

February is Black History Month

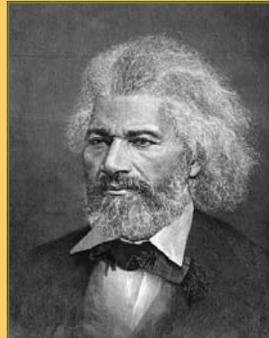
Black History Month is celebrated every February. But how did this celebration come to be? Below are trivia questions and answers.

Black History Month - Questions

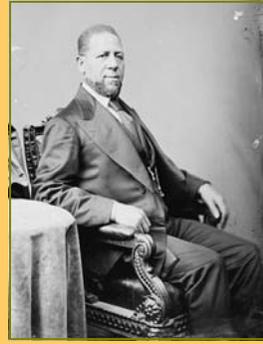
1. What year did it begin?
2. Why the month of February?
3. Who created the commemoration?
4. What is the point of the commemoration?
5. Have there been any changes since the implementation?
6. What is the 2009 theme? How is the theme determined and by whom?
7. Name four significant dates in February that are important to Black History?



Dr. Carter G. Woodson



Frederick Douglass



Hiram Rhodes Revels



Sit in at Woolworth's lunch counter—February 1960

Answers

1. *Began in 1926 as Negro History Week.* "We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice." Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950) on founding Negro History Week, 1926.
2. *The second week in February was chosen for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced Black Americans, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.*
3. *Dr. Carter G. Woodson, son of former slaves, who earned a Ph.D. from Harvard.* He is considered a pioneer in the study of African-American history, is given much of the credit for Black History Month, and has been called the "Father of Black History." Woodson spent his childhood working in coalmines and quarries. He received his education during the four-month term that was customary for black schools at the time. At 19, having taught himself English fundamentals and arithmetic, he entered high school, where he completed a four-year curriculum in two years. He went on to receive his Master's degree in history from the University of Chicago, and a PhD from Harvard.
4. *Dr. Woodson launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of African Americans throughout American history.* Disturbed that history textbooks largely ignored America's black population, Woodson took on the challenge of writing about Black Americans in history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. He also founded the group's widely respected publication, the Journal of Negro History. Woodson believed that "the achievements of the Negro properly set forth will crown him as a factor in early human progress and a maker of modern civilization."
5. *Became Black History Month (African American History Month) in 1976.*
6. *The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas.* The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History determines the theme each year.
7. *Significant dates in February in Black American History:*
 - ◆ February 3, 1870—The 15th Amendment passed, granting blacks the right to vote
 - ◆ February 25, 1870—The first black U.S. Senator, Hiram R. Revels, took his oath of office
 - ◆ February 12, 1909— NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) was founded
 - ◆ February 1, 1960— A group of Greensboro, NC college students began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter

Source: Compiled by Rani Sammons, Idaho Bureau of Land Management