

## Learning about our African American History: Week One

Which African American was a famous abolitionist?

1. Frederick Douglass
2. Alexander Crummell
3. Henry McNeal Turner
4. George Washington Carver

What was the underground railroad?

1. A secret meeting place
2. A way for slaves to escape to freedom
3. The name of a slave ship
4. This is a trick question

When did Frederick Douglass travel to Britain to speak against slavery?

1. 1799-1800
2. 1899-1901
3. 1845-1847
4. 1855-1858

Which job did Frederick Douglass have during the Civil War?

1. Enlistment Officer
2. Drill Sergeant
3. US Marshall
4. Judge

What jobs did Harriet Tubman perform for the Union Army during the Civil War?

1. Nurse
2. Cook
3. Scout, Nurse & Cook
4. Mechanic

What secret club did Frederick Douglass belong to?

1. The Elks
2. Baltimore Mental Improvement Association
3. Alpha Kappa Alpha
4. Phi Beta Kappa

How did Harriet Tubman raise money for her first mission to rescue slaves?

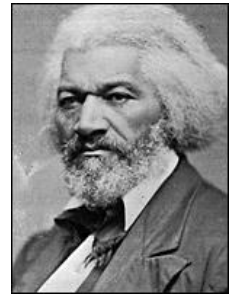
1. Cake sales
2. Gambling
3. Donations
4. Working part-time

ANSWERS (Don't look till you've tried!)

1.) 1; 2.) 2; 3.) 3; 4.) 1; 5.) 3; 6.) 2; 7.) 4



**Frederick Douglass, c.1817–1895, American abolitionist, b. near Easton, Md.** The son of a black slave, Harriet Bailey, and an unknown white father, he took the name of Douglass (from Scott's hero in *The Lady of the Lake*) after his second, and successful, attempt to escape from slavery in 1838. At New Bedford, Mass., he found work as a day laborer. An extemporaneous speech before a meeting at Nantucket of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society in 1841 was so effective that he was made one of its agents. Douglass, who had learned to read and write while in the service of a kind mistress in Baltimore, published his *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* in 1845. Fearing capture as a fugitive slave, he spent several years in England and Ireland and returned in 1847, after English friends had purchased his freedom. At Rochester, N.Y., he established the *North Star* and edited it for 17 years in the abolitionist cause. Unlike William L. Garrison, he favored the use of political methods and thus became a follower of James G. Birney. In the Civil War he helped organize two regiments of Massachusetts African Americans and urged other blacks to join the Union ranks. During Reconstruction he continued to urge civil rights for African Americans. He was secretary of the Santo Domingo Commission (1871), marshal of the District of Columbia (1877–81), recorder of deeds for the same district (1881–86), and minister to Haiti (1889–91). *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* (1962) is a revised edition of his autobiography, which has also been published as *My Bondage and My Freedom*.



**Alexander Crummell, Priest, Missionary, Educator, 1819 - 1898**



Alexander Crummell was born in New York City in 1819, and wished to study for the priesthood, but received many rebuffs because he was black. He was ordained in the Diocese of Massachusetts in 1844, when he was 25 years old, but was excluded from a meeting of priests of the diocese, and decided to go to England. After graduating from Cambridge, he went to Liberia, an African country founded under American auspices for the repatriation of freed slaves. Crummell hoped to see established in Liberia a black Christian republic, combining the best of European and African culture, and led by a Western-educated black bishop. He visited the United States and urged blacks to join him in Liberia and Frank Zerilli [FrankZerilli@mccchurch.net] swell the ranks of the church there. His work in Liberia ran into opposition and indifference, and he returned to the United States, where he undertook the founding and strengthening of urban black congregations that would provide

worship, education, and social services for their communities. When some bishops proposed a separate missionary district for black parishes, he organized a church group, now known as the Union of Black Episcopalians, to fight the proposal.

**Harriet Tubman, 1820 - 1913**

Harriet Tubman was a runaway slave from Maryland who became known as the "Moses of her people." Over the course of 10 years, and at great personal risk, she led hundreds of slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad, a secret network of safe houses where runaway slaves could stay on their journey north to freedom. She later became a leader in the abolitionist movement, and during the Civil War she was a spy for the federal forces in South Carolina as well as a nurse.



