



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The month of February is Black History Month. Black History Month is a time of reflection. It's a time to remember the incredible strides that have been made by the African American community. It's a time to honor the people who have paved the way for us and continue to make our world a better place.

To mark the occasion we put together a free coloring book that you can print out and share with children.

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Barack H. Obama

Term of Office: 2009-2017

Barack Hussein Obama II was born on August 4, 1961 in Honolulu Hawaii. He was the 44th president of the United States, and the first African American to hold office. Before becoming president, he was both a State Senator and a U.S. Senator for the state of Illinois.



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Sojourner Truth (Isabella Baumfree) 1797-1883

Sojourner Truth's real name was Isabella Baumfree. She was born in 1797 to enslaved parents, and was one of 13 children. She experienced a spiritual revelation that inspired her to change her name and become a traveling preacher. She also spoke about women's rights and stopping slavery until failing health forced her to retire.





Sarah Breedlove Walker, known as "Madame C. J. Walker," invented a hair softener and straightening comb. In doing so, Walker became the first African American woman to become a millionaire.





Thabo Mbeki

**Second President of South Africa
In Office: 1999-2008**

Thabo Mbeki was the second president of South Africa. Mbeki was born in Queenstown on June 18, 1942. Mbeki became active in politics at the age of 14. He is known as an original thinker and focused on leadership.



