

GSNETX Commemorates Black History



Powered by the Dallas Mavericks

This program is designed to help Girl Scouts of all backgrounds learn about Black History Month and appreciate the noteworthy contributions of Black and African American people. Let's honor the phenomenal African American women who shaped our history and the Girl Scout movement.

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. The first celebration took place in 1926, when historian, Dr. Carter G. Woodson launched the annual February observance of "Negro History Week", which became "Black History Month" in 1976. He chose February for the observance because it encompassed the birthdays of two Americans who played a prominent role in Black history, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

These activities may be completed as a troop, as a Juliette, or with family at home. Once girls have completed the patch requirements, please complete the online patch reporting form by **March 30th**. Only one entry per troop or Juliette is required.

Online patch reporting form: gsnetx.org/patchform Be sure to tag @mavsoffcourt and #MavsBHM on social media when you get your patch!

Patch Requirements

This patch program includes requirements divided into three sections Discover, Connect, and Take Action. Girls and adults are encouraged to do more or modify the activities to adapt to the skill levels of the girls as needed.

- **Discover**-Learn about important events and people in Black and African American history.
- **Connect**-Explore different perspectives to better understand how Black and African American people have shaped our world.
- **Take Action**- Take the lead and help others appreciate the significant contributions of Black and African American people.

Complete the following requirements for your program grade level:

- Girl Scout Daisies – Complete 1 Discover, 1 Connect, 1 Taken Action
- Girl Scout Brownies – Complete 2 Discover, 1 Connect, 1 Take Action
- Girl Scout Juniors – Complete 2 Discover, 1 Connect, 1 Take Action
- Girl Scout Cadettes – 3 Discover, 2 Connect, 2 Take Action
- Girl Scout Seniors/Ambassadors – 4 Discover, 2 Connect, 2 Take Action

Discover

- Visit asalh.org/black-history-themes to explore the theme for Black History Month 2021. Explore even more by learning about the themes for 2020 and 2022.
- Learn about Juneteenth and how the holiday is celebrated in the United States.
- What song is known as the Black National Anthem? Do some research to learn about the lyrics and the writer, then sing it during a Girl Scout meeting or activity.
- Research and learn something new about the Civil Rights Movement and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Learn about the history of African American Girls Scouts, including the first Black Girl Scout troop.
- Explore the story of a prominent African American girl or woman in U.S. history who was a Go-getter, Innovator, Risktaker, or Leader.
- Learn about an African American innovator in STEM who made our world a better place. Explore the story of an African American influencer in STEM today, who is leading us into the future.
- Explore [Mavs Learning Assist](#) to learn more about Black History Month, racial equity and social justice.

Connect

- Attend a virtual Black History Month event.
 - asalh.org/festival/
 - mesquiteartscenter.org/events/2020/black-history-month-events
- Visit a Black owned business in your community or interview a Black entrepreneur. Learn about their business and the steps they took to become entrepreneur. Which entrepreneur in Black history influenced them the most, and why?
- Interview an African American woman who is a leader or innovator. Consider reaching out to women in business, government, STEM, finance, law enforcement, education, or a faith community.
 - Sample interview questions:
 - What steps did you take to become a leader or innovator?
 - Why is it important to commemorate Black History Month?
 - Which leader or innovator in Black history influenced you the most?
- Read one or more of the suggested books about Black and African American history and culture. Share about the book and what you learned with your family, friends, or troop.
- Watch a film on Black and African American history and culture. Share about the film and what you learned with your family, friends, or troop.
- Learn about the first African American Girl Scouts. Journal about what you learned.
 - Imagine what it was like to be one of the first African American Girl Scouts in 1913.
 - How did the including African American Girl Scouts in the early 1900's impact our movement today?