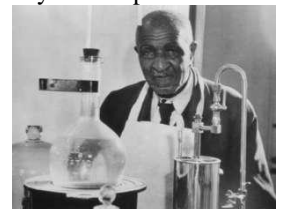
**Henry McNeal Turner, 1834-1915**

One of the most influential African American leaders in late-nineteenth-century Georgia, Henry McNeal Turner was a pioneering church organizer and missionary for the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) in Georgia, later rising to the rank of bishop. Turner was also an active politician and Reconstruction-era state legislator from Macon. Later in life, he became an outspoken advocate of back-to-Africa emigration.

**George Washington Carver July 12, 1864 – January 5, 1943**

George Washington Carver devoted his life to research projects connected primarily with southern agriculture. The products he derived from the peanut and the soybean revolutionized the economy of the South by liberating it from an excessive dependence on cotton. Carver developed crop-rotation methods for conserving nutrients in soil and discovered hundreds of new uses for crops such as the peanut, which created new markets for farmers. He didn't just keep the best for himself; he gave it away freely for the benefit of mankind. Not only did he achieve his goal as the world's greatest agriculturist, but also he achieved the equality and respect of all.

George was born of slave parents on July 12, 1864 in Diamond Grove, Missouri a sickly child at birth he would remain frail for most of his childhood. One night a band of raiders attacked his family and stole George and his mother. Days later, George was found unharmed by neighbors and was traded back to his owners in exchange for a race horse. Because of his frailty, George was not suited for work in the fields but he did possess a great interest in plants and was very eager to learn more about them. Here on the farm is where George first fell in love with plants and Mother Nature. He had his own little garden in the nearby woods where he would talk to the plants. He soon earned the nickname, The Plant Doctor, and was producing his own medicines right on the farm.



## Learning about our African American History: Week Two

What biblical character was Harriet Tubman compared to?

1. Moses—for freeing the slaves
2. Ruth—for her faith
3. Paul—for spreading a message
4. Samson—for strength

Which slave taught other slaves how to read and write?

1. Richard Allen
2. Frederick Douglass
3. John Mercer Langston
4. Harriet Tubman

Which black woman was accused of being a man?

1. Harriet Tubman
2. Mary Church Terrell
3. Sojourner Truth
4. Mary Ann Shadd

Harriet Tubman was a master planner of her escape operations. What did she include to calm crying babies?

1. Pacifiers
2. Toys
3. Food
4. Sedatives

Which African American woman received numerous commendations from Union army officers?

1. Harriet Tubman
2. Gay Byron
3. Sojourner Truth
4. Mary Ann Shadd

Which African American woman noticed that women's rights conventions were not addressing the concerns of African American women?

1. Harriet Tubman
2. Sojourner Truth
3. Mary Church Terrell
4. Phyllis Wheatley



**Phillis Wheatley, (1754 – 1784)** was only seven or eight years old when she was captured and taken from her home in West Africa. A slave ship brought her to Boston in 1761. Knowing nothing of the talents she would soon show the world, John Wheatley, a prosperous tailor, and his wife, Susannah, purchased the young girl directly from the ship and named her Phillis Wheatley. Wheatley grew up to be a poet—she was the first African American to publish. Her collection, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*, was published on September 1, 1773.



**Richard Allen (1760-1831)** was a success. Born into slavery in Philadelphia in 1760, he died in 1831 not only free but influential, a founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and its first bishop. As Richard and his brother grew older, they were permitted to attend meetings of the Methodist Society. Allen was converted at the age of 17. He began preaching in 1780. Through thrift and industry, he and his brother worked at night to pay for their freedom. Allen's rise has much of the classic American success story about it, but he bears a larger significance: Allen, as one of the first African-Americans to be emancipated during the Revolutionary Era, had to forge an identity for his people as well as for himself.

