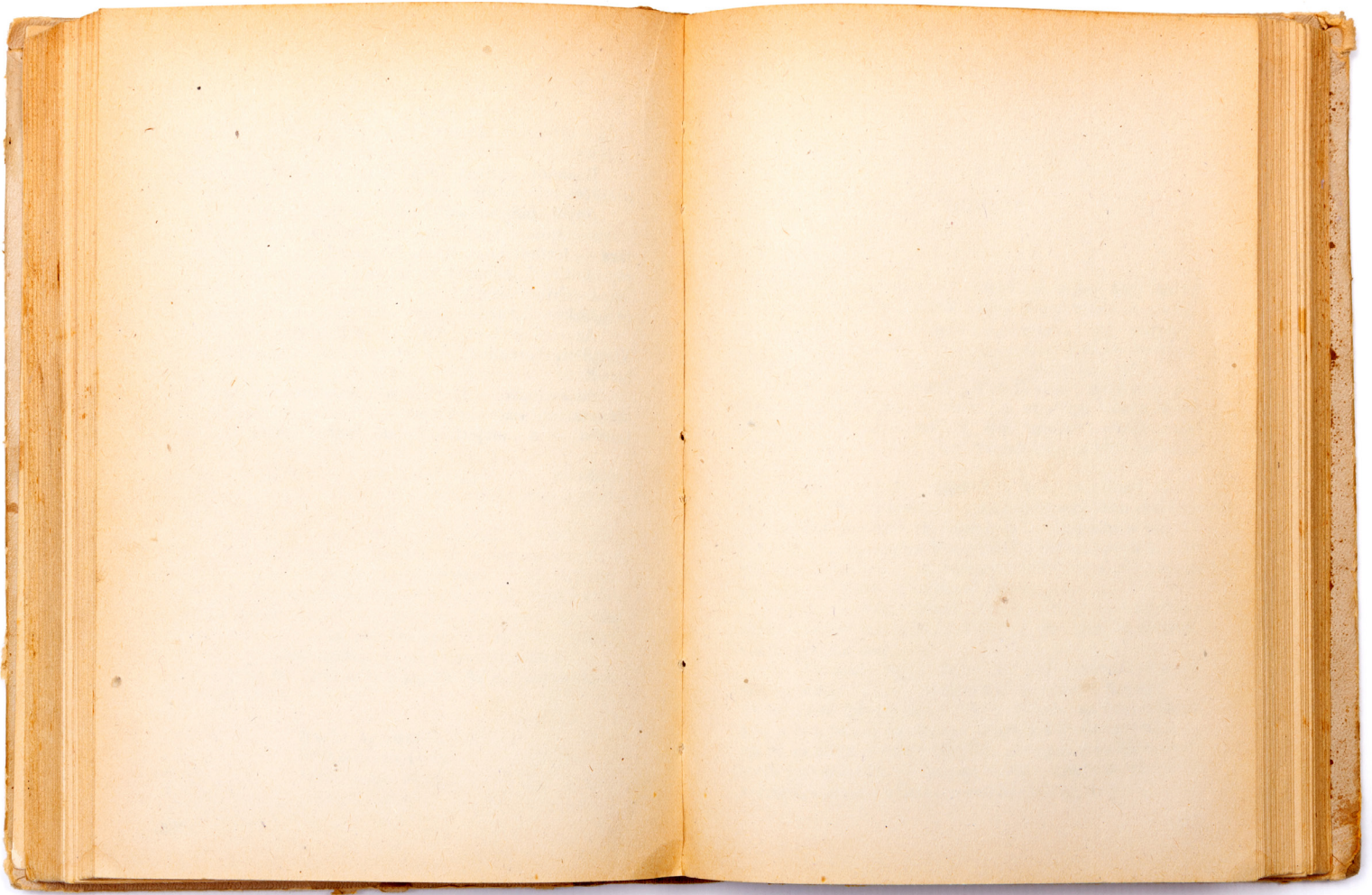


Voices From ~~History~~ *~~Herstory~~ THEIRSTORY*

Read through the timeline—a partial timeline of the history of the United States of America (pre- and post-colonial)—located in the Pulling Back the Curtain section of this School Tool, and choose a person from the timeline that you find intriguing. After doing a bit of research at your local library or online, write a monologue from their perspective. Consider these prompts to guide you: What was their story? What was their life like before and after this moment in time? What contributions did they make to the world? If they were alive today, what would they have to say about the state of the world? Once you've written your monologue, share or perform it for a friend!



