a patent for a machine to do what the so-called experts said was impossible. And the shoe industry was revolutionized. **JAN ERNSTS METZELINGER IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.**

6. MADAME C. J. WALKER

DOES YOUR CHILD KOW THE BLACK WOMAN WHO FIRST SET UP A MANUFACTURING COMPANY TO PRODUCE HAIR PRODUCTS FOR BLACKS?

While America had produced hundreds of millionaires by the mid-20th Century, few ex-washwomen are numbered among there ranks. One of the first American women of any race or rank to become a millionaire though her own efforts was Sarah Breedlove Walker. Orphaned in her native Louisiana at six, married to one C. J. Walker at fourteen and widowed at twenty, Madame C. J. Walker invented a new method of straightening hair. Before her time Black women who wanted to straighten their hair had to place it on a flat surface and press it with an iron.

In 1905 Madame Walker invented her hair softener and special straightening comb. Overnight she found herself in business with assistants, agents, schools, and eventually a manufacturing company.

Even though Madame C. J. Walker was a successful businesswoman, she was well known among Blacks as a key financier of hundreds of projects to improve and advance Blacks in America. Many African American leaders would often be seen at her home strategizing methods to improve the conditions of Black people in America. MADAME C. J. WALKER IS A BLACK WOMAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

7. GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

If an honest history of the deep south is ever written, Dr. George Washington Carver will stand out as one of the genuinely great men of his time. Almost single handily Dr. Carver revolutionized southern agriculture. From his small laboratory on the campus of Tuskegee Institute flowed hundreds of discoveries and products from the once neglected peanut. From the peanut Dr. Carver discovered meal, instant and dry coffee, bleach, tan remover, wood filler, metal polish, paper, ink, shaving cream, rubbing oil, linoleum, synthetic rubber, and plastics. From the soybean he obtained flour, breakfast food, and milk. When the boll weevil wiped out the cotton crop and the southern economy was in shambles, Dr. Carver convinced the agricultural industry to diversify itself into other areas. Because of Dr. Carver, the peanut and the sweet potato have become major products in the South's economy.

It is highly doubtful if any other individual has done as much for southern agriculture as Dr. Carver who died in 1943 and was buried at Tuskegee Institute next to its founder, Booker T. Washington. DR. GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

8. PRINCE HALL

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE FOUNDER OF THE OLDEST BLACK SOCIAL ORGANIZATION IN AMERICA?

Prince Hall was the founder of the oldest social organization among blacks in America, the Prince Hall Masonic Order. Prince Hall started his Masonic Order about the time of the American

Revolution in 1776 and now the Prince Hall Masonic Order has hundreds of chapters throughout the country.

Prince Hall, born in Barbados, was a Methodist minister who lived in Boston. When the Revolutionary War began Prince Hall organized a contingent of blacks and petitioned George Washington to allow them to join the Continental Army. In later years he and his group fought to emancipate enslaved Africans. He also was able to convince the Massachusetts Legislature to support the cause of emancipation and he prodded the City of Boston to provide schools free for black children in 1797.

Besides his Boston lodges, he organized other lodges in Philadelphia and Rhode Island. Today hundreds of lodges throughout the country may be seen as a monument to Prince Hall who adopted America as his home. **PRINCE HALL IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.**

9. PHYLLIS WHEATLEY

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE SLAVE GIRL WHO AT THIRTEEN YEARS OLD WAS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS POETS IN AMERICA?

Born in Senegal, West Africa but sold into slavery at eight years old, Phyllis Wheatley became the most famous female poet of the eighteenth century. At age thirteen years old and while still in slavery, Phyllis Wheatley's poems were being circulated throughout England. By 1773 Phyllis Wheatley had turned out enough poems to have a collection of them published in London entitled Poems On Various Subjects. In 1772, she was freed by her master, Mrs. S. Wheatley and went to England.

On both sides of the Atlantic her poems won widespread admiration. The abolitionists pointed to her poems as proof that enslaved Africans were not inferior and should be freed. **PHYLLIS WHEATLEY IS A BLACK WOMAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.**

10. JACKIE ROBINSON

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW WHO JACKIE ROBINSON WAS?

By becoming in 1947 the first Black to play major league baseball, Jackie Robinson made it possible for Black athletes to take part in all major sports in America. In his ten years with the Brooklyn Dodgers as an infielder, Jackie Robinson set records in hitting, fielding and base stealing.

Until he received a baseball contract, all Blacks had been kept out of the major leagues by an unwritten agreement among club owners. In 1945, Jackie began playing baseball for the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro League batting 345 as a shortstop. In his first year with the Dodgers Jackie helped lead the Dodgers to the pennant with his magnificent first base play. Later as a second baseman, the Dodgers took five more pennants before his retirement in 1956. Voted rookie of the year in 1947 with a 342 batting average, as well as 124 runs batted in to win the award as the Most Valuable Player in the league. For six consecutive years between 1949 and 1954 his batting average was over 300. **JACKIE ROBINSON IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.**

11. DAVID WALKER

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE MOST WIDELY READ AND THE MOST FEARED BOOK IN ANTISLAVERY HISTORY?

In 1829 David Walker published his first edition of The Appeal. In it he proclaimed to enslaved people, “It is no more for you to kill the man who is trying to kill you then it is for you to take a drink of water”. The Appeal exploded with shattering force in the North and the South. Anti-Slavery leaders of both races rejected the violence advocated by the publication and Walker was forced to circulate the book at his own risk. In the South, the circulation of The Appeal was deemed a capital offense. But this announced ‘crime’ did not stop it. A reward was then offered for Walker, \$1000 dead or \$10,000 delivered alive.

