

# **Black History**

## *Celebrating in February . . . Inclusion All Year*

Beginning with the national celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in January, and extending into and beyond Black History Month in February, we can center the experience and contributions of Black Americans throughout history and today. Much has been written about the inclusion of Black History in mainstream education — how and where to begin this history both in terms of the Black American experience and children’s developmental levels. Some of the links to articles below reflect these discussions. For Friends, these resources also provide an opportunity to center the experience of Black Friends in our history and present witness, and to explore racism, privilege and bias in our First Day School lessons.

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### **Historical Background and News:**

*“Carter Godwin Woodson, teacher, principal and supervisor of schools, established Negro History Week, which evolved into Black History Month following the Black Consciousness Movement of the 1960s. African American History Month is a reminder to all of us to continue Carter G. Woodson's commitment -- to bring greater regard for the contributions of African Americans to this country, to understand and overcome a legacy of oppression and racism, and, in so doing, to further racial harmony among us all.”*

- from The History Behind Black History Month, Teaching Tolerance by Joan Novelli

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (founded in 1915 by Black History Month founder and historian Carter G. Woodson) announced that the theme for Black History Month 2017 is "The Crisis in Black Education" focusing on the crucial role of education in the history of African Americans. The theme calls attention to the crisis that has resulted from persistently imposed racial barriers to equal education. Specific highlights for this year’s theme include, the slaves’ endeavors to learn, the rise of Black colleges and universities after the Civil War, the Black history movement, the freedom schools of the 1960s and local community-based academic and mentorship programs that inspire achievement.

- from “Black History Month theme highlights African Americans and barriers in education”

## Resources for FDS and Home:

### NYYM Traveling Resource Library

*Martin Luther King (graphic novel)*  
*Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*  
*Bayard Rustin: The Invisible Activist*  
*Dear Benjamin Banneker*  
*What Was the March on Washington?*



and more!

(contact [childrenyouthfs@nyym.org](mailto:childrenyouthfs@nyym.org) to borrow)

### Suggested Children's Literature:\*

*"Seeds of Freedom: The Peaceful Integration of Huntsville, Alabama"* by Hester Bass (Grades 2-5)  
*"All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom"* by Angela Johnson (K-Grade 5)  
*"The Story of Ruby Bridges"* by Robert Coles (PreK-Grade 3)  
*"Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down"* by Andrea Pinkney (Grades K-2)  
*"Beatitudes: From Slavery to Civil Rights"* by Carole Boston Weatherford (Grades 1-6)  
*"Ruth and the Green Book"* by Calvin Alexander Ramsey (Grades 3-7)  
*"Heart and Soul: The story of America and African Americans"* by Kadir Nelson (Grades 4-6)  
*Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America"*  
by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Jamey Christoph (K-Grade 3)



*March: Books 1, 2, 3* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, Nate Powell. (Middle School — graphic novel trilogy about the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, told through the perspective of civil rights leader and U.S. Congressman Lewis.)

\*see "Web Articles and Booklists" below, for sites which have additional titles

### Online Curricula

*"Stand Your Ground: The Life and Accomplishment of Paul Robeson (1898-1976)"* by the FDS Teachers of Princeton Monthly Meeting (Grades K-8)

Three chapters: 1) Recognizing one's talents and using them to confront and stop racism; 2) Standing for equal rights and speaking against slavery; 3) Standing up for what you believe, in the face of opposition. [www.pym.org/religious-education/curricula](http://www.pym.org/religious-education/curricula)

*“A Racial Justice Curriculum for Young Friends”* by Lisa Graustein (Grades 7-12)

A 10-lesson curriculum helping middle and high-school age Friends to grapple with racial justice issues beginning with their own understandings of their racial identity. [www.lisag.me](http://www.lisag.me)

*“You Don’t Have to Ride Jim Crow”* A play with 10 characters (Grades 9-12)

Short play retelling the story of Bayard Rustin being thrown off a bus and reacting non-violently. Drawn from original source material; some vulgar language.