Take Action

- Go beyond February. Plan for how you will commemorate Black history throughout the year. Visit mavs.com/learningassist for community programs and online resources, lessons, and much more about social justice and racial equity.
- Host a book reading or film screening. Use the included lists and invite members of your community. Lead a discussion about the theme and what participants learned.
- Get creative. Create a poster, painting, drawing, or collage to commemorate the month and share it with others. Cadettes and up may participate in the Dallas Mavericks Black History Month Art contest. Visit mavs.com/blackhistory/ for details.
- Join the Girl Scouts Advocacy Center to become a voice for social justice and racial equity. [Girl Scouts Advocacy Center](https://www.girlscouts.org/advocacy-center)
- Post about Black History Month! (Cadettes-Ambassadors). Share photo, song, video, or interesting facts about what you learned on social media. Be sure to include #MavsBHM @gsnetx @dallasmavs @mavsoffcourt

What is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth is an annual celebration of freedom and independence for African Americans in the United States. The holiday, named by combining June and 19, commemorates when enslaved people in Texas learned of the Emancipation Proclamation on June 19, 1865. This was nearly two-and-a-half years after it was signed. It was on that day that Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of the Civil War and inform enslaved people of their freedom. Gen. Granger's announcement gave freedom to more than 250,000 enslaved people in Texas. One of General Granger's first orders of business was to read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3 which began most significantly with:

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer."

Juneteenth celebrations have grown since the late 1800s and include family gatherings, barbecues, and parades. In 1980, Texas became the first state to designate Juneteenth as a holiday, and today 45 other states have designated it as a state holiday. In June 2020, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution designating June 19, 2020 as "Juneteenth Independence Day". Juneteenth is also called Freedom Day or Emancipation Day.

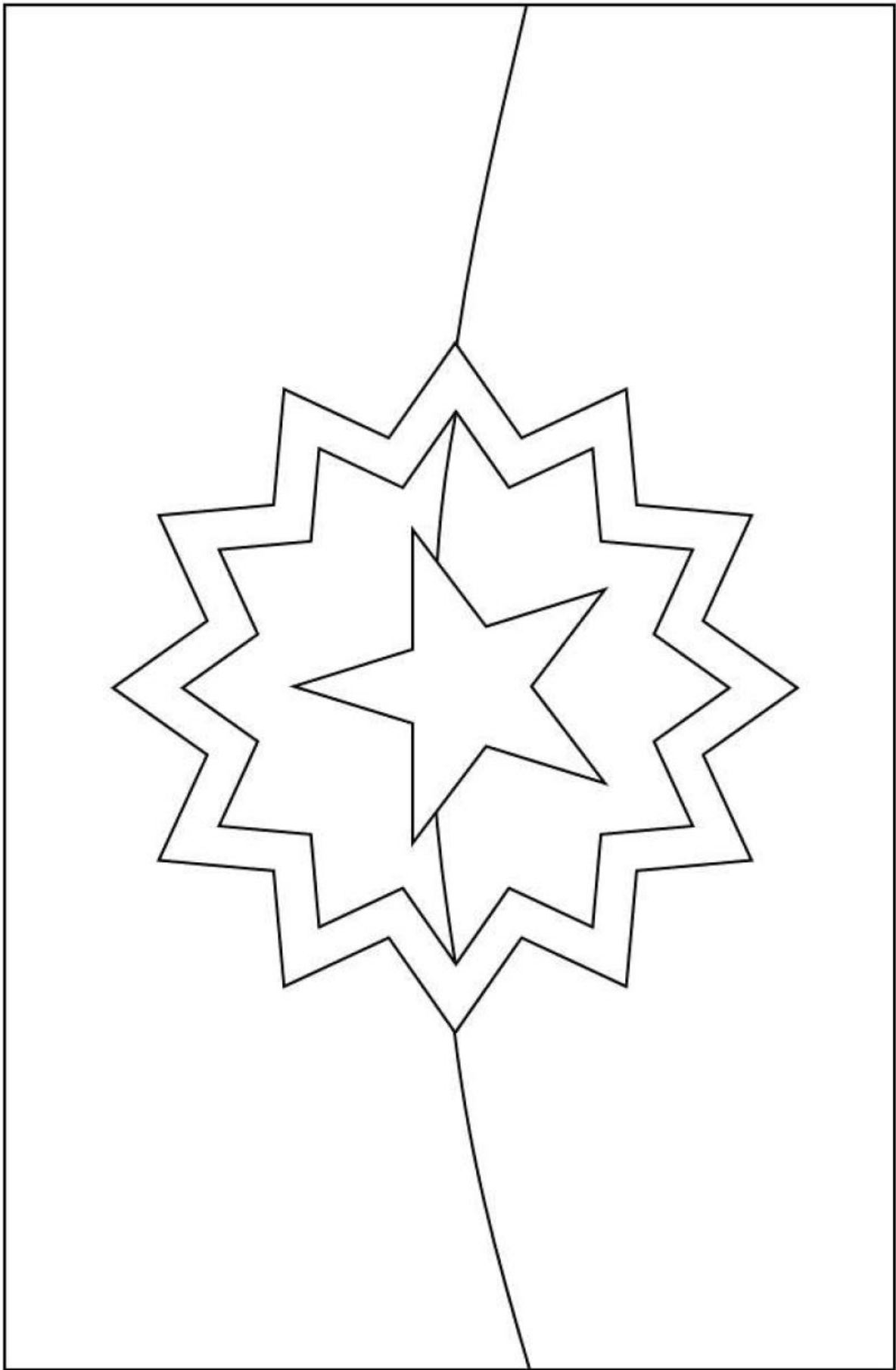
The Juneteenth Flag is a symbol that gives all Americans the opportunity to recognize American freedom & African American History. Today, Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremonies have taken place throughout the month of June in communities across the nation, including Boston, MA, Memphis, TN, Galveston, TX and Omaha, NB.