The Appeal became one of the most widely read and circulated books written by any Black. Following its 3rd edition in 1830, Walker died, and foul play was suspected. Up to that time The Appeal was the boldest attack of any Black writer against slavery in America. DAVID WALKER IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

12. CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE FIRST BLACK WOMAN APPOINTED TO A FEDERAL JUDGESHIP?

Constance Baker Motley was the first Black woman appointed to a Federal judgeship in 1966. Her claim to fame nevertheless was her effective and successful representation of James Meredith in front of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals.

Most southern universities at the time did not allow Blacks to register as students. In 1965 James Meredith was refused entry to the University of Mississippi. Because of the eloquent arguments in her representation of Mr. Meredith, the court ordered the Board of Higher Education to admit James Meredith to the University of Mississippi. And with that court decision, the University began to accept Blacks to its student body. CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY IS A BLACK WOMAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

13. EDWARD KENNEDY ‘DUKE’ ELLINGTON

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE BLACK MAN WHO WROTE MORE MUSICAL STANDARDS THAN ANY OTHER MAN IN THE WORLD?

In his lifetime Duke Ellington wrote almost 6000 tunes including more than 2000 jazz compositions and other works. The ‘Duke’ was born Edward Kennedy Ellington on April 29, 1899 in Washington, DC. The ‘Duke’ was playing piano at age seven. He composed his first piece, “The Soda Fountain Rag”, at seventeen and at eighteen he was playing professionally.

At twenty four he hit Broadway with his own band, the Washingtonians; at twenty eight he was booked into the Cotton Club in Harlem, where his nationwide fame began; at thirty four he played for

royalty in London, England and toured Europe as a concert artist; at thirty nine he gave one of the first college jazz concerts at Colgate University; at forty five he added the Chicago's opera house and the San Francisco Philharmonic Hall to his lists of firsts; and he celebrated his seventieth birthday as the guest of the President of the United States at the swinging birthday party in the East Room of the White House.

His popular song classics include "Mood Indigo", "Solitude", "Take the A Train", "Caravan", "Sophisticated Lady", and hundreds of others whose appeal like their originator has not been dated by the passing of years. DUKE ELLINGTON IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

14. P. B. S. PINCHBACK

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE FIRST BLACK TO SERVE AS LT. GOVERNOR FOR THE STATE OF LOUISIANA?

P. B. S. Pinchback rose from a canal boat cabin boy to the lieutenant governorship of the State of Louisiana. In 1861, after freeing himself from slavery, Pinchback joined the Union Army and organized a regiment of Blacks called the Louisiana Native Guard. But Pinchback ran into trouble, not with the southerners but with the Union troops who were openly hostile to him and his men. He was forced to give up his military interests because of continued abuse from the Union troops.

Two years after the end of the Civil War, Pinchback organized a political organization which helped get him elected to the State Republican Caucus. At the caucus he was then elected lieutenant governor for the State of Louisiana. However, the greatest drama in the life of Pinchback occurred when in a hotly contested race he was elected to the United States Senate, but because of the political maneuvers of the southern senators, Pinchback's credentials were rejected by the clerk of the Senate and he was not allowed to serve. P. B. S. PINCHBACK IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

15. HARRIET TUBMAN

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THAT THE MOST FAMOUS BLACK SOLDIER OF THE CIVIL WAR WAS A WOMAN?

Strong as a man, brave as a lion, cunning as a fox was Harriet Tubman, who unable to read or write, made nineteen journeys into the deep South and spirited over three hundred enslaved people to freedom. Harriet Tubman was one of the leading conductors of the "underground railroad". The "underground railroad" was neither a railroad nor underground but a system for helping people to escape slavery. During the Civil War Harriet Tubman served both as a nurse and a spy for the Union Army. When she died in 1913, she was buried with full military honors. HARRIET TUBMAN IS A BLACK WOMAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

16. DR. CHARLES DREW

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE BLACK MAN WHO FIRST DISCOVERED A WAY TO PRESERVE BLOOD PLASMA?

Dr. Charles Drew was not yet fifty years old when he died in an automobile accident where he bled to death. Paradoxically his contribution to medicine had saved hundreds of thousand lives during World War II. Dr. Drew was the pioneer in blood plasma preservation.

Before his time there was no efficient way to store large quantities of blood plasma for use during emergencies or for use in war time where thousands of lives depended on the availability of blood for blood transfusions. After Dr. Drew this was no longer a problem for he discovered ways and means of preserving blood plasma for what is commonly known as 'blood banks'.

Beginning his research into the properties of blood plasma at Columbia University, Dr. Drew became an authority on the subject and was asked by the British to set up a plasma program for them. He later did the same thing in the United States in 1942 and won the Spingarn Medal in recognition of his contributions to Black progress. At the time of his death in 1950, Dr. Drew was a chief surgeon and the chief of staff at the Freedmans Hospital in Washington D.C. DR. CHARLES DREW IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

17. MARY MCCLEOD BETHUNE

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE BLACK WOMAN WHO ALMOST SINGLE HANDILY BUILT ONE OF THE GREAT COLLEGES IN AMERICA TODAY?

Mary McCleod Bethune ranks high among the great women in America. The last of seventeen children to South Carolina sharecroppers, Mary Bethune lifted herself from cotton fields to the White House as an advisor to the President of the United States. Her greatest accomplishment, nevertheless, was almost single handily building one of the great colleges in America today, Bethune Cookman College.

