

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome."

Booker T. Washington

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"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

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MAYA ANGELOU



Name: _____ Date: _____

W.E.B. DU BOIS



Read the biography of W.E.B. Du Bois and answer the comprehension questions using the passage for reference.

W.E.B. Du Bois (1868–1963) was a famous African American writer, teacher, and activist who worked tirelessly for equal rights. He was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, to a family that believed strongly in the power of education. As a young boy, W.E.B. loved reading and learning, and his teachers encouraged him to set big goals. His dedication to school helped him grow into a brilliant thinker who wanted to make the world a better place.

When W.E.B. grew up, he made history as the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1895. He studied history and wrote about the ways racism harmed people and kept them from achieving their dreams. W.E.B. believed that education was the key to fighting injustice, and he spent his life working to help others understand why equality was so important.

W.E.B. Du Bois helped start an important group called the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) in 1909. This organization worked to protect the rights of African Americans and fight against unfair laws and segregation. Before that, he co-founded the Niagara Movement in 1905, which encouraged people to demand justice and fairness. W.E.B. wrote many books and gave powerful speeches to inspire people to stand up for what was right.

Later in life, W.E.B. moved to Ghana, a country in Africa, where he continued his work to bring people together and support freedom for all. Even in his final years, W.E.B. was committed to justice. He passed away in 1963, but his life and work left a lasting impact.
W.E.B. Du Bois's story teaches us the importance of learning, determination, and standing up for what is right. He is remembered as a leader who fought for justice and inspired people around the world to dream of a better future.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

ROSA PARKS



Read the passage about Rosa Parks and answer the questions.

Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama. She grew up at a time when the laws were not fair to African Americans. Rosa was a quiet, respectful woman, but she was also very brave. She worked as a seamstress, sewing clothes, but she also was involved in fighting for equal rights for African Americans.

One famous day, on December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa did something very brave. She refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white person, as the unfair laws required. Rosa was arrested for this, but her brave action started a big change.

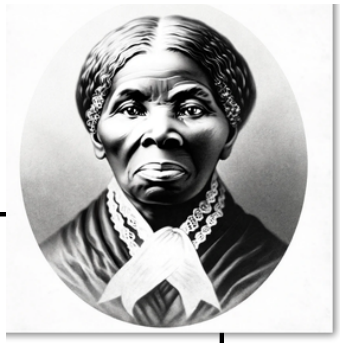
It led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott, where African Americans refused to ride the buses until they were treated fairly. This was a big step in the Civil Rights Movement, which worked to make sure everyone, no matter their skin color, was treated equally.

Rosa Parks is known as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement" because of her brave stand that day. She showed that one person's actions could help change the world for the better. She continued to fight for equal rights for all people for the rest of her life.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

HARRIET TUBMAN



Read the passage about Harriet Tubman and answer the questions.

Harriet Tubman was born around 1820 in Maryland, where she lived as an enslaved person. This meant she wasn't free and had to work very hard even when she was just a little girl. But Harriet was brave and smart. When she grew up, she escaped to a place where she could be free. This was very risky, but Harriet was determined to be free.

After she escaped, Harriet didn't just enjoy her freedom; she wanted to help others. She became a leader in something called the Underground Railroad, which wasn't a real train but a secret path to help slaves escape to safe places.

Harriet was very careful and clever, leading many slaves to freedom at night. She used signals and songs to keep them safe and never let anyone get caught.

During the Civil War, Harriet worked as a nurse and a spy, helping the army that was fighting to end slavery. She was the first woman to lead a mission in this war, freeing more than 700 slaves in one raid.

After the war, Harriet Tubman kept helping people. She worked to give women and African Americans the right to vote and spoke to many people about why this was important. She is remembered as a hero for her bravery, kindness, and fight for freedom and equality.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER



Read the passage about George Washington Carver and answer the questions.

George Washington Carver was a famous African American scientist and teacher. He was born around 1864 in Missouri. As a child, George had a difficult life because he was born into slavery. However, he had a strong desire to learn, especially about plants and nature.