**Sojourner Truth (1797–November 26, 1883)** was the self-given name, from 1843, of Isabella Baumfree, an American slave, abolitionist and women's rights activist. Truth was born into slavery in Swartekill, New York. Her best-known speech, *Ain't I a Woman?*, was delivered in 1851 at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio. On June 1, 1843, Truth changed her name to Sojourner Truth and told her friends, "The Spirit calls me, and I must go." She became a Methodist, and left to make her way traveling and preaching about abolition. In 1844, she joined the Northampton Association of Education and Industry in Massachusetts. Founded by abolitionists, the organization supported women's rights and religious tolerance as well as pacifism. There were 210 members and they lived on 500 acres (2 km<sup>2</sup>), raising livestock, running a saw mill, a gristmill, and a silk factory. While there, Truth met William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, and David Ruggles. In 1846, the group disbanded, unable to support itself. [ In 1847, she went to work as a housekeeper for George Benson, the brother-in-law of William Lloyd Garrison. In 1849, she visited John Dumont before he moved west.



**Mary Ann Shadd Cary (October 9, 1823 – June 5, 1893)** was a pioneering educator, newspaper publisher, abolitionist and suffragist in both the United States and Canada. She started the first racially-integrated school in Canada and was also the first female newspaper editor in Canada, establishing *The Provincial Freeman* in Windsor, Ontario. This was a weekly paper designed to cover the lives of Canadian blacks and promote the cause of black refugees to Canada. In the United States, she worked as an activist in the causes of anti-slavery, racial equality and women's suffrage, and was one of the first women to graduate as a lawyer in the United States. She was the first black woman to cast a vote in a national election

**John Mercer Langston, (1829 – 1897)** a graduate of Oberlin College and Oberlin resident for 15 years, was a black leader of conviction and influence, a visionary reformer, and an accomplished statesman and lawyer. Langston was born free in 1829 in Louisa County Virginia, the youngest of four children. His father, Ralph Quarles, was a wealthy white planter and slaveholder. Langston's mother, Lucy Langston, was an emancipated slave of Indian and Black ancestry. Both parents died in 1834 after brief, unrelated illnesses. Langston was left a sizable inheritance which ensured his financial independence. At the age of 14, Langston enrolled in the Preparatory Department at Oberlin College. While a student at Oberlin he excelled in debate. He graduated from the Collegiate Department in 1849, the fifth black man to do so. Langston became the first black lawyer in Ohio, passing the Bar in 1854.



**Mary Church Terrell (born September 23, 1863 - July 24, 1954)** was a writer and internationally known civil rights and women's rights activist. She led important associations that worked for civil rights and suffrage. In 1884 she was one of the first African-American women to earn a college degree, and she continued with "firsts" throughout her career, becoming the first black woman to serve on the District of Columbia Board of Education and the first to hold such a position in the nation.

Week Two

ANSWERS (Don't look till you've tried!)

2.) 1 ; 2.) 2 ; 3.) 3 ; 4.) 4 ; 5.) 1 ; 6.) 2

## Learning about our African American History: Week Three

Which 19<sup>th</sup> century African American was suggested as a candidate for Vice President on the Republican ticket?

1. John Mercer Langston
2. Henry Highland Garnett
3. Toussaint L'Ouverture
4. Martin Delaney

Who was the first African American woman to work as the editor of a newspaper in North America?

1. Sojourner Truth
2. Mary Ann Shadd
3. Harriet Tubman
4. Mary Church Terrell

Who said, "If the Republican Party is not anti-slavery enough, take hold of it and make it so"?

1. Sojourner Truth
2. Mary Ann Shadd
3. John Mercer Langston
4. Mary Church Terrell

What 19<sup>th</sup> Century African American traveled to England and encouraged a world wide boycott of cotton?

1. Granville T. Woods
2. Frederick Douglass
3. Robert B. Elliot
4. Henry Highland Garnett

Who was the first woman to speak at the National Negro Convention in 1855?

1. Mary Ann Shadd
2. Sojourner Truth
3. Marion Wright Edelman
4. Mary Church Terrell

What was the name of the newspaper founded by Mary Ann Shadd?