With only one dollar and fifty cents, nerve and determination, she set out to build a school for the Blacks who were working in the railroad labor camps of Florida. In her own words she summed up her own effort to build the school, "I rang door bells..., I wrote articles for whoever would print them, distributed leaflets, road interminable miles of dusty roads on my bicycle, invaded churches, clubs, lodges, chambers of commerce." Slowly the school raised from old crate boxes and odd rooms of old houses near the Daytona Beach city dump. Today, the graduates of Bethune Cookman number in the thousands. In 1935, she received the NAACP Spingarn Medal as a symbol of distinguished achievement. MARY MCCLEOD BETHUNE IS A BLACK WOMAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

18. DR. PERCY JULIAN

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE BLACK MAN WHOSE DISCOVERY MADE AVAILABLE A TREATMENT TO RELIEVE INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS?

Dr. Percy Julian was one of the most famous Black scientists. Just as George Washington Carver demonstrated what could be done with the ordinary peanut, Dr. Percy Julian took the soybean, which was until his time just another bean, and extracted from it an ingredient to relieve inflammatory arthritis. Until the late 1930's Europe had a monopoly on the production of sterols, the basis of Dr. Julian's research. These sterols from Europe were extracted from the bile of animals at a cost of several hundreds of dollars a gram. By substituting sterols from the oil of soybeans, Dr. Percy Julian reduced the cost of sterols to less than twenty cents a gram, thus making cortisone, a sterol derivative, available to the needy at a reasonable cost.

Before his death of liver cancer, Dr. Julian found a way to mass produce the drug physolstigmine, used to treat glaucoma, and perfected the mass production of sex hormones which led the way to birth control pills. DR. PERCY JULIEN IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

19. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW WHO WAS THE FOUNDER OF TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ONE OF THE GREAT COLLEGES IN AMERICA TODAY?

On July 4, 1881, Booker T. Washington first opened the doors of Tuskegee University. Physical survival was the main problem confronting the school and the threat of vicious attacks from the white community. A natural politician, Washington cultivated the goodwill of Whites and Blacks in Macon County, Alabama. He explained that Tuskegee was to be an industrial training school and not a liberal arts college. His industrial school began to turn out graduates who were successful farmers, carpenters and brick layers.

In 1895, Booker T. Washington was invited to speak at the Atlanta Exposition, the first time a Black was ever invited. On the same podium with the governor of the State of Georgia and other dignitaries, Washington apologized for the errors of his race had made by trying to start on the top instead of at the bottom in seeking seats with state legislatures rather than developing skills in industry and real estate and pursuing cultivating truck gardens. He urged the southern Blacks to 'cast down your bucket where you are, in agriculture, mechanics, commerce, domestic service and the like'. He said that 'the wisest of my race understands that the agitation of questions of social equality is the extremist folly', and he felt that in all things that are social 'we can be as separate as fingers yet one as the hand especially for mutual progress'. The white audience went wild, the governor shook his hand publicly.

Using this political ploy on whites he received thousands of dollars which helped him develop Tuskegee Institute. By 1915, Tuskegee had over sixty buildings and an enrollment of nearly three million dollars. Both the school and the man were internationally famous.

Debate over his racial adjustment philosophy continues to this day. However, there was never any question of his role and place in building the great Tuskegee Institute. **BOOKER T. WASHINGTON IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.**

20. MARY CHURCH TERRELL

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE FOUNDER OF THE LARGEST BLACK SORORITY, DELTA SIGMA THETA?

Mary Church Terrell was born in 1863, the year of the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all peoples enslaved in the southern States. Her entire life was devoted to the fight for equality. A writer, lecturer, organizer, and demonstrator, Mrs. Terrell was active in the successful campaign to secure women the right to vote. She was also instrumental in the campaign to desegregate restaurants in the nation's capital.

In 1895, Ms. Terrell was appointed to the District of Columbia School Board. In 1896, she became one of the charter members of the National Association of Colored Women. Between 1913 and 1914 she helped to organize the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and twenty-six years later wrote a famous creed setting up a code of conduct for Black women. She was a representative at the International Counsel of Women in Berlin, Germany where she delivered her speech in English, French and German to the amazement of the entire delegation. Her theme was the same as always, "Equal Rights for Women and Blacks" wherever they may be found. **MARY CHURCH TERRELL IS A BLACK WOMAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.**

21. NORBERT RILLIEUX

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE BLACK MAN WHO REVOLUTIONIZED THE SUGAR INDUSTRY?

Just as the cotton gin made cotton king, a famous New Orleanian mad sugar king in Louisiana, Cuba, and Mexico by the invention of his vacuum chamber evaporating process. As a freed man, Norbert Rillieux did not want to leave New Orleans. He was born into slavery but after studying and teaching in France, returned to Louisiana to become the most famous engineer in the state. He was one of the most important men in the state, yet he could not take part in its affairs because he was Black.

Because he was forced to carry a pass in 1854, he decided to leave Louisiana forever. Nevertheless, while here he left his legacy on the sugar industry. He transformed the old primitive method of transferring sugar cane juice into sugar, called "The Jamaica Train" and converted it into an efficient process by using his vacuum chamber evaporator. His process spread to Cuba and Mexico and formed the basis of the development of the modern sugar industry. **NORBERT RILLIEUX IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.**

22. MARCUS GARVEY

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE BLACK MAN WHO BUILT AN ORGANIZATION WHICH HAD OVER SIX MILLION FOLLOWERS IN JUST FIVE YEARS?

