

MAYA ANGELOU



ROSA PARKS



HARRIET TUBMAN



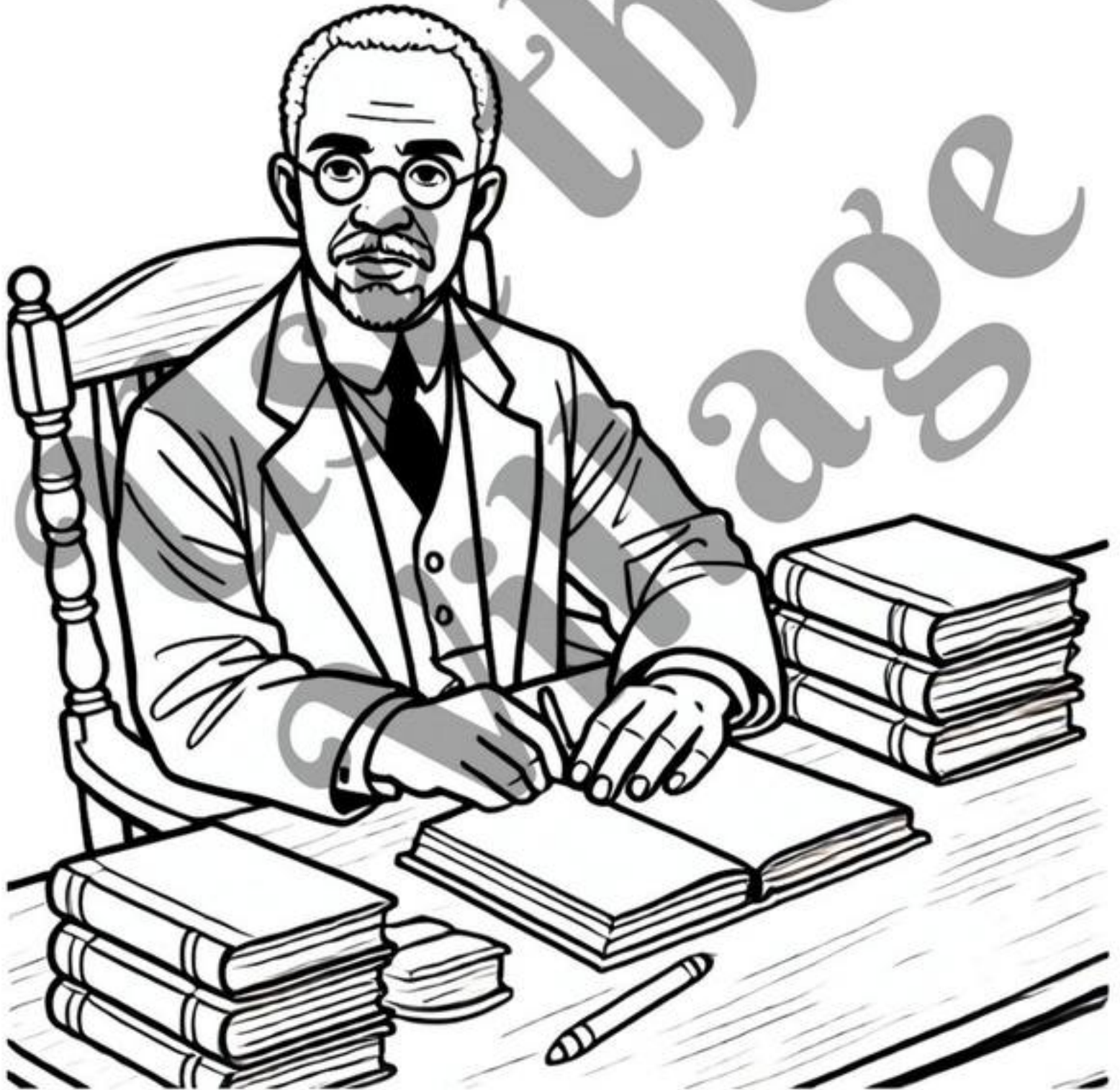
FREDERICK DOUGLASS



ZORA NEALE HURSTON



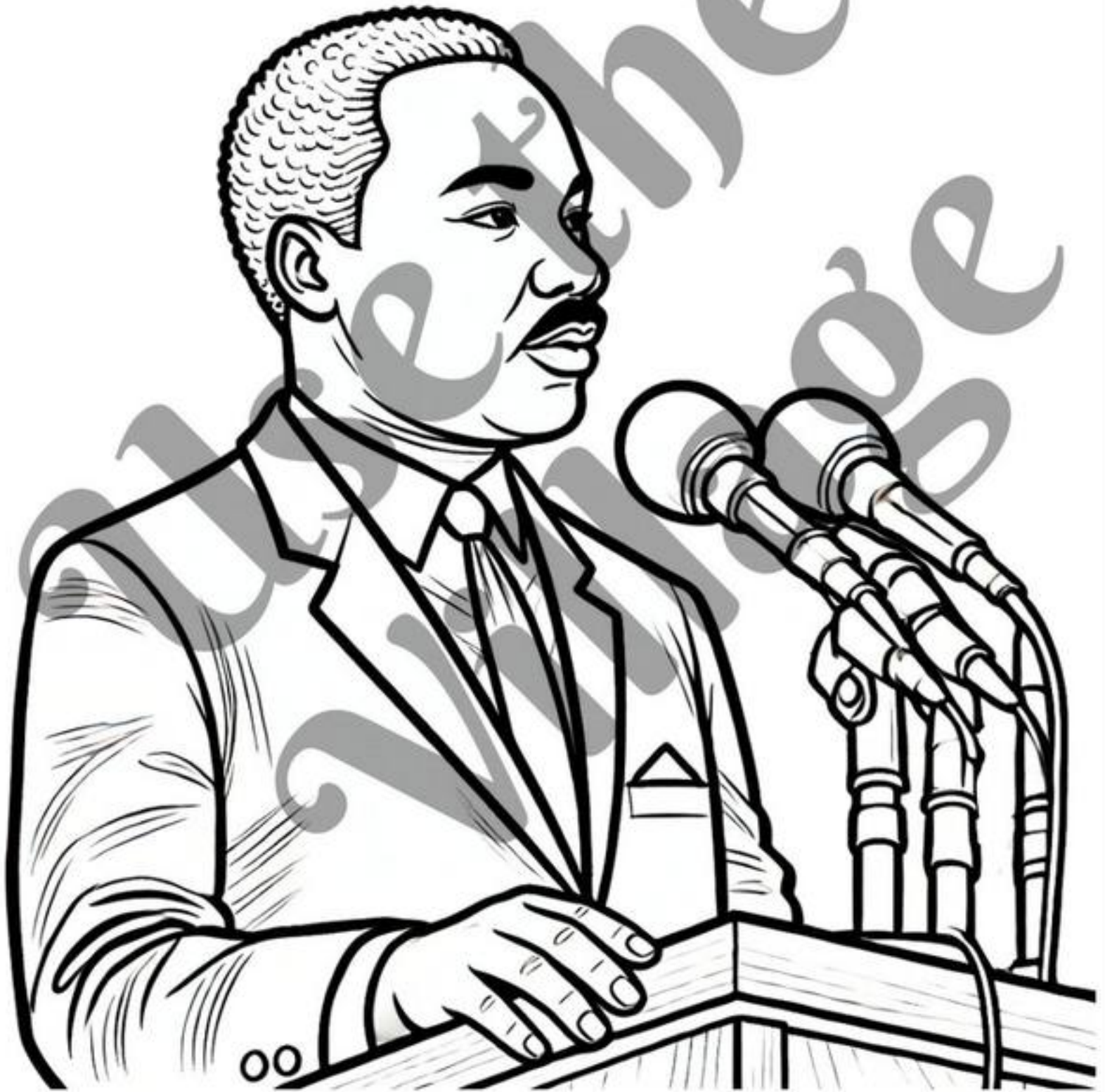
W.E.B. DU BOIS



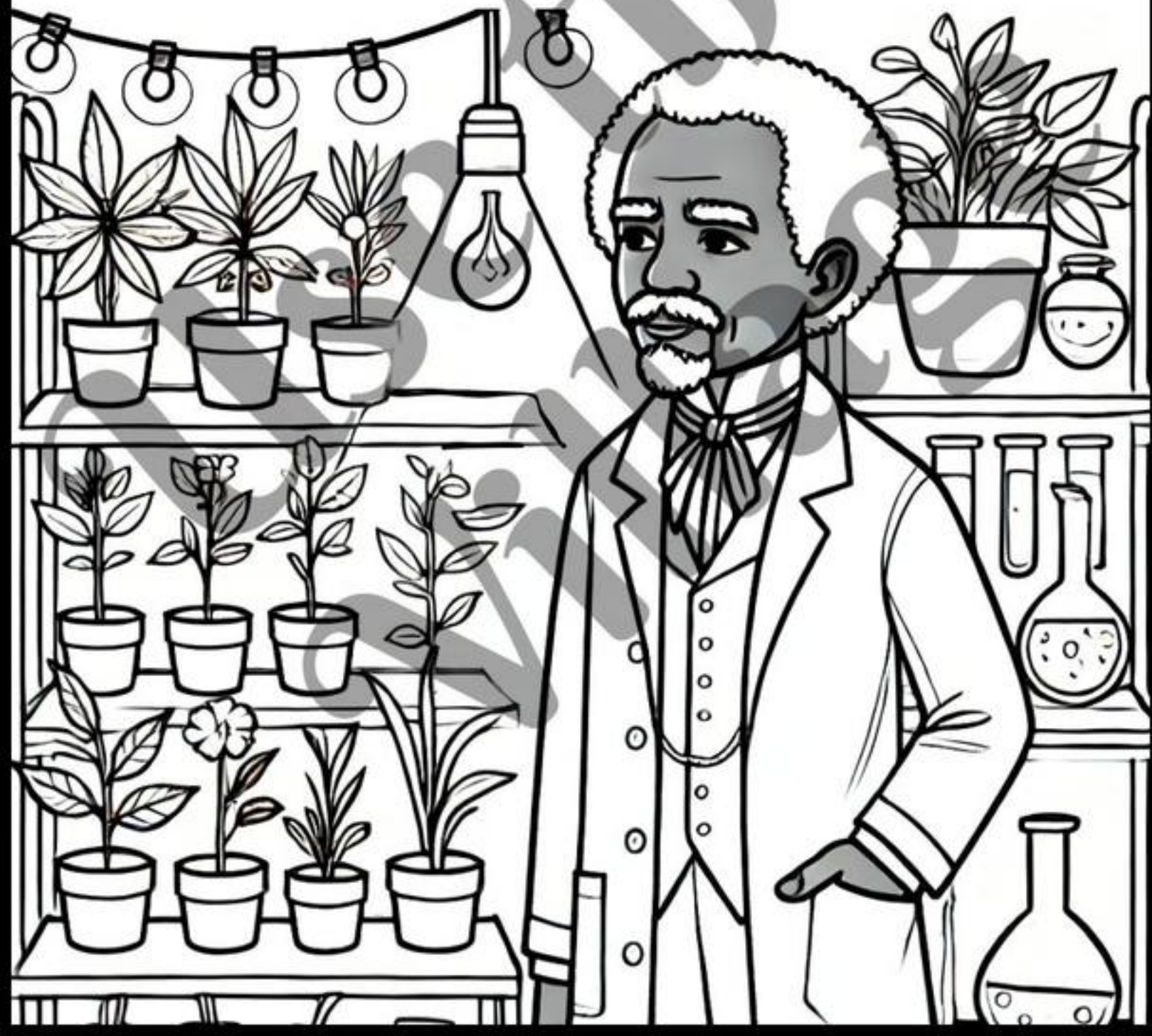
MADAME C.J. WALKER



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER



SHIRLEY CHISHOLM



CHARLES DREW



MARIAN ANDERSON



JAMES BALDWIN



KATHERINE JOHNSON



SOJOURNER TRUTH



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON



RALPH ELLISON



BESSIE COLEMAN



ALTHEA GIBSON



BAYARD RUSTIN



A. PHILIP RANDOLPH



JESSE OWENS



MICHELLE OBAMA



BENJAMIN BANNERKER



IDA B. WELLS



JOHN LEWIS



MAE JEMISON



LANGSTON HUGHES



MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE



LOUIS ARMSTRONG



CORETTA SCOTT KING



MALCOLM X



RAY CHARLES



TONI MORRISON



THURGOOD MARSHALL



SERENA WILLIAMS



JACKIE ROBINSON



RUBY BRIDGES



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.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1 What was life like for Frederick Douglass when he was a child?

2 What did Frederick Douglass do to help slaves become free?

3 Why is Frederick Douglass an important person in history?

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 fought for freedom and equality.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1 What was Harriet Tubman's life like when she was a child?

2 What was the Underground Railroad, and what did Harriet do to help?

3 Why do we remember Harriet Tubman as a hero?

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.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1 Where and when was Rosa Parks born, and what was her job?

2 What brave thing did Rosa Parks do on a bus in 1955?

3 Why is Rosa Parks called the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement"?

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. George 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 is most famous for his work with peanuts. He discovered over 300 uses for peanuts, including cooking oil, soap, and ink. He also found ways to use 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.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1 What was George Washington Carver famous for?

2 What are some uses George Washington Carver found for peanuts?

3 How did George help the farmers in the South?

Name: _____

Date: _____

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Read the passage about Martin Luther King Jr. and answer the questions.



Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. He grew up in a time when not everyone was treated equally, especially African Americans. Martin was a very smart student and a great speaker. He believed that everyone should be treated fairly, no matter their skin color, and he worked hard to make this happen.