1. Provincial Freeman
2. Canadian Times
3. Wall Street Journal
4. The Shadd Weekly



**Toussaint L'Ouverture (1743 – 1803), Liberator of Haiti** Born a slave in Saint-Domingue, in a long struggle for independence, Toussaint led enslaved Africans to victory over Europeans as a leader of the Haitian Revolution. He abolished slavery, and secured native control over the colony in 1797 while nominally governor of the colony. He expelled the French commissioner Léger-Félicité Sonthonax, as well as the British armies; invaded Santo Domingo to free the slaves there; and wrote a constitution naming himself governor-for-life that established a new polity for the colony. Especially between the years 1800 and 1802, Toussaint Louverture tried to rebuild the collapsed economy of Haiti and reestablish commercial contacts with the United States and Great Britain.



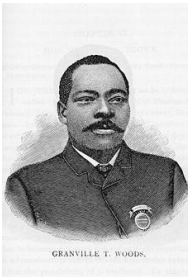
**Martin Robison Delaney (May 6, 1812 – January 24, 1885)** was an African-American abolitionist and arguably the first proponent of American black nationalism. He became the first African American field officer in the United States Army during the Civil War. In 2002, scholar Molefi Kete Asante listed Martin Delany as among the 100 Greatest African Americans.



**Robert Elliot (1842 – 1884)**, a Representative from South Carolina; born in England., August 11, 1842; attended public school in England; journalist; studied law; was admitted to the bar and practiced in Columbia, S.C.; member of the State constitutional convention in 1868; member of the State house of representatives from July 6, 1868, to October 23, 1870; assistant adjutant general of South Carolina 1869-1871; elected as a Republican to the Forty-second and Forty-third Congresses and served from March 4, 1871, until his resignation, effective November 1, 1874; again a member of the State house of representatives 1874-1876, and served as speaker; unsuccessful candidate for election as attorney general of South Carolina in 1876; moved to New Orleans, La., in 1881 and practiced law until his death there on August 9, 1884.



**Granville T. Woods (April 23, 1856 – Jan 30, 1910), Inventor**, Woods dedicated his life to developing a variety of inventions relating to the railroad industry. To some he was known as the "Black Edison", both great inventors of their time. Granville T. Woods invented more than a dozen devices to improve electric railway cars and many more for controlling the flow of electricity. His most noted invention was systems for letting the engineer of a train know how close his train was to others. This device helped cut down accidents and collisions between trains.



**Marian Wright Edelman (born June 6, 1939)** is an American activist for the rights of children. She is president and founder of the Children's Defense Fund. Edelman was the first African American admitted to the Mississippi Bar when she began practicing law out of the LDF's Mississippi office. During her time in Mississippi, she worked on racial justice issues connected with the civil rights movement and represented activists throughout the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964. She also helped get a Head Start program established in her community. Edelman moved in 1968 to Washington, D.C. where she continued her work and contributed to the organizing of the Poor People's Campaign of Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She founded the Washington Research Project, a public interest law firm and also became interested in issues related to childhood development and poverty-stricken children. In 1973, she founded the Children's Defense Fund as a voice for poor, minority and handicapped children.



Week Three  
ANSWERS from the questions on reverse side  
3.) 1 ; 2.) 2 ; 3.) 3 ; 4.) 4 ; 5.) 1 ; 6.) 1

## Learning about our African American History: Week Four

Who said, "The real question, the all commanding question, is whether American justice, American liberty, American civilization, American law and American Christianity can be made to include and protect alike and forever all American citizens..."

1. James Mercer Washington
2. Harriet Tubman
3. Frederick Douglass
4. Sojourner Truth



Who led the 1831 slave revolt in South Hampton Virginia?

1. Nat Turner
2. Alexander Crummell
3. Henry McNeal Turner
4. John Brown Russwurm

Who was the first president of the National Association of Colored Women?

1. Gay Byron
2. Mary Church Terrell
3. Mary Ann Shadd
4. Sojourner Truth

Which African American woman was a spy for the Union Army?

1. Sojourner Truth
2. Harriet Tubman
3. Mary Elizabeth Browser
4. Gay Byron

How much did Richard Allen pay to purchase his freedom from slavery?