Among Black leaders Marcus Garvey was unique. His popularity was universal. His program for the return of African people to their motherland shook the foundations of three empires. All subsequent Black power movements have owed a debt to his example and his prophesy has been fulfilled in the independence that brought into being more than thirty African nations.

In building his Universal Negro Improvement Association he sought, as he said, "To improve the condition of the race with the view of establishing a nation in Africa where Blacks will be given the opportunity to develop by themselves". In his famous Philosophies and Opinions, Marcus Garvey wrote, "Where is the Black man's government? Where is his king and his kingdom? Where is his president, his country and his ambassadors, his army, his navy, his men of big affairs?"

The UNIA grew in just five years to include over six million followers. The UNIA conventions were held in Madison Square Garden and was attended by twenty-five thousand Black folks. Dr. Martin Luther King said of Garvey that "He was the first man, on a mass scale, to give millions of Blacks a sense of dignity and destiny". His program of economic development was on a mass scale. He built newspapers, schools, churches, a shipping company, printing operations, food and clothing stores. His program was a program of Black development today. **MARCUS GARVEY IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.**

23. LOUIS ARMSTRONG

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THAT THE MOST FAMOUS TRUMPET PLAYER IN THE WORLD IS FROM NEW ORLEANS?

When Louis Armstrong was sent to the Waif's Home for boys for discharging a pistol on the streets of New Orleans, Louisiana, he had no idea that he would one day appear before the king and queen of England in a command performance. Louis Armstrong's casual interest in music was cultivated by the band master of the Waif's Home. There the round-faced youth with wide opened eyes learned to play the cornet and bugle so well that he was leading the band before his release eighteen months later.

While supporting himself newspapers and working in a dairy, Armstrong began hanging around the places where his idol, Joe "King" Oliver, was appearing with Kid Ory's Band. "King" Oliver taught Armstrong to play the trumpet and when he left for Chicago in 1917, Louis Armstrong took his place in Kid Ory's band. Armstrong later went to Chicago and worked with "King" Oliver and then to New York where he worked with the great Fletcher Henderson's orchestra. In 1926 he was known around the world as the "World's Greatest Trumpeter".

In 1933 Armstrong made his first trip abroad and toured France, Italy, Switzerland, Holland and England. In 1934 he and his "Hot Five" appeared before England's King George VI in the first of several command performances. Following his return from Europe in 1936 Armstrong made his motion picture debut in "Pennies from Heaven".

In the next few years, he appeared in several movies. His recording career dates from the middle 1920's and many of his records are collector's items. LOUIS ARMSTRONG IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

24. FANNIE LOU HAMER

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW WHO FANNIE LOU HAMER IS?

In the early 1950's a Black man or woman could lose their life for registering to vote in some towns in Mississippi. In 1962, a white sheriff put a bullet in the head of a Black man because the man was on his way to register to vote. But even at the risk of her life Fannie Lou Hamer got up one morning, put on her shoes and walked right to Ruleville, Mississippi and registered to vote. Because of registering and encouraging others to do so, Fannie Lou Hamer was evicted from the farm where she lived, and her husband was fired from his job. Neither he nor Fannie Lou could find work.

Fannie Lou continued to organize people to register to vote. She was jailed and beaten, but nothing could stop her. She was so successful that she helped to found the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party which went to the 1964 Democratic National Convention and challenged the right of the all-white Mississippi delegation to be seated at the convention. Because of these efforts an integrated delegation was eventually seated in 1968.

Because of the hunger and joblessness around her she also organized cooperatives which helped to spur on the cooperative movement in the South. The cooperative movement allowed Blacks to leave the plantations where they were sharecroppers and set up their own farms in a way in which they profited from the farms together. FANNIE LOU HAMER IS A BLACK WOMAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

25. ELIJAH MCCOY

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THAT THE REAL MCCOY WAS A BLACK MAN?

Elijah McCoy was a Black inventor who was awarded over fifty-seven patents for various cylinder lubricators. His basic invent, "the drip cup", has been described as the key device in perfecting the overall lubrication system used in large industry today. With this invention, it was no longer necessary to stop or shutdown large machinery in order to apply the needed lubrication. So popular did his lubrication become that persons inspecting new equipment generally inquired if it contained "The Real McCoy". That phrase became so widespread in industry that now it's almost a part of the English language.

Besides the lubricators Elijah McCoy invented an ironing table, lawn sprinkler, steam dome and drip cup. Eventually, he set up the Elijah McCoy Manufacturing Company in Detroit, Michigan to develop and sell his inventions. ELIJAH MCCOY IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

26. SOJOURNER TRUTH

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THAT ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS ORATORS OF THE CIVIL WAR TIMES WAS A WOMAN?

At a time when oratory was a fine art, Sojourner Truth through her strong character and acid intelligence, was among the best and most famous anti-slavery speakers of her day. Her deep, bass voice, her fierce intelligence, sense of drama and the utter sincerity of her speeches quickly spread her fame throughout the North and astounded the unbelieving South.

Frequently, efforts were made to silence her. She was beaten and stoned but nothing could stop Sojourner Truth. Her speeches touched the hearts of many and led to the strengthening of the movement to abolish slavery in the United States. Her courageous efforts were rewarded when in 1863 slavery was officially abolished in the South by President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. SOJOURNER TRUTH IS A BLACK WOMAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

27. MALCOLM X

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW WHO MALCOLM X WAS?