When he grew up, George became the first African American to enroll at Iowa State University. He studied agriculture there, which is the science of farming. Later, he became a brilliant scientist and a professor. He taught his students about soil conservation and crop rotation, which are ways to keep the soil healthy for farming.

George's most famous work was with peanuts. He discovered over 300 uses for peanuts, including cooking oil, soap, and ink. He also found ways to grow other crops like sweet potatoes and soybeans. This helped many farmers in the South, who were struggling with poor soil.

George Washington Carver cared a lot about helping others. He used his knowledge to improve the lives of many farmers. He believed in hard work, education, and kindness. He passed away in 1943, but his legacy continues to inspire people today.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Read the passage about Frederick Douglass and answer the questions.



Frederick Douglass was born around 1818 and grew up in Maryland. As a young boy, he was an enslaved person, which means he wasn't free and had to work very hard without any choice. But Frederick was very smart and learned to read and write secretly, which was a brave thing to do because slaves were not allowed to learn these things.

When he grew up, Frederick escaped to a place where he could be free. He then worked very hard to help other slaves become free too.

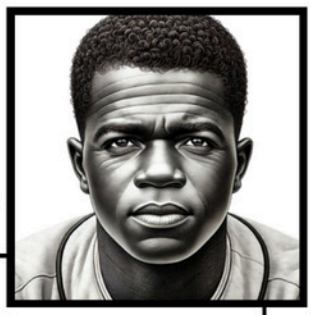
He wrote books, gave speeches, and even advised President Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States, on how to help slaves gain their freedom. This was a very important job!

Frederick Douglass is remembered for his bravery and for fighting for freedom and fairness for all people, no matter what color their skin is.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

JACKIE ROBINSON



Read the biography of Jackie Robinsonr and answer the comprehension questions using the passage for reference.

Jackie Robinson was born on January 31, 19[illegible] in Cairo, Georgia. He grew up in California as the youngest of five children in a time when African Americans faced many unfair rules and discrimination. In high school and college, Jackie stood out as a star athlete playing baseball, football, basketball, and track at UCLA, where he became the first student to earn varsity letters in four sports.

During World War II, Jackie served in the U.S. Army. While in the military, he courageously stood up against racial discrimination, including an incident where he refused to move to the back of a segregated bus. He was court-martialed but later acquitted, showing his determination to fight for justice.

In 19[illegible], Jackie made history as the first African American to play Major League Baseball in the modern era, joining the Brooklyn Dodgers. He faced insults and threats but stayed strong, proving his talent on the field. Over his 10-year career, he was named the National League's Most Valuable Player in 1949, played in six All-Star Games, and helped the Dodgers win a World Series.

After retiring in 1957, Jackie continued breaking barriers, becoming the first African American vice president of a major corporation and working in the civil rights movement. He also helped establish the Freedom National Bank in Harlem to support African-American businesses. Jackie passed away on October 24, 1972, but his legacy lives on. Major League Baseball celebrates Jackie Robinson Day every April 15, with all players wearing his iconic number, 42, to honor his courage and achievements. Jackie Robinson's life reminds us that one person's bravery can inspire change and pave the way for a more equal future.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

MAYA ANGELOU



Read the biographical passage about Maya Angelou and answer the questions.

Maya Angelou (1928 – 2014) was an American writer, poet, and speaker. She was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and given the name Marguerite Johnson. Growing up, Maya faced many challenges. She lived in a time when people were treated unfairly because of their skin color, and she had to learn to stand strong against these unfair rules.

When Maya was eight years old, she went through something very scary and sad that made her stop talking. But Maya found comfort and joy in reading books and discovering the power of words. She read all kinds of books, from fairy tales to poetry, and she started to write her own stories and poems.

As she got older, Maya's voice became louder and clearer. She shared her stories with the world in her book "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." This book talks about her childhood and how she overcame her fears to speak out for what is right. Maya's words were like a song that could make people feel hope and courage.

Maya Angelou didn't just write books. She also gave speeches, taught at universities, and even helped leaders who wanted to make America a fairer place for everyone. She was like a teacher to the whole country, teaching about love, kindness, and the importance of treating all people with respect. Maya Angelou's life was a bright light that continues to shine. She taught us that no matter what we go through, our voices can be powerful tools for change.

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