

Timeline



Eli Whitney

- 1619 Dutch ship brings 20 Africans to Jamestown, Va., the first enslaved Africans in the U.S.

- 1793 Eli Whitney's new cotton gin increases demand for slaves

- 1793 Congress passes Fugitive Slave Act, making it a federal crime to assist a slave trying to escape

- 1808 Congress bans importation of slaves

- 1820 Missouri Compromise bans slavery above the southern border of the state

- 1831 Nat Turner leads largest slave rebellion prior to Civil War

- 1849 Harriet Tubman escapes to Philadelphia and helps about 300 enslaved people to freedom via the Underground Railroad

- 1857 In *Dred Scott v. Sanford*, U.S. Supreme Court declares that Blacks are not citizens of the U.S. and that Congress cannot prohibit slavery

- 1859 John Brown leads raid of U.S. Armory and Arsenal at Harpers Ferry, W.Va.

- 1861 South secedes from Union and Civil War begins

- 1863 President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free"

- 1865 Civil War ends

- 1865 Thirteenth Amendment is ratified, prohibiting slavery

- 1868 Fourteenth Amendment is ratified, allowing Blacks to become citizens

- 1870 Fifteenth Amendment is ratified, guaranteeing that right to vote cannot be denied because of race, color or previous condition of servitude

- 1870 Hiram Revels becomes first Black member of Congress

- 1896 U.S. Supreme Court rules in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that segregation doesn't violate the 14th Amendment's equal-protection clause as long as conditions provided are "separate but equal"

- 1900 William H. Carney becomes first Black to be awarded Medal of Honor

- 1909 NAACP is founded

- 1926 Carter G. Woodson establishes "Negro History Week"

- 1940 Hattie McDaniel becomes first Black to win an Academy Award

- 1947 Jackie Robinson becomes first Black to play Major League Baseball

- 1950 Ralph J. Bunche becomes first Black to win the Nobel Peace Prize

- 1953 Willie Throver becomes first Black to play quarterback in the National Football League

- 1954 In *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka*, U.S. Supreme Court rules that racial segregation in public schools violates the 14th Amendment

- 1955 An all-white jury acquits two white men who confessed to murdering a 14-year-old Black boy, Emmett Till, for allegedly whistling at a white woman



Nat Turner



Willie Throver

- 1955 Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus to a white man in Montgomery, Ala., leading to the Montgomery Bus Boycott

- 1957 Little Rock Nine integrate Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas

- 1960 Four Black students stage famous sit-in at a whites-only Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C.

- 1961 Freedom rides begin from Washington, D.C.

- 1962 James Meredith becomes first Black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi. Violence prompts President Kennedy to send in 5,000 federal troops

- 1963 More than 200,000 people march on Washington, D.C., in the largest civil rights demonstration in U.S. history; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gives his "I Have a Dream" speech

- 1963 Four young Black girls are killed in the bombing of a Birmingham, Ala., church

- 1964 President Johnson signs Civil Rights Act of 1964, giving government more power to protect citizens against race, religion, sex or national-origin discrimination

- 1965 Malcolm X, former minister in Nation of Islam and civil-rights activist, is assassinated

- 1965 Thousands participate in three protest marches from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., for Black voting rights

- 1965 President Johnson signs Voting Rights Act of 1965

- 1967 In *Loving v. Virginia* ruling, Supreme Court declares law prohibiting interracial marriages to be unconstitutional

- 1967 Thurgood Marshall becomes first Black U.S. Supreme Court justice

- 1968 Dr. King is assassinated

- 1968 President Johnson signs Civil Rights Act of 1968, which prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental and financing of housing

- 1972 Shirley Chisholm becomes first major party Black candidate to run for president

- 1983 Vanessa Williams becomes first Black Miss America

- 1984 Rev. Jesse Jackson becomes first Black to make serious bid for presidency

- 1986 First observation of Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday

- 1990 Douglas Wilder of Virginia becomes first Black to be elected governor

- 1991 President George H.W. Bush signs Civil Rights Act of 1991, which strengthens laws on employment discrimination

- 1993 Dr. Joycelyn Elders becomes first Black Surgeon General

- 2001 General Colin Powell becomes first Black Secretary of State

- 2009 Barack Obama becomes first Black president

- 2014 Hundreds gather in various protests across the country after grand juries decline to indict Michael Brown's and Eric Garner's killers

- 2015 Black Lives Matter gains momentum amid the shootings of unarmed Black citizens by white police officers

- 2016 Announcement that Lt. Gen. Stayce D. Harris, highest-ranking Black woman pilot in all U.S. armed forces, to be inducted into Women in Aviation International's Pioneer Hall of Fame in March 2017



Rosa Parks



Martin Luther King Jr.



Former President and First Lady Barack and Michelle Obama

2016 Simone Biles became the first African-American and woman to win four Olympic gold medals in women's gymnastics at a single game for the U.S. (as well as a bronze at the 2016 Rio Olympics).

2016 Simone Maneul was the first African-American woman to win an individual event in Olympic swimming.

2016 Carla Hayden confirmed as the first African-American head of the Library of Congress.

2016 ABC's Channing Dungey named entertainment president, becoming the first African-American to lead programming at a major broadcast network.

2016 Lisa Blunt Rochester becomes the first woman and first African-American to be elected to Congress from Delaware.

2016 Kamala Harris becomes only the second black woman and first Indian American woman to join the U.S. Senate since Carol Moseley Braun was appointed over 20 years ago.

2017 Lena Waithe becomes the first Black woman to win an Emmy Award for comedy writing.

2017 Andrea Jenkins made history as the first openly transgender Black woman to be elected to public office in the United States. She will serve on the Minneapolis City Council.

2017 Ulysha Renee Hall becomes Dallas' first Black woman police chief.

2018 Kehinde Wiley becomes the first African-American artist to paint a portrait of a US president to be displayed in the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery.

2018 Amy Sherald becomes the first African-American artist to paint a portrait for a US first-lady to be displayed in the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery.

2018 Darryl A. Williams becomes the first African-American superintendent of the United States Military Academy.

2018 Lorna Mahlock becomes the first African-American woman U.S. Marine Corps general officer.

2018 Ayanna Pressley becomes the first African-American House member from Massachusetts.

2018 Jahana Hayes becomes the first black congresswoman from Connecticut.

2018 Black Panther becomes the 9th-highest-grossing film of all time with over \$1.35 billion worldwide. It is the highest grossing film by a black director, and becoming the highest-grossing 2018 film in the U.S. and Canada and second-highest-grossing film of 2018 worldwide.



Lena Waithe



Kamala Harris



Ulysha Renee Hall



Amy Sherald



Simone Maneul