Just as Frederick Douglass emerged from the debts of slavery, so Malcolm X rose from the heart of the Black ghetto. Born nearly one hundred years apart, these two men ascended from the underside of Black America during the periods of extreme social unrest. Frederick Douglass thundered against slavery; Malcolm X lashed out against racial oppression in all of forms.

Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little on May 19, 1925. As a teenager he drifted into the underworld of numbers, bootlegging, dope, commercial sex, and confidence games. Before his twenty-first birthday he had been convicted and sentenced to prison for burglary. It was in the state prison at Charlestown, Massachusetts that he learned of the Black Muslim movement and the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammed.

By 1953 Malcolm became the assistant Muslim minister for the Nation of Islam in the Detroit mosque. Malcolm X taught that Black people must stand up and free themselves from oppression. His most quoted affirmation is "by any means necessary."

In 1963, after leaving the Nation of Islam, he organized the Organization for Afro-American Unity. He traveled and made voyages to the Middle East and Africa to learn about the struggles of Blacks. On February 21, 1965, he was assassinated in the Audubon Ball Room in New York City. His death was headlined around the world. MALCOLM X IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

28. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW WHO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS?

Dr. Martin Luther King's public career began in 1955 with the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott, where he led the fight to desegregate the public buses. It ended on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee where he had joined the fight to secure better wages and working conditions for the garbage

collectors there. Between these two places the world was his platform; between these years universal brotherhood was his message. Dr. King was the beacon of resistance against racial discrimination, economic oppression and government sponsored militarism during the 1950's and 60's.

When awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he kept the medallion but presented the \$54,000 prize to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the civil rights organization he led. His earnings from lectures and writings generally went to organizations supporting the civil rights movement. Following his death his estate was appraised at less than \$5000.

Two months before his death, Dr. King said, referring to his funeral, "I would like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others... and I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity." DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

29. JAMES LOUIS

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THAT THE FIRST BLACK CHIEF OF POLICE IN NEW ORLEANS WAS ORIGINALLY BORN INTO SLAVERY?

James Louis was born in Mississippi and worked as a slave steward on ships on the Mississippi River. He escaped and went to New Orleans and organized a regiment of Black volunteers to fight against the Confederacy. In 1864 he joined the Freedmen's Bureau. The Freedmen's Bureau was a federal government agency to help previously enslaved Africans reorganize their lives after the Civil War. James Louis was given the position of a traveling agent setting up schools for those coming out of slavery. He found this work more dangerous than being a soldier. He was mobbed and attacked several times in Northern Louisiana. But even with these difficulties and threats, he was successful in setting up many schools.

Because of his effective work, he was appointed the post of the United States Inspector of Customs. At various time James Louis was Surveyor General for the City of New Orleans, tax collector for the Port of New Orleans, Superintendent of the United Bonded Warehouse in New Orleans, and Administrator of the Public Improvements of New Orleans. He even became the New Orleans Administrator of Police. JAMES LOUIS IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

30. LANGSTON HUGHES

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE BLACK MAN WHOSE POEM LEAD TO A MAJOR THEME OF THE 1984 NEW ORLEANS WORLD'S FAIR?

Langston Hughes was one of the most prolific writers of the 20th century. In his writing, Hughes tried almost every conceivable form man have used to arrange their words and thoughts on paper. Poems, songs, novels, plays, biographies, histories, and essays were vehicles employed by him to communicate with his fellow humans. He was a part of the great Harlem Renaissance and achieved fame during the 1920's. However, he did not begin to depend on his writings for a living until 1930. The

theme of his work was the common man, more specifically the ordinary Black person with his pleasures, joys, and sorrows.

Of the hundreds of poems written by him perhaps the best known and most durable is “The Negro Speaks of Rivers”. In it Langston Hughes writes, “I have known rivers. I have known rivers ancient of the world and older than the flow of human blood and human veins. My soul has grown deep like the rivers.” This poem became a major theme of the 1984 New Orleans World’s Fair. LANGSTON HUGHES IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

31. IDA B. WELLS

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE BLACK WOMAN WHOSE WRITINGS SPEARHEADED THE REPEAL OF THE LYNCHING LAWS IN THE OLD SOUTH?

Ida B. Wells in her time was perhaps the most famous Black female journalist in the country. She was a correspondent for the Detroit Plane Dealer, the Christian Index, The Peoples Choice, and had written for the New York Age, The Indianapolis World, and several other newspapers around the country. Writing of her in 1891, T. Thomas Fortune, the outstanding Black editor of that period said, “She has become famous as one of the few of our women who handle a goose quill with the diamond point as easily as any man in newspaper work.”.

Her writings were feared because of her special emphasis on the horrors of lynching. She published *The Red Record*, the first serious statistical treatment of the tragedy of lynching. She appealed to President William McKinley for support in the fight against the Lynch Law. In her letter she wrote, “that no where in the civilized world, save in the United States, do men go out in bands of fifty to hunt down, shot, hang and bun to death a single individual unarmed and absolutely powerless”.

Mrs. Ids B. Wells organized many civic and self-help clubs in Chicago. She was one of six Blacks who signed the initial call for the great national conference out of which grew the NAACP in 1909. IDA B. WELLS IS A BLACK WOMAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

32. CARTER G. WOODSON

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE BLACK MAN WHO FOUNDED BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

Despite the pioneer efforts of many Black writers, the systematic treatment of Black history was not until 1915 when Carter G. Woodson, an ex-coal miner and schoolteacher organized the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Over the years this Association has published many important volumes in the field of Black history.