DRUMFOLK



Oppression, Resistance, Persistence: A Timeline

- 1619: The first record of Africans in America, in which African men, transported from a Spanish ship to Jamestown colony in Virginia, were treated as indentured servants
- 1662: Virginia law dictates that children born to enslaved mothers are to be classified as slaves, regardless of their father's social status or race
- 1676: Bacon's Rebellion, an armed rebellion fought in Virginia by both free and enslaved African Americans against the rule of Governor William Berkeley, takes place
- 1712: The New York Slave Revolt takes place
- 1773: *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* by Phillis Wheatley, who was herself once enslaved, is published
- 1739: The Stono Rebellion, an uprising led by native Africans, begins on September 9 in the colony of South Carolina
- 1740: In response to the Stono Rebellion, the South Carolina legislature passes the Negro Act of 1740, making it illegal for enslaved Africans to assemble, speak in their native language, move abroad, get an education or use their drums
- 1765-1767: The First Continental Congress drafts a multi-colony agreement titled the *Non-Importation Agreements*, forbidding the British imports, including slaves, effectively stopping the international slave trade
- 1775: The Society for the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage, the first American abolition society, is founded
- 1780: Elizabeth Freeman, also known as Bett, becomes the first enslaved African American to win a freedom suit (*Brom and Bett v. Ashley*) in Massachusetts
- 1780: Amid the tumult of the American Revolution, Pennsylvania becomes the first U.S. state to abolish slavery
- 1791: Major Andrew Ellicott, a white man, hires Benjamin Banneker, an African American draftsman and naturalist, to help survey the boundaries of the federal district that would later become the District of Columbia
- 1793: The Fugitive Slave Act of 1793, which authorized local governments to capture and return escaped slaves to their owners, is passed
- 1800: Gabriel Prosser, an enslaved blacksmith, attempts to lead a slave rebellion in Richmond, Virginia, but fails
- 1807: Congress passes the Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves, making it a federal crime to import slaves
- 1829: David Walker, a black abolitionist, begins publishing *Walker's Appeal*, an abolitionist pamphlet
- 1831: Nat Turner leads a group of enslaved African Americans in the deadliest rebellion on U.S. soil, lasting four days, and resulting in the deaths of 51 white people; this also resulted in 56 African Americans being executed while 200 more were beaten by mobs or white militias
- 1833: The American Anti-Slavery Society, at which abolitionist and orator Frederick Douglass was a key leader, is founded by William Lloyd Garrison and Arthur Tappan
- 1839: Abducted African people aboard the illegal slave schooner, *La Amistad*, revolt which led to the *United States v. The Amistad* Supreme Court hearing and resulted in their freedom as well as safe return to their African homeland
- 1849: Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery and begins helping other enslaved people to escape on the Underground Railroad
- 1852: Harriet Beecher Stowe's anti-slavery novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, is published
- 1861: The American Civil War begins and will last until April of 1865
- 1861: Thousands of enslaved African Americans escape to Union lines, assisting Union army efforts and working as paid laborers

United States History: 1619-1976

Oppression, Resistance, Persistence: A Timeline

- 1863: Emancipation Proclamation, declaring “that all persons held as slaves” within the rebellious states “are, and henceforward shall be free” goes into effect
- 1866: Congress passes the Civil Rights Act of 1866, stating that any persons born in the United States were “hereby declared to be citizens of the United States,” with the exception of Native Americans, granting them “full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of person and property.”
- 1872: P.B.S. Pinchback, the first black member of the U.S. House of Representatives, is sworn in
- 1877: Jim Crow laws, named from the minstrel routine “Jump Jim Crow,” were any of the laws that enforced racial segregation in the South between 1877 (the end of Reconstruction) and the 1950s (the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement)
- 1892: Ida B. Wells, an African American investigative journalist and author, publishes *Southern Horrors: Lynch Law in All Its Phases*, a pamphlet she wrote while exiled from the South for having written *Free Speech*, a piece she penned in her newspaper regarding the lynching of her friend

The Great Migration 1916-1970

Jim Crow Laws 1877-1965

- 1896: The landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision *Plessy v. Ferguson* upholds “separate but equal”
- 1901: *Up from Slavery* by educator, orator and presidential advisor Booker T. Washington is published
- 1916: *The Journal of Negro History* is first published by Professor Carter Woodson, known as the “Father of Black History.”
- 1923: The first automatic three-position traffic light is invented and patented by African American inventor Garrett A. Morgan
- 1929: African American educator and political activist John Hope becomes president of Atlanta University
- 1930: Two African American men, Thomas Shipp and Abram Smith, are lynched* in Marion, Indiana
- 1931: The Scottsboro Boys are arrested after being falsely accused of raping two white women on a train
- 1948: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, passed by the United Nations General Assembly in its third session, aims to ban slavery across the globe

The Civil Rights Movement 1954-1968

- 1955: Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat to a white person, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott
- 1965: In March, Martin Luther King, Jr. leads nearly 8,000 people on a five-day march from Selma to Montgomery to protest voting rights; two earlier attempts were made, but were met with resistance by opponents
- 1965: The Voting Rights Act, which outlawed discriminatory voting practices adopted in many southern states post-Civil War, is signed into law
- 1967: Thurgood Marshall becomes the first African American U.S. Supreme Court Justice
- 1968: Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated on the balcony of a motel in Memphis, Tennessee
- 1972: Shirley Chisholm, having been the first African American woman elected to Congress, becomes the first major party African American candidate and the first female candidate for president of the United States
- 1976: Professor Carter Woodson’s Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History founds Black History Month

*It should be noted that this timeline is a snapshot of some pivotal events that occurred on U.S. soil, and influential humans that paved important pathways for their fellow humans past, present and future, between the years 1619-1976. This timeline only considers a Western, U.S. lens and does not cover events occurring in other parts of the world, and the role that this country played in those events, during that time frame. To be clear, this is U.S. historical information documented, traditionally speaking, primarily by cis white men. We have included references to historical documentation by people of African and Native American descent on the Sources page of this School Tool Resource Guide.

**According to statistics provided by the Tuskegee Institute, 4,743 people were lynched—condemned to violent death by mob or full communities without a legal trial—in the United States between 1882 and 1968. This number includes 3,446 African Americans and 1,297 white people. More than 73 percent of these lynchings took place in Southern states.