Color the Juneteenth flag on the next page.

- The star represents Texas, the Lone Star State, and the freedom of African Americans in all 50 states.
- The arc is the curve that extends across the width of the flag that represents a new horizon: the opportunities and promise that lay ahead for Black Americans.
- The colors red, white, and blue represent the American flag, a reminder that enslaved people and their descendants are Americans.
- The flag celebrates a new freedom, a new people, and a new star.

Sources: [Juneteenth.com](https://www.juneteenth.com) and nationaljuneteenth.com/juneteenth_national.html



Civil Rights Timeline

Civil rights ensure equality and include protection from unlawful discrimination. Many of the civil rights we have in the United States stem from the Civil Rights Movement. However, there were many important dates affecting civil rights that preceded that era. Below is a brief summary of key events that are relevant to history of civil rights for African Americans.

****Volunteers: topics of brutality, cruelty, and injustice may be tough to discuss, especially with younger girls. Be sure to read through the curriculum and discuss with caregivers before facilitating with girls. ****

1857	<i>Dred Scott v. Sanford</i> -This controversial U.S. Supreme Court decision denied citizenship and basic rights to all black people -- whether enslaved or free.
1863	<i>Emancipation Proclamation</i> - President Abraham Lincoln's "Emancipation Proclamation" takes effect proclaiming freedom from slavery for African Americans.
1865	<i>13th Amendment Passes</i> - The <u>13th Amendment</u> to the U.S. Constitution is passed, abolishing slavery in the United States.
1868	<i>14th Amendment Passes</i> - The <u>14th Amendment</u> to the U.S. Constitution is passed, guaranteeing due process and equal protection rights to all citizens.
1896	<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> - The U.S. Supreme Court "separate but equal" decision in <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> approved laws requiring racial segregation, as long as those laws did not allow for separate accommodations and facilities for Black people that were inferior to those for White people.
1909	<i>NAACP</i> - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Founded
1954	<i>Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas</i> - The U.S. Supreme Court decision in <i>Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas</i> ended legal racial segregation in public schools.
1957	<i>The Little Rock Nine</i> - Nine black students known as the " <u>Little Rock Nine</u> " are blocked from integrating into Little Rock <u>Central High School</u> in Little Rock, <u>Arkansas</u>
1955	<i>Montgomery Bus Boycotts</i> - African American woman Rosa Parks' arrest after her refusal to move to the back of a bus triggers a citywide boycott of the bus system.
1960	<i>Ruby Bridges Integrates Schools</i> - Six-year-old Ruby, is escorted by four armed federal marshals as she becomes the first student to integrate William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans.
1961	<i>Freedom Rides</i> - Throughout 1961, black and white activists, known as freedom riders, took bus trips through the American South to protest segregated bus terminals and attempted to use "whites-only" restrooms and lunch counters.
1963	<i>Martin Luther King, Jr.: "I Have a Dream"</i> - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers the historic "I Have a Dream" speech.
1963	<i>16th Street Baptist</i> - A bomb at 16th Street Baptist <u>Church in Birmingham</u> , Alabama kills four young girls and injures several other people prior to Sunday services. The bombing fuels protests.
1964	<i>Civil Rights Act of 1964</i> - The <u>Civil Rights Act of 1964</u> prohibits discrimination in a number of settings: voting, public accommodations, public facilities, public education, federally-assisted programs, and employment and establishes the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