In 1916, Dr. Woodson started The Journal of Negro History, a scholarly repository of research which is used by student of history throughout the world. He initiated the observance of Black History Week in 1926. Eleven years later the Association began the publication of *The Negro History Bulletin*, a believed that the achievements of Blacks properly set forth will crown him as a factor in early human progress and a maker of modern civilization.” His life and work are an eloquent testimony to that belief. DR. CARTER G. WOODSON IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

33. THURGOOD MARSHALL

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE FIRST BLACK TO BE APPOINTED A SUPREME COURT JUSTICE?

While chief attorney for the NAACP, Thurgood Marshall made his reputation as perhaps the greatest constitutional lawyer of his time and certainly the most widely known legal mind in America. From 1936 until his appointment to the federal bench in 1961, “Mr. Civil Rights”, as he was called, exerted “an influence as a shaker of America that few of his white contemporaries in his profession could match. As a NAACP lawyer, he won thirty-two out of thirty-five cases taken by him to the United States Supreme Court. Among his victories was the establishment of the right of Blacks to serve on juries and to vote in the Democratic primaries in the South, to travel from state to state free from Jim Crow laws, to be free of restrictive covenants denying them equal right to use and purchase property, and to receive a public school education without discrimination and without segregation.

On October 2, 1967, Thurgood Marshall was appointed to the United States Supreme Court and served in that position until October of 1991. He thus became the first Black ever to sit on the highest court in this nation. THURGOOD MARSHALL IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

34. WILMA RUDOLPH

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE FIRST AMERICAN WOMAN TO WIN THREE GOLD METALS IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES WAS A BLACK WOMAN?

Wilma Rudolph in 1960 became the world’s fastest woman runner and the only woman to have won three gold medals in the running events at the Olympic Games.

Born in 1940 in Tennessee, Wilma Rudolph was crippled by childhood diseases, but daily massages and a special shoe finally allowed her to walk at eight. Later she became a track star at Tennessee State University.

At the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome Ms. Rudolph won the 100-meter dash tying the world record and the 200-meter dash setting another world record. She then anchored the winning United States team that set the then world record of 44.4 seconds in the 400-meter rally. Later she went on in other international meets to set new world records in the 100-meter dash and the 70-yard dash. WILMA RUDOLPH IS A BLACK WOMAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

35. GARRETTE A. MORGAN

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THAT THE INVENTOR OF THE GAS MASK AND THE AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC SIGNAL WAS A BLACK MAN?

The time was July 25, 1916; the place was five miles out and two hundred and twenty-eight feet below Lake Erie and the Cleveland Water Works. An explosion in tunnel No. 5 had trapped over two dozen men. No one knew for sure whether there would be any survivors. There was only one way to tell. Have someone go down into the tunnel.

With great quantities of smoke, natural gases, dust and debris it was simply impossible for anyone to go into No. 5 and live. At two a.m. when all seemed hopeless, Garrette A. Morgan and his brother Frank arrived on the scene. They put on these funny masks which they called “inhalators” and descended, down into the tunnel. The Morgan brothers pulled the men out of the mine one by one and his breathing mask became standard equipment for all firemen and mine workers around the country.

In the later years, Garrette A. Morgan also created a device which also made it possible for the orderly movement of millions of automobiles in today’s cities and towns, the automatic stop sign.
GARRETTE A. MORGAN IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

36. THE HONORABLE ELIJAH MUHAMMAD

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE HONORABLE ELIJAH MUHAMMAD?

Elijah Muhammad, the founder of the Black Muslim Movement in America, organized the Nation of Islam as a vehicle to free Blacks from the oppression suffered by them in America. Through the Nation of Islam, Elijah Muhammad called for a separate nation for Black people made up of several southern states. “A place where we can govern ourselves and do for self”, he said.

Born as Elijah Poole in Georgia, Elijah Muhammad set up schools for Black children in 1934. He believed that Black people need to control our own educational system so that we can pass on to our children positive values rather than the evil values of American society. He was jailed in Michigan because he fought all forms of state control over Black schools and suffered prison because he refused to register for the draft. He taught, “Why should we fight in the Army of a nation that enslaves us and oppresses us.”

He moved to Chicago where he built the Nation of Islam. At its height, the Nation of Islam had more than three million followers all over the United States and contributed to the development of South Side Chicago. The Nation set up restaurants, print shops, and had a national distribution company specializing in selling fish. The most successful business venture was the Muhammad Speaks newspaper which could be seen all over the United States. ELIJAH MUHAMMAD IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

37. MARIAN ANDERSON

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE BLACK WOMAN WHOSE FREE CONCERT IN 1943 CREATED A NATIONAL FUROR AND ATTRACTED MORE THAN 75,000 PEOPLE?

In 1927 Marian Anderson entered a competition with 300 other young singers and won first prize which consisted of a contract for concert tours. This began the career for one of America’s leading singers. Between 1933 and 1935 Ms. Anderson lived in Europe with the aid of fellowships and sang for the crown heads of Sweden, Norway, Denmark and England. One of the most famous conductors of her time declared that “Hers was a voice heard once in a hundred years.”

Her standing was so high in 1939, that when the Daughters of the American Revolution denied her the use of Constitution Hall in Washington D.C. for a concert, a national scandal was created. Many

of the white musical leaders of the country expressed their public disapproval over such a prejudicial act. The President's wife, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt resigned for this organization in protest. To further protest the discrimination perpetrated against Blacks, Marian Anderson gave a concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on Easter Sunday morning in 1943. Seventy-five thousand people gathered to hear this concert. Without a doubt, Marian Anderson through music and her regal behavior has contributed to the advancement of Black people in the United States. **MARIAN ANDERSON IS A BLACK WOMAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.**

38. FREDERICK A. DOUGLAS

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE ANTI-SLAVERY LEADER WHOSE WRITINGS AND SPEECHES ESTABLISHED THE BASIS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT FOR BOTH BLACKS AND WOMEN?