Download: [neym.org/qye/fds/lessons/you-dont-have-ride-jim-crow](http://neym.org/qye/fds/lessons/you-dont-have-ride-jim-crow)

*Teacher’s Guide to “The New Jim Crow” from Teaching Tolerance* (Grades 9-12)

The guide will support educators in preparing to teach about systems of racial control and provide material designed to help high school students understand the complex and critical messages of the book. Key features of the guide include lessons closely aligned to topics and themes of the book and abridged excerpts of the book’s introduction and six chapters, along with teaching and discussion tools. [www.tolerance.org/publication/teaching-new-jim-crow](http://www.tolerance.org/publication/teaching-new-jim-crow)

*“A Time for Justice: America’s Civil Rights Movement”* by Teaching Tolerance (Grades 6-12) From the Southern Poverty Law Center, a school curriculum with resources for Friends working with Middle and High School youth. Includes chapters on nonviolent resistance and a final chapter on “The Work That Remains” which delves into the connections between race, poverty and justice in the United States.

Download: [www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/kits/A\\_Time\\_for\\_Justice\\_Teachers\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/kits/A_Time_for_Justice_Teachers_Guide.pdf) (Teachers can order a free kit that includes a film: [www.tolerance.org/kit/america-s-civil-rights-movement-time-justice](http://www.tolerance.org/kit/america-s-civil-rights-movement-time-justice))

### **Web Articles and Booklists**

**On the NYYM website:** *Addressing Racism —Resources for Meetings*

<http://www.nyyym.org/?q=AddressingRacism>

*Considerations When Choosing and Using Books in First Day School*

<http://www.fgcquaker.org/sites/www.fgcquaker.org/files/attachments/ChoosingFirstDayBooks.pdf>

*Do's and Don'ts of Teaching Black History*

<http://www.tolerance.org/article/dos-and-donts-teaching-black-history>

*When and How to Talk with Young Children about Enslavement: Discussion Questions for Educators* [www.teachingforchange.org/when-how-children-enslavement](http://www.teachingforchange.org/when-how-children-enslavement)

*Considerations for Early Childhood and Early Elementary Educators on Slavery and Resistance*

<http://www.teachingforchange.org/young-children-slavery-resistance>

*Books for Children on Slavery and Resistance:* a carefully selected list of more than 50 books for elementary, middle, and high school <http://www.tfcbooks.org/best-recommended/slavery>

*We Need To Change How We Teach Black History*  
<http://time.com/4208013/black-history-month-education/>

*45 Books to Teach Children About Black History*  
<http://theculture.forharriet.com/2014/02/45-books-to-teach-children-about-black.html?m=1#axzz3iGybqzIG>

*FGC “Children's Books on African American Experience”*  
<https://quakerbooks.org/collections/childrens-books-on-race>

*Colors of Us: all about multicultural children's books*  
<http://coloursofus.com/picture-books-for-black-history-month/>  
<http://coloursofus.com/historical-fiction-books-black-history-month-middle-school/>  
<http://coloursofus.com/childrens-books-about-the-harlem-renaissance/>  
<http://coloursofus.com/10-childrens-books-celebrating-juneteenth/>

### **Films with Accompanying Curricula — For Older Youth**

*Get In the Way: The Journey of John Lewis*

The first major documentary biography of Lewis, *Get in the Way* is a riveting, highly personalized narrative of an epic chapter in U.S. history that touches audiences deeply.

<http://www.documentary.org/film/get-way-journey-john-lewis>

*Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot*

The 40-minute film is recommended for students in grades 6 to 12. The Viewer’s Guide supports classroom viewing of *Selma* with background information, discussion questions and lessons. In “Do Something!,” a culminating activity, students are encouraged to get involved locally to promote voting and voter registration. (DVD and curriculum available from NYYM Resource Library)

*I Am Not Your Negro*

Academy-Award nominated documentary film on James Baldwin film directed by Raoul Peck. Based on James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript *Remember This House* and narrated by actor Samuel L. Jackson, the film explores the history of racism in the United States through Baldwin's reminiscences of civil rights leaders Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. There is a digital curriculum for High School and College with adaptations for Middle School.

<http://iamnotyournegro.bazaned.com/register.aspx>