

Explore the African American experience during Black History Month

The history of black America runs the gamut of human experience. From the cruel depths of slavery to the fight for freedom to the achievements of the Civil Rights Movement and the election of America's first black president, it's a sweeping story that is simultaneously unique and universal, emblematic of the ongoing human quest for freedom, recognition, and justice. And it continues to be written, as black culture exerts an indelible and ongoing national and worldwide influence.

February is Black History Month, a time to celebrate and explore this record. Conceived in 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodson and clergyman Jesse E. Moorland, and sponsored by their organization, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), it was originally a week-long event (pegged to the second week in February so it coincided with the birthdays of both Pres. Abraham Lincoln and famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass). By the 1960s, it had morphed into a month-long grassroots celebration, which was formalized in 1976 by Pres. Gerald Ford.

Of course, one month is insufficient to teach the entire pageant of black history- but it's a good place to start! Here are some online venues to begin the journey:

- [The National Archives' black history site](#),
- [Louisiana's Whitney Plantation, featuring lesson plans on life in the antebellum South](#)
- [The National Archives' history of blacks in the U.S. military](#),
- [The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture](#)
- [The Civil Rights Digital Library](#)
- [National Public Radio's podcasts about the black cultural experience](#)
- [The New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture's digital archives](#), which include oral histories, interviews, images, and more.

For more ideas, check out these [K12 classroom resources from the National Education Association](#). And explore further with [related titles](#) from

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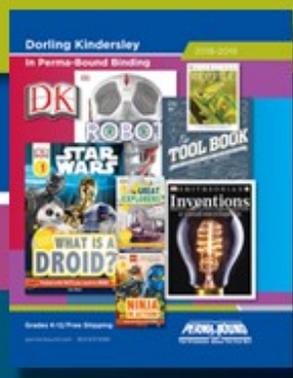
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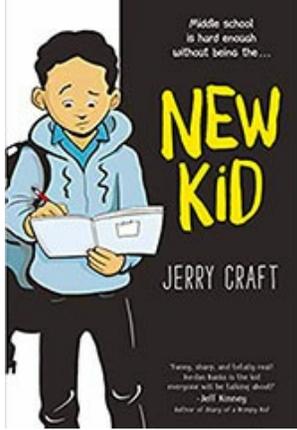
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