Frederick A. Douglas was born in 1817 on a Maryland plantation. At birth he was given the name Frederick Augustus Bailey. Frederick constantly fought against his slave condition and was constantly in trouble with the overseer. He was once whipped each week for six months to break his rebellious spirit. He finally escaped and went to New York and changed his name to Frederick A. Douglas.

In 1845 against the advice of his friends, Douglas decided to write an account of his life fully aware of the possibility that this would mark him as the Bailey runaway slave. The autobiography was called The Narrative of the Life and Time of Frederick Douglas. He was forced to live in England and Canada to hide from the bounty hunters who were sent to capture him.

Besides writing his autobiography he was the editor of the North Star and the Frederick Douglas Papers. These were famous anti-slavery journals.

When the Civil War broke out, Frederick Douglas urged President Lincoln to free and arm the enslaved Blacks in the South. He recruited many Blacks for the Union Army, among them his own sons. After the war, Douglas turned his attention to the status of the freed men, urging education as a way out of poverty and oppression. He was also an important spokesman for universal suffrage, women's' rights, and world peace. **FREDERICK A. DOUGLAS IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.**

39. JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW WHO WROTE WHAT IS COMMONLY CALLED THE BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM, 'LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING'?

The famous song, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was written by James Weldon Johnson in 1900. Later this poem was put to music by his brother John Roseman Johnson and has become known as the Black National Anthem. His strikingly dramatic poem "God's Trombones", written in 1927, may still be heard recited from the stages of many high schools and colleges in the South.

Aside from his creative work, Johnson edited the New York Age and ran an extremely popular column in it for ten years. In 1916, James Weldon Johnson joined the NAACP and for many years was its

executive secretary. Among his many achievements with this organization are sparking the drive behind Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill in 1921 and leading the fight against the White Only primary which made it illegal for Blacks to be denied participation in southern primary elections.

Before he joined the NAACP, Johnson served as counsel to Nicaragua and Venezuela. He was the first Black to pass the written examination for the bar in Florida and after practicing law and teaching school for a few years he moved to New York where he joined his brother in writing successful musical comedies. JAMES WELDON JOHNSON IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

40. GWENDOLYN BROOKS

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE FIRST BLACK EVER TO WIN THE FAMOUS PULITZER PRIZE FOR POETRY WAS A WOMAN?

Gwendolyn Brooks tells you that she is simply a housewife. She dresses rather plainly. She is almost painfully shy and unassuming. She does not stand out in the crowd. There is nothing about her appearance that suggest that she is one of America's greatest poets.

Gwendolyn Brooks is the first Black ever to win the Pulitzer Prize for her second volume of poems, *Annie Allen*, written in 1949. She has received two Guggenheim Fellowship Awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the prestigious Eugene Tietjeanes Award from Poetry Magazine and for three consecutive years, the Mid-West Conference Prize. She writes in one of her most famous poems, "...in all your Turnings and your Churnings, remember Africa. You have to call your singing and your bringing, your pulse, your ultimate booming in the not-so-narrow temple of your Power. You have to call all that as your Poem, Africa." GWENDOLYN BROOKS IS ONE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST POETS AND A BLACK WOMAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

41. JESSE OWENS

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE BLACK MAN WHO PROVED TO ADOLPH HITLER THAT WHITE PEOPLE ARE NOT THE SUPERIOR RACE?

Rated by sports authorities as the outstanding track and field athlete of the modern time, Jessie Owens won four medals in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany. In each of the four events he either se or equaled a world or Olympic record.

After setting many track records in high school, Owens enrolled at Ohio State University in 1933. As a member of the track team he was magnificent. Of forty-five points Ohio collected in one meet Owens himself scored forty. In May of 1935 he had what some experts have called "the greatest single day in track history". In just seventy-five minutes, Jessie Owens set three world records and tied a fourth.

At the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany Jessie Owens shattered Adolph Hitler's myth of white supremacy by winning four gold medals, breaking or equaling Olympic records in every event. Jessie tied the 100-meter dash record of 10.3 seconds and set a mark of 20.7 seconds in the 200-meter dash. He anchored the winning American relay team that won the 400-meter race in record time of 39.8

seconds, and he won the long jump with a record leap of 26 feet 5 & 5/8 inches. JESSIE OWENS IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

42. A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE MOST FAMOUS BLACK LABOR UNION LEADER?

Philip Randolph was the elder statesman of Black Labor leaders. For almost forty years he was in the thick of the fight for improved working conditions and higher wages for all laborers. He was particularly vigorous in his vocal opposition to racial discrimination within the labor movement.

In 1925 Randolph organized The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the strongest labor union among Blacks at that time. With the Pullman Car Porter's as his foundation, A. Philip Randolph rose to the topmost hierarchy of the labor movement to become the first Black vice-president of the AFL-CIO, the largest organization of unions in the United States.

During World War II, he was the prime mover of the first celebrated "March on Washington" movement which prodded the United States government into forbidding discrimination in any industry having government contracts. He was one of the most effective lobbyists for the establishment of a permanent Fair Employment Practices Committee. At age seventy-four, A. Philip Randolph was one of the organizers of the 1963 "March on Washington", the occasion of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream" speech. A. PHILIP RANDOLPH IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

43. KATHERINE DUNHAM

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW WHO CREATED WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS MODERN DANCE?