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Langston Hughes

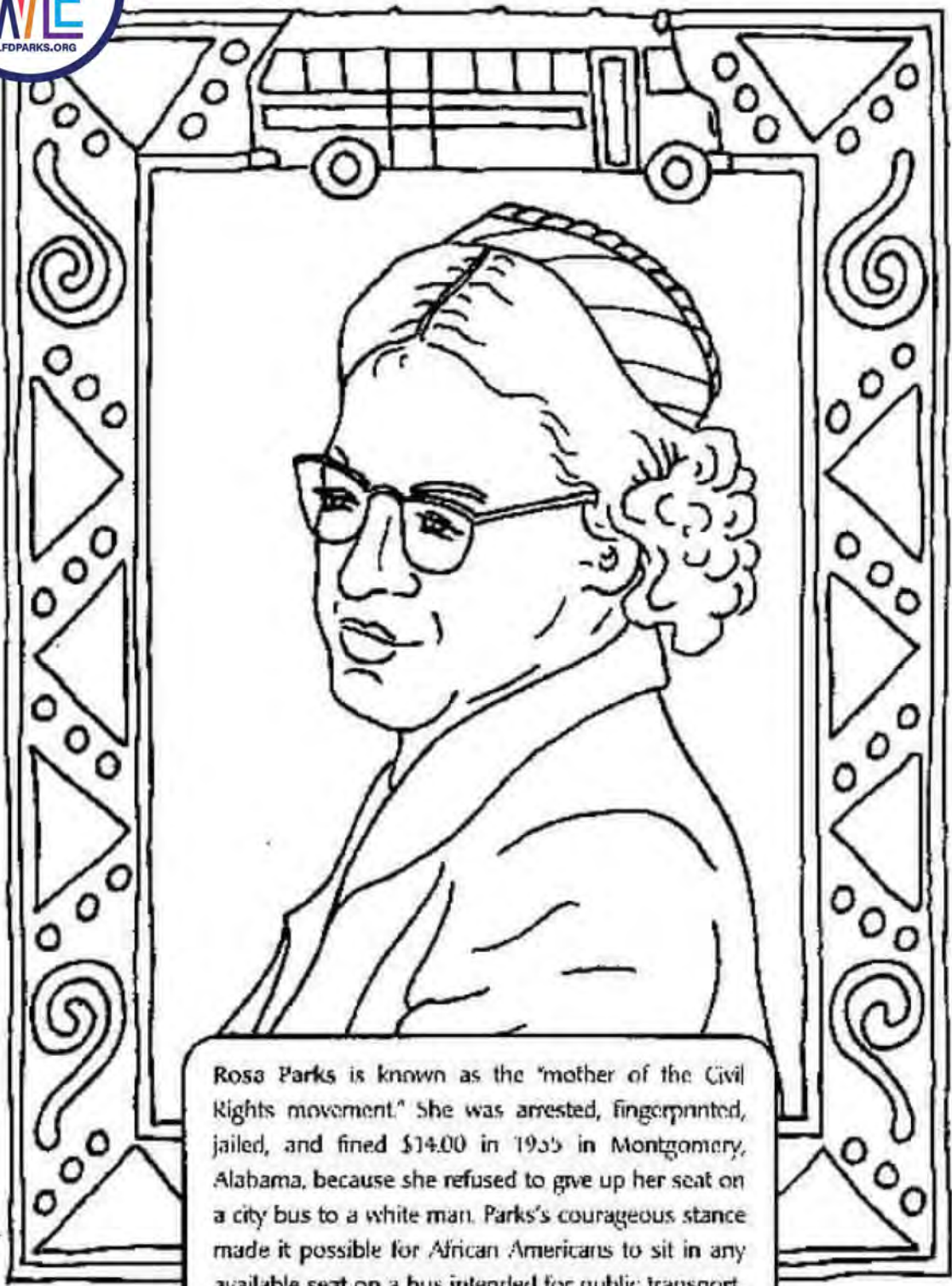
1902-1967

Langston Hughes is known for being a poet, but he also wrote T.V. and radio scripts, operas, and novels. In 1923 he traveled abroad on a freighter to many foreign countries, including Nigeria, Italy, and Russia. He received a scholarship to Pennsylvania's Lincoln University and earned a Bachelor's Degree for Art in 1929. In roughly 40 years of writing, Langston Hughes produced an incredible number of publications.



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Rosa Parks is known as the "mother of the Civil Rights movement." She was arrested, fingerprinted, jailed, and fined \$14.00 in 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama, because she refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a white man. Parks's courageous stance made it possible for African Americans to sit in any available seat on a bus intended for public transport.





Nelson R. Mandela

President of South Africa

In Office: May 10, 1994 - June 1999.

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born July 18, 1918. He was inaugurated as the first democratically elected State President of South Africa on May 10, 1994 .



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Marian Anderson

1897-1993

Marian Anderson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She studied singing with tenor Giuseppe Boghetti, thanks to donations from a local church. At first this African American singer had difficulty getting performances in the U.S., but after living in Europe she returned to the U.S. in 1935 and had a successful singing career. She received many awards in her lifetime and performed for many famous people, including English royalty and U.S Presidents.



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Lewis Howard Latimer, who was a patent expert, a draftsman, and an inventor, made the first drawing of the telephone. However, the telephone was patented in 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell. In 1881, Latimer invented and patented a method of making carbon filaments for Edison's lightbulb. Latimer worked and made patents for Maxim Weston (Westinghouse) and Edison Electric (General Electric) Companies.





Louis Armstrong

Louis Armstrong helped shape jazz music in some of America's biggest cities – like Chicago, New York, and New Orleans. A skilled trumpet and cornet player, he also sang well! People nicknamed him "Satchmo." Louis Armstrong rose from poverty to become a legend in jazz.