Sources:

- <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/civil-rights-act/civil-rights-act-timeline.html>
- <https://civilrights.findlaw.com/civil-rights-overview/civil-rights-timeline-of-events.html>
- <https://www.history.com/topics/civil-rights-movement/civil-rights-movement-timeline>

History of African American Girl Scouts



In 1913, African American girls in Bedford, Massachusetts joined the third Girl Scout troop ever formed. The first Girl Scout troops made up entirely of African American girls were established as early as 1917.

Josephine Holloway was one of the first African American Girl Scout troop leaders. She dreamed of bringing the Girl Scout programming to Black girls in Nashville Tennessee, and in 1924, she fought for the opportunity to do just that. By the end of the year, more than 300 girls there were engaged in Girl Scout-inspired activities.

Nearly 10 years later in 1933 Josephine made her first attempt to form an official troop for African American girls, but her request was initially denied. Nevertheless, Josephine pressed on, and in 1942, after much perseverance, the region's first African American Girl Scout troop was established. At that time, segregation and oppression was commonplace.

By 1951, there were more than 1,500 racially integrated Girl Scout troops and more than 1,800 all-African American troops (mostly located in the South). Ebony magazine cited Girl Scouts as "making slow and steady progress toward surmounting the racial barriers of the region." Martin Luther King, Jr. described Girl Scouts as "a force for desegregation".

In 1975, Dr. Gloria D. Scott served as the first African American national board president and the public face of Girl Scouts. Prior to this groundbreaking achievement, she was the first African American professor at Marion College in Indianapolis and a member of the "Girl Scouts Negro Planning Board" in the 1950's. During the last year of her presidency in 1978, the Girl Scout Trefoil was reimaged to highlight our Movement's great diversity.

Today, girls of all races, religions, and backgrounds are welcome to discover fun and friendship, and the power of girls working, learning, and exploring their world together.

Sources:

<https://blog.girlscouts.org/2015/02/honoring-josephine-holloway-during.html>

<https://blog.girlscouts.org/2017/02/black-history-month-girl-scouts-legacy.html>

https://www.gsofsi.org/en/about-girl-scouts/news/2019/celebrate_black_hist.html



Go-getters, Innovators, Risktakers, and Leaders



Ruby Bridges (1954-)

Go-getter, Ruby Bridges was just six years old when she became the first African American child to integrate an all-White public elementary school in the American South. On November 14, 1960, she was escorted to class by her mother and U.S. marshals due to violent mobs. Bridges' brave act was a milestone in the civil rights movement. She paved the way for continued Civil Rights action and later became a civil rights activist.

Learn more about Ruby by visiting [biography.com/activist/ruby-bridges](https://www.biography.com/activist/ruby-bridges)



Barbara Johns (1935-1991)

In 1951, a protest by risk-taker, Barbara Johns led to a landmark Supreme Court ruling that declared segregated public schools illegal—and changed the nation forever. It was the spring of 1951 in Farmville, Virginia. At the time, in Virginia—and 20 other states—Black students and White students were required to attend segregated schools. The schools reserved for Black kids and those for White kids were supposed to be equal, but they never were. Barbara's school, the all-Black Robert Russa Moton High School, for example, was literally falling apart. One night, an idea came to her: a strike. If students refused to go to class, the school board would have to do something, wouldn't it? Learn more about Barbara's story by visiting [junior.scholastic.com/issues/2018-19/012819/this-student-helped-desegregate-america-s-schools.html](https://www.junior.scholastic.com/issues/2018-19/012819/this-student-helped-desegregate-america-s-schools.html)



Juanita Craft (1902–1985)

A Leader in the Civil rights movement, Juanita Craft grew up in Austin, TX and attended Prairie View and Huston-Tillotson universities. In 1944, she was the first Black woman to vote in Dallas County. In the 1950s, she helped open the University of Texas and North Texas State College to Black students. In 1967, her youth group helped to desegregate the State Fair of Texas. Craft was elected to the Dallas City Council in 1975 when she was 73 years old. She held leadership positions in local, state, and national civil rights organizations and won numerous awards. Learn more about Juanita's story by visiting [womenintexashistory.org/biographies/juanita-craft/](https://www.womenintexashistory.org/biographies/juanita-craft/)



