

BLACK HISTORY PROJECT

Project Due Date: _____
Presentations: _____

In honor of Black History Month, we are encouraging our bright minds to become true historians, poets, inventors, writers and more! **Students can choose to do any of the six project ideas below. Rubrics for each project are attached.**

Students will be required to do a presentation on their project. The format of their presentation will vary depending on the project he/she chooses. This Black History Month project will be considered a "project" grade for Social Studies, ELA (Grammar), and Reading.

1 Become a Poet!

Way before hip-hop and rap, famous black poets like Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou, Nikki Giovanni, Gwendolyn Brooks, etc. wrote beautiful poems that spoke about Black heritage.

Choose a famous Black poet to research, and memorize one of his/her poems. Be ready to recite the poem to the class! You can do it! :)

2 Become a Historian!

Ever wanted to travel back in time? The Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s, is an example of a vibrant time for African-Americans where many new inventions, art, scholars, and music were created.

Become a historian and explore this time period! Create a poster to showcase your research.

3 Become an Activist!

We would not be able to have the diverse school and classroom we have today were it not for people who fought our rights like Deray McKesson, Ruby Bridges, Martin Luther King, Jr., Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman, etc.

Choose a Black activist from the past (or present) to research! Create a protest poster that exhibits (shows) their beliefs.

4 Become a Journalist!

Famous Black journalists like Monica Pearson, Al Roker, Ida B. Wells or even Wendy Williams all gather information on an event, person or community. Now it's your turn!

Come up with juicy questions and interview an African-American you admire! It can be mom, grandma, a teacher, family friend, entrepreneur, etc! Then create a poster on his/her life.

5 Become an Artist!

From Jean-Michel Basquiat to Faith Ringgold, our country would not be what it is today without the contributions of Black artists.

Choose one artist to research, and create a portrait of the artist using either a ceiling tile, or a canvas! Be prepared to present your portrait, and describe the Black artist's life.

6 Become an Inventor!

Ever use an ironing board? Ever seen your parents stop at a traffic light? Ever eaten peanut butter? All of these things were created by Black inventors!

Choose one inventor to research, and make a presentation on his/her life, an explanation of the invention, and its importance. Then, create a model replica of the invention!

1 Become a Poet

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Name: _____

CRITERIA	POINTS GIVEN
Turned in on time	___/10 points
Poem from an African-American poet, and at least 3 stanzas (paragraphs)	___/5 points
Copy of poem printed	___/5 points
1 Paragraph summarizing the meaning of the poem	___/20 points
1 Index Card (to help with Presentation) with the following information: -Name of Poem, Name of Poet -Birthday and Date of Death (if poet died) of Poet -Hometown of Poet -Date/Year Poem was written -1+ fun facts about the poet and/or the poem	___/25 points
Poem Summary and Index Card Grammatically Correct (Correct Punctuation, Capital Letters, Subject and Verb in each sentence; words spelled correctly)	___/10 points
Presentation: Poem Memorized and Recited	___/25 points
TOTAL	___/100 points
EXTRA CREDIT: Dress up like the poet	___/10 points
EXAMPLES of POETS: Maya Angelou, Nikki Giovanni, Gwendolyn Brooks, James Weldon Johnson, Langston Hughes, Gil Scott-Heron, Warsan Shire	

2 Become a Historian

Project Due Date: _____
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Name: _____

CRITERIA	POINTS GIVEN
Turned in on time	___/10 points
Poster neat and organized	___/5 points
Works cited page: list the name of the websites, people and/or books you used to help you!	___/5 points
At least 2 pictures from Harlem Renaissance (can be portraits of important people from Harlem Renaissance, pictures of buildings, etc.)	___/10 points
Poster has the following sections and information -Summary of what the Harlem Renaissance is (in your own words) -Spotlight on an important person (ex: WEB DuBois, Langston Hughes, Josephine Baker, etc.). Include their birth and death date, hometown, and at least 3 sentences on why he/she is important -Spotlight on the fashions/music/poems/architecture (how the buildings looked) of the period	___/50 points
Poster Grammatically Correct (Correct Punctuation, Capital Letters, Subject and Verb in each sentence; words spelled correctly)	___/10 points
Presentation	___/10 points
TOTAL	___/100 points
EXTRA CREDIT: Dress up as if you lived in the era!	___/10 points
IMPORTANT PEOPLE FROM THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE: WEB DuBois, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Josephine Baker, Countee Cullen, Marcus Garvey, Claude McKay, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong	