1. \$100
2. \$2000
3. \$1500
4. \$2500

John Mercy Langston was responsible for:

1. Organizing political clubs
2. The recruitment of soldiers during the Civil War
3. Answers 1 & 2
4. Answer 1

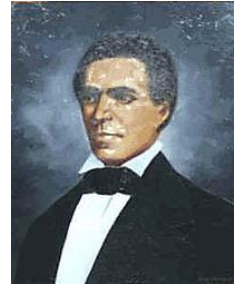
John Mercer Langston spoke at the 1848 National Black Convention on the subject of:

1. The Black Codes
2. The American Legal system
3. Apartheid
4. Aid to the fugitive slaves

Why did Henry Highland Garnett encourage a worldwide boycott of cotton?

1. He knew that if the market for cotton collapsed, then slavery would collapse.
2. He wanted to get into the cotton business.
3. He wanted to drive cotton prices up.
4. Cotton was king.

**John Brown Russwurm (1799-1851)** was an American abolitionist from Jamaica, known for his newspaper, *Freedom's Journal*. Russwurm moved to New York City in 1827. On March 16 of that year, Russwurm, along with his co-editor, Samuel Cornish published the first edition of *Freedom's Journal*, an abolitionist newspaper dedicated to opposition of slavery. It was the first newspaper in the United States to be owned, operated, published and edited by African Americans. He moved from the United States to govern the Maryland section of an African American colony in Liberia, dying there in 1851.



**Nat Turner “The Prophet”, (Oct. 2, 1800 – Nov. 11, 1831)** Black slave preacher Nat Turner felt that God had called on him to lead his people out of slavery. He was born on a small plantation in Virginia to an African-born slave mother who taught him to hate slavery. His master’s son taught him to read, and over the years he became fanatically religious and served as preacher for the slaves in the area. Some of his devoted flock began to call him “the Prophet.” A solar eclipse in 1831 was God’s sign to Nat Turner that the time had come to strike the blow for freedom. He led the biggest slave uprising in U.S. history beginning on the night of August 21, 1831, when Turner and seven fellow slaves murdered their master and his family while they slept, and then set out on a campaign of brutal murder that terrorized the countryside and killed 55 white people. Nat managed to escape and hide out for six weeks before he was captured. He and 16 of his followers were hanged. To avoid future uprisings, new slave codes were enacted outlawing the education of slaves and putting strict controls on their movements.

**Mary Elizabeth Bowser (1840 - ??)** was born a slave on John Van Lew’s plantation near Richmond. The exact time of her birth is uncertain, but believed to be about 1840. After Mr. Van Lew died in 1851, his daughter, Elizabeth, a staunch Union supporter, freed all of their slaves. Mary Elizabeth remained in the Van Lew household after she was freed and worked for a while as their servant. She soon met and married a freeman named William or Wilson Bowser. But Mary Elizabeth still dreamed of having an education. Ms. Van Lew agreed to pay her tuition, and she attended school in Philadelphia. After the Civil War began, Ms. Van Lew arranged for Mrs. Bowser to work as a domestic servant in the home of Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, who talked openly about matters of the Confederacy and the war in her presence. She passed this information to Ms. Van Lew, and it eventually reached Union military officials, including General Ulysses S. Grant. Mrs. Bowser had a photographic memory and could repeat word for word letters and dispatches that she saw in the president’s private study. They obviously believed she was illiterate. Her treachery was never discovered, and she served the Union for the duration of the war.



**Rev. Dr. Gay Byron**, a graduate of Union Theological Seminary, 1999. She is currently a Baptist Missionary Training School Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School and wrote an essay explaining black liberation theology. She explained the context of sermons by Jeremiah Wright, from which snippets have been widely quoted by the media. Dr. Byron's essay appeared in Rochester's Democrat Chronicle on March 27, 2008.

Week Four  
ANSWERS from the questions on reverse side  
1.) 3 ; 2.) 1 ; 3.) 2 ; 4.) 3 ; 5.) 2 ; 6.) 3 ; 7.) 4 ; 8.) 1