Bessie Coleman (1892-1926)

In 1921, innovator, Bessie Coleman became the world's first Black woman to earn a pilot's license. Listening to and reading stories of World War I pilots sparked her interest in aviation. Because flying schools in the United States denied her entry, she took it upon herself to learn French and move to France to achieve her goal. Her high-flying skills always wowed her audience. Coleman specialized in stunt flying and parachuting, earning a living barnstorming and performing aerial tricks. Learn more about Bessie's story by visiting [biography.com/explorer/bessie-coleman](https://www.biography.com/explorer/bessie-coleman)

African American Women in STEM



Katherine Johnson (1918-2020)

Katherine Johnson was a physicist and mathematician who calculated the trajectories for many NASA missions and was instrumental in launching the first American into space. In 1962, as NASA prepared for the orbital mission of John Glenn, Johnson was called upon to do the work that she would become most known for. **Learn more about Katherine's story by visiting nasa.gov/content/katherine-johnson-biography**



Annie Easley (1933-2011)

Annie Easley was a rocket scientist who developed software for Centaur, one of NASA's most important high-energy rocket launchers. Centaur is a second-stage rocket launcher, used to propel countless probes and satellites into space. It's been invaluable to NASA since its creation, eventually propelling spacecrafts to land on the moon and fly by other planets in the solar system. **Learn more about Annie's story by visiting nasa.gov/glenn-history/hall-of-fame/biographies/annie-easley/**



Mae Jemison (1956-)

Mae Jemison is an engineer, physician and former NASA astronaut. She was the first African American woman in space. Jemison was selected for the astronaut program in June 1987. On her first flight, she was the science mission specialist on STS-47 Spacelab-J. The mission, which was a cooperative one between the U.S. and Japan, included 44 life science and materials processing experiments.

Learn more about Mae's story by visiting nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/home/F_Astronaut_Mae_Jemison.html



Jeanette Epps (1970-)

Jeanette Epps was selected by NASA in 2009 as an astronaut. She completed astronaut candidate training which included scientific and technical briefings, intensive instruction in International Space Station systems, spacewalk training, robotics, T-38 flight training and wilderness survival training. As a crew member on the first operational flight of Boeing's CST-100 Starliner spacecraft to the International Space Station, she will become the first Black woman to live and work in space for an extended period of time. **Learn more about Jeanette's story by visiting nasa.gov/astronauts/biographies/jeanette-j-epps/biography**

Books

Daisy/Brownie/Junior

- The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles
- If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks by Faith Ringgold
- Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by Doreen Rappaport
- Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt by Deborah Hopkinson
- Small But Mighty Story Time- recorded book readings from the National Civil Rights Museum

Cadette/Senior/Ambassador

- The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
- Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip Hoose
- The Watsons Go to Birmingham--1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis
- Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans By Kadir Nelson
- Sojourner Truth, Ain't I a Woman? by Patricia C. McKissack , Fredrick McKissack

Movies

All levels

- Our Friend, Martin
- Ruby Bridges
- Hidden Figures
- The Gabby Douglas Story
- A Ballerina's Tale

Cadettes/Seniors/Ambassadors

- 42
- Remember the Titans
- The Great Debaters
- To Kill a Mockingbird
- Guess Whose Coming to Dinner
- Red Tails
- Race
- Selma

Check Out These Websites for Additional Information:

- Teaching Black History Beyond Slavery and Black History Month
- National Museum of African American History and Culture: <https://nmaahc.si.edu/>
- African American Museum of Dallas: www.aamdallas.org
- Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum- <https://www.dhhrm.org/>
- The Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society: www.tarrantcountyblackhistory.org/
- African American/Black Woman History: www.womenshistory.about.com/od/africanamerican
- African American/Black History Month: www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov
- Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce: www.taaacc.org
- Black History Spotlight: STEM Innovators: <https://www.pbs.org/articles/2020/02/black-history-spotlight-stem-innovators/>
- Educational resources on social justice/racial equity: [Mavs.com/learningassist](https://mavs.com/learningassist)