3 Become an Activist

Project Due Date: _____

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CRITERIA	POINTS GIVEN
Turned in on time	___/10 points
Protest Poster neat and organized	___/5 points
Works cited page: list the name of the websites, people and/or books you used to help you do your research on the activist	___/5 points
Protest Poster has a slogan (saying) that represents the activist. (Example: a poster that says "Yes we can," if you were researching Barack Obama)	___/15 points
At least 1 page summary on activist includes: -Birth and death date (if applicable) of activist -Hometown and where the activist protested (can be an activist from another country, such as Nelson Mandela, Bob Marley, Queen Nzingha, etc.) -Summary (at least 4 sentences) of the issue/issues the activist was protesting -Summary (at least 2 sentences) on how the activist protested (strike, through music, etc.) -At least 3 sentences on why you admire (like) this activist	___/45 points
1 Page Summary Grammatically Correct (Correct Punctuation, Capital Letters, Subject and Verb in each sentence; words spelled correctly)	___/10 points
Presentation	___/10 points
TOTAL	___/100 points
EXTRA CREDIT: Dress up like your activist!	___/10 points
EXAMPLES OF ACTIVISTS: Deray McKesson (Black Lives Matter), Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., Fannie Lou Hamer, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks	

4 Become a Journalist

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CRITERIA	POINTS GIVEN
Turned in on time	___/10 points
Poster neat and organized	___/5 points
Interview: at least 5 original questions created, and answers from your person recorded, on a sheet of paper	___/30 points
Poster has the following sections and information -Name of person you interviewed -Birthday of person you interviewed, and hometown (where he/she grew up) -What person does for a living (career), described with at least 2 sentences -Summary of why this person is important to you, or why he/she is a leader in his/her community (at least 5 sentences)	___/35 points
Poster and Interview Sheet Grammatically Correct (Correct Punctuation, Capital Letters, Subject and Verb in each sentence; words spelled correctly)	___/10 points
Presentation	___/10 points
TOTAL	___/100 points
EXTRA CREDIT: Take a picture of you with your interviewee, and bring it in to show the class!	___/5 points
EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE TO INTERVIEW: Favorite person in your family, teacher, coach, pastor (if applicable), owner of a business, firefighter	

5 Become an Artist

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CRITERIA	POINTS GIVEN
Turned in on time	__/10 points
Portrait of artist neat	__/5 points
Works cited page: list the name of the websites, people and/or books you used to help you!	__/5 points
Portrait of Artist: Can be painted, drawn (using color), etc. Must be on a ceiling tile, canvas, or poster (22 inches x 28 inches—regular poster size)	__/40 points
1 Index Card (to help with Presentation) with the following information: -Name of Artist -Birthday and Date of Death (if applicable) of Artist -Hometown of Artist -Type of Artist listed (visual, musical, literary—writer, performance—dancer, etc.) -Name of at least 1 work of art (name of painting/ date & location of performance, etc.) -1+ fun facts about the artist	__/25 points
Index Card Grammatically Correct (Correct Punctuation, Capital Letters, Subject and Verb in each sentence; words spelled correctly)	__/5 points
Presentation	__/10 points
TOTAL	__/100 points
EXTRA CREDIT: Dress up as your artist!	__/10 points
EXAMPLES OF ARTISTS: Jean-Michel Basquiat, Fahamou Pecou, Gordon Parks, Faith Ringgold, Edmonia Lewis, Kara Walker, Amy Sherald	

6 Become an Inventor

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CRITERIA	POINTS GIVEN
Turned in on time	___/10 points
Model replica neat and organized	___/5 points
Works cited page: list the name of the websites, people and/or books you used to help you!	___/5 points
Model replica of invention! (Example: if you chose Garrett Morgan, and his invention—the traffic light, you would create a model replica of a traffic light)	___/50 points
1 Index Card with the following information: -Name of Inventor -Birthday and Date of Death (if applicable) of Inventor -Hometown of Inventor -Name of invention -Why this invention is important today (at least 2 sentences)	___/15 points
Index Card Grammatically Correct (Correct Punctuation, Capital Letters, Subject and Verb in each sentence; words spelled correctly)	___/5 points
Presentation	___/10 points
TOTAL	___/100 points
EXTRA CREDIT: Dress up as your inventor!	___/10 points

EXAMPLES OF BLACK INVENTORS: George Washington Carver, Garrett Morgan, Madame CJ Walker, Elijah McCoy, Benjamin Banneker, Marie Van Brittan Brown