Martin became a leader in the Civil Rights Movement, which was a big effort to get equal rights for African Americans. He gave many speeches and led peaceful marches, asking for fairness and equality. His most famous speech was called "I Have a Dream," where he talked about his hope for a world where everyone is treated the same.

Martin Luther King Jr. helped to change the laws so that African Americans had the same rights as everyone else. He taught people to fight for what is right in a peaceful way. We remember Martin Luther King Jr. as a hero who worked hard for peace and equality.

Name: _____

Date: _____

- 1 When and where was Martin Luther King Jr. born, and what kind of student was he?

- 2 What was the Civil Rights Movement, and what role did Martin play in it?

- 3 What was Martin Luther King Jr.'s most famous speech, and what was its message?

Name: _____

Date: _____

JACKIE ROBINSON

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



Jackie Robinson was born on January 31, 1919, 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 all 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 1947, 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.

Name: _____

Date: _____

- 1 How did Jackie Robinson demonstrate courage during his time in the U.S. Army?

- 2 What challenges did Jackie face as the first African American player in Major League Baseball, and how did he respond?

- 3 Why is April 15 an important date in Major League Baseball, and how is Jackie Robinson honored on this day?

Name: _____

Date: _____

RUBY BRIDGES

Read the biography of Ruby Bridges and answer the comprehension questions using the passage for reference.



Ruby Bridges was born on September 8, 1954, in Tylertown, Mississippi. When she was two years old, her family moved to New Orleans, Louisiana.

In 1960, Ruby became the first Black child to attend William Frantz Elementary School. Courts had ruled that public schools could not separate children by race. Before this, many schools were only for white children or only for black children.

Ruby went to William Frantz Elementary School. Some people did not want her to go to the school, and they were very angry. On her first day, she had to walk past a big crowd of people yelling at her. She was very brave. Federal marshals, special officers sent by the government, walked with her to keep her safe.

In the classroom, Ruby was the only student because some parents took their children out of the school. Her teacher, Mrs. Henry, was kind and taught Ruby every day. Over time, more children came back to school, and Ruby made friends.

Ruby Bridges helped change history. She showed courage and helped make schools fair for everyone. Today, she works to help students and teach them about kindness and bravery. She even wrote a book about her experiences!

Ruby Bridges' story teaches us that one person can make a big difference by standing up for what is right.

Name: _____

Date: _____

- 1 What was special about Ruby Bridges going to William Frantz Elementary School?

- 2 Why did federal marshals walk with Ruby to school?

- 3 What is one lesson we can learn from Ruby Bridges' story?

Name: _____

Date: _____

SIMONE BILES

Read the biographical passage about Simone Biles and answer the questions.



Simone Biles was born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio, and she's a shining star in the world of gymnastics. When Simone was a young girl, she discovered her love for gymnastics. She started practicing jumps and flips, dedicating herself to becoming the best. Because of her dedication, Simone grew up to win many competitions and become known all over the world.

Simone Biles is not like any other gymnast. She performs moves that are so hard, very few gymnasts even try them! Some of these amazing moves are named after her, like the "Biles" on the floor exercise, which shows just how special they are. By the end of 2024, Simone had won 23 World Championship gold medals and 7 Olympic gold medals.

But Simone teaches us something very important—taking care of our minds is as crucial as taking care of our bodies. Even though she's a strong athlete, she's been brave to talk about feeling scared or nervous and taking breaks when she needs to. This has helped many people understand that it's okay to speak up about how we're feeling inside.

Aside from being an incredible athlete, Simone Biles is a role model. She teaches kids everywhere that achieving your dreams takes hard work and practice. But she also shows that being truly strong means listening to your heart and taking care of your mind. Simone's story encourages us to leap for our dreams, be brave, and always remember to be kind to ourselves and others.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1 How did Simone Biles start her journey in gymnastics?

2 What is the name of the floor exercise move mentioned in the passage?

3 What lessons can we learn from Simone Biles about achieving our dreams and taking care of ourselves?

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.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1 Where was W.E.B. Du Bois born, and what did his family believe in?

2 What organization did W.E.B. Du Bois help create in 1909, and what was its purpose?

3 Where did W.E.B. Du Bois move later in life, and what work did he continue there?

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.

Name: _____

Date: _____

- 1 What did Maya do when she stopped speaking, and how did it help her?

- 2 What is the title of Maya Angelou's famous book, and what story does it tell?

- 3 Besides writing, what other ways did Maya Angelou help teach and inspire people?

ACHIEVE



LIKE MADAM C.J. WALKER