Born 1910 in Joliet, Illinois, Katherine Dunham gave the world a new, Black dance art, composed of African, Caribbean, Central European and classical ballet dance elements in a modern style. The "Dunham Technique" became the model for professional dancing on Broadway and on the movie screens.

As an anthropologist interested in discovering the African and African American dance heritage, Dunham conducted research in Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique and Cuba in 1937. The dance technique she later developed as an artist, performer, choreographer and teacher was based on her field studies. She subsequently appeared on Broadway and in films.

She donated the money made from this work to finance the Katherine Dunham Dance Theatre Company, the largest nonsubsidized dance group in the country, which toured internationally for 25 years. In 1963 she choreographed the opera, *Aida*, for the New York Metropolitan Opera. KATHERINE DUNHAM IS A BLACK WOMAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

44. RICHARD ALLEN

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE FOUNDER OF THE A.M.E. CHURCHES?

The African Methodist Episcopal Church has a distinction of being the oldest and one of the largest institutions among Blacks. It was founded in Philadelphia in 1787 by Richard Allen, an extraordinary organizer and minister.

Around the end of the Revolutionary War, Blacks were discouraged from worshiping at churches with white congregations. One Sunday in November 1787, Richard Allen and several of his friends rebelled against increasing restrictions that were imposed upon their right to worship at St. George, one of Philadelphia's leading Methodist Churches. Richard Allen led an exodus of Blacks from the church and set about organizing a new denomination, the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Allen's Bethel Church in Philadelphia was the scene of the first general mass meeting by Blacks in 1817 to protest the deportation policies of the newly formed American Colonization Society. The Negro Convention Movement was launched in 1830 at Bethel with Richard Allen dominating the proceedings. This movement was the first interstate political movement of Blacks in North America and had as its objective the abolition of slavery in the South and racial discrimination in the North. **RICHARD ALLEN IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.**

45. DR. W. E. B. DUBOIS

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE NAACP WHO WAS ALSO THE FIRST BLACK TO RECEIVE A DOCTORATE DEGREE FROM HARVARD UNIVERSITY?

No single title does credit to the prodigious talents of Dr. W. E. B. Dubois. He has been labeled an educator, author, historian, sociologist, philosopher, poet, leader, radical, apostle of peace and prophet.

Dr. Dubois authored one to the standard books on the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era. Perhaps his greatest fame came not from his scholarly works but from his debate at the turn of the century with Booker T. Washington over the type of education needed by the Blacks in America. Washington of course stressed vocational education whereas Dubois insisted on training in the liberal arts and in the humanities.

Dr. Dubois was one of the founders of the NAACP and editor of its famous journal, *The Crisis*. He was also the first Black to receive a doctorate degree from Harvard University.

In 1919 he initiated the Pan African Conference in Paris with the hope of focusing world opinion on the conditions of the Black people everywhere. On behalf of the NAACP, he tried to get a firm anti-colonial commitment from the United States at the United Nations in 1945 and in 1947 he presented there a protest against Jim Crow laws. His theme of advocacy in his later years was always economic democracy and the channeling of Black power through a unified Black society. **W. E. B. DUBOIS IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.**

46. GRANVILLE T. WOODS

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW THE BLACK MAN WHOSE TELEGRAPH SYSTEM REVOLUTIONIZED THE RAILROADS IN THE UNITED STATES?

During his lifetime, Granville T. Woods earned over thirty-five patents ranging from a steam boiler furnace in 1884, an incubator in 1900 to the automatic air-break in 1902. Many of his electrical inventions were sold to the American Bell Telephone Company and the General Electric Company. The Westinghouse Air-break Company eventually obtained his air-break patent.

His most noteworthy device in the area of electric railway travel was his induction telegraph, a system for communicating to and from moving trains. Because of the many accidents and collisions which was caused on the public railways he invented his synchronous multiplex railway telegraph for the purpose of averting accidents by keeping each train informed of the whereabouts of the one immediately ahead of it or following it; in communicating with stations from moving trains; and in promoting general social and commercial discourse. The inventions of Granville T. Woods have revolutionized the railway industry. GRANVILLE T. WOODS IS A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

47. PAUL ROBESON

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW WHO PAUL ROBESON WAS?

Paul Robeson was one of the most gifted men in the history of the world. He was an athlete, an actor, an author, an attorney, a scholar, and a concert singer. Born in Princeton, New Jersey on April 9, 1898, Paul Robeson showed early in life that he was a man of many talents.

Paul Robeson gave 296 performances of Othello on Broadway. When the play opened, the ovation he received was called "one of the most prolonged and wildest... in the history of New York". He was subsequently recognized as an internationally famous singer and performed on concert stages throughout the world.

Robeson spoke and performed in twenty languages and tribal tongues and became a spokesman throughout the world for peace and friendship between all people and against exploitation, injustice and racism. His attacks on injustice and racism in the United States became a severe international embarrassment to the United States government.

In 1950, Paul Robeson's passport was revoked by the U.S. State Department. President Truman signed an executive order forbidding Robeson to leave the United States under penalty of five years in prison and five thousand dollars fine. For all practical purposes this was the end of Paul Robeson's career as a singer and actor. Nevertheless, he continued to fight against all forms of racism and oppression perpetuated on Blacks in the United States. He died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on January 23, 1976. PAUL ROBESON WAS A GIANT OF OUR RACE AND A BLACK MAN YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW.

[Unfortunately, three vignettes have been lost.]