George Washington Carver

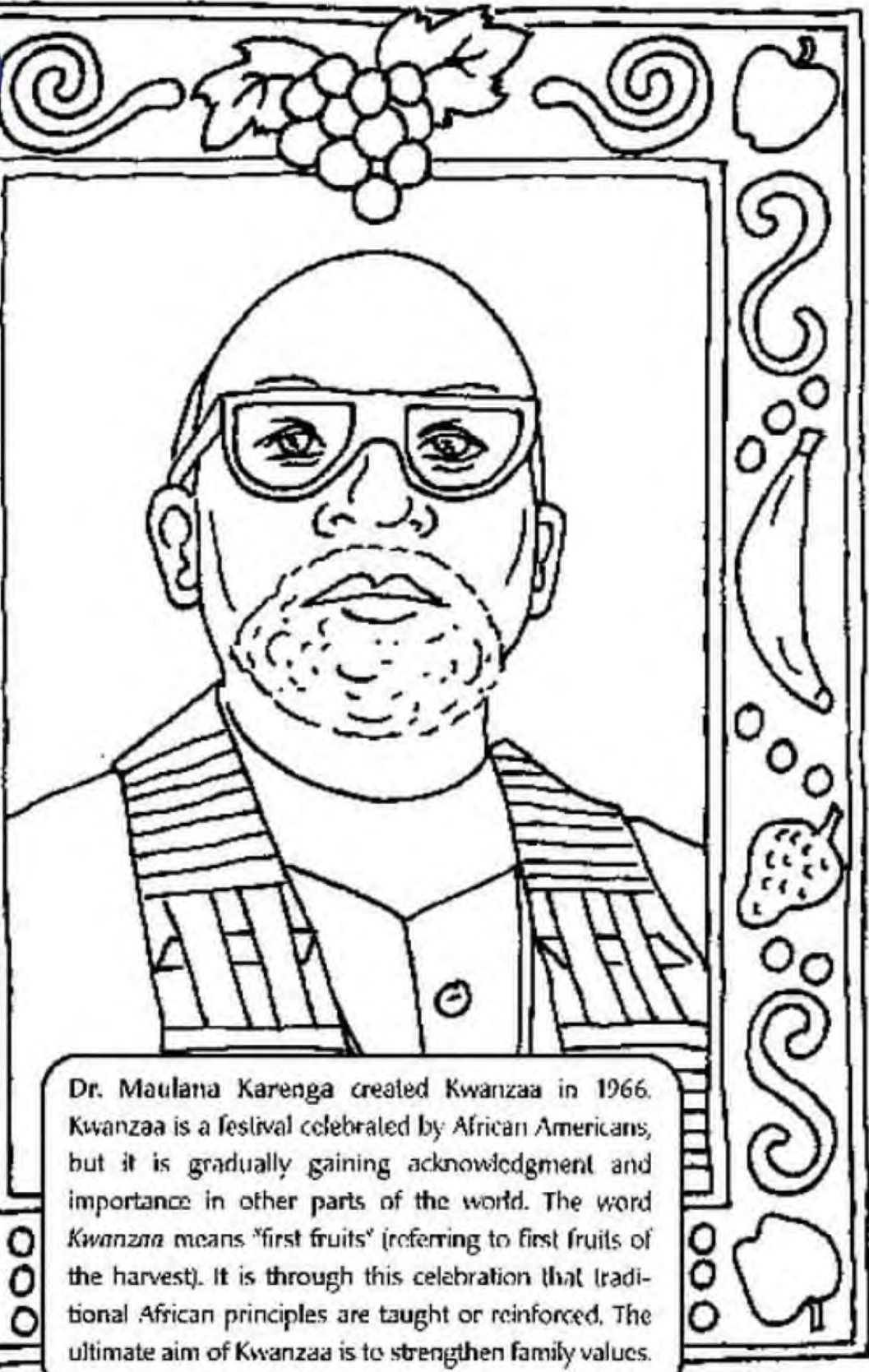
1864-1943

George Washington Carver was born to enslaved farmers in 1864. He was enrolled as the first African American student of Iowa's Simpson College, and earned a degree in agricultural science. Carver developed hundreds of products from farm plants such as the peanut and sweet potato, and was an amazing inventor and scientist.



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Dr. Maulana Karenga created Kwanzaa in 1966. Kwanzaa is a festival celebrated by African Americans, but it is gradually gaining acknowledgment and importance in other parts of the world. The word *Kwanzaa* means "first fruits" (referring to first fruits of the harvest). It is through this celebration that traditional African principles are taught or reinforced. The ultimate aim of Kwanzaa is to strengthen family values.

