

CHS Advisory / 10 February 2021

BLACK HISTORY IN AMERICA



advisory, part I:

LESSON FRAMING

CHECKING IN

**Name a Black Artist,
Writer, Musician,
Scientist, Activist or Leader
whose work you admire or
enjoy.**

Why?



TODAY'S GAMEPLAN



- **Learn about the history and purpose of Black History Month (BHM)**
- **Explore a strand of Black History that interests you**
- **Share + reflect!**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the history, purpose, and conversations around Black History Month
- Learn something new about Black History in the United States.
- Reflect on what lessons can be drawn from these stories.



WHY FEBRUARY?

- Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard-educated historian and son of a former slave, started a group now known as the **Association for the Study of African American Life and History**, 50 years after the abolishment of slavery in the United States. It is that group that's responsible for starting "Black History Week" which eventually turned into "Black History Month" (**BHM**)
- Contrary to the often circulated but incorrect "joke" that's floated around the internet for years, February was not "given" to Black America for celebrating Black history because it's the shortest month of the year...
- The actual reason Woodson chose the second week in February for the celebration when it first began is because it contained the birthdays of the major symbolic figures who were pivotal to Black American freedom at that historical point in time:
 - **Frederick Douglass** (born February 14, 1818)
 - **Abraham Lincoln** (born February 12, 1809)



CONTEXT ABOUT BHM

**LET'S WATCH
+ GET SOME
CONTEXT:**

**Watch How Black History Month
Went From A Week To A Month**

(2:25)

THE IMPORTANCE OF BLACK HISTORY



My idea of why Black History Month matters is likely not the same as what historian Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland had in mind when they founded it in 1926. And that's OK. The beauty in Black History Month is we can all celebrate in different ways that are meaningful to us as individuals.

BENÉ VIERA
journalist

BLACK HISTORY, OR JUST HISTORY?

It's important to acknowledge that there are wide-ranging & complex reactions to BHM by different people. Some perspectives to consider:

- There are Black people who want to do away with Black History Month (BHM) for various reasons (such as the idea that all American history is black history or because emphasis on Black history for a single month feels performative & wholly unsubstantial)
- There are Black and non-Black people who view BHM as a vitally important pause point for America / individuals to annually celebrate, learn about, & showcase black joy, black stories, black excellence, black freedom, black wisdom, black humanity, etc. in various forms and formats
- There are Black and non-Black people who think that BHM importantly fits into a bigger conversation about **reparations** that must be made to Black Americans in honor of & as repayment for their pivotal role in our country's history
- There are non-Black people who want to dismiss or downplay Black contributions to history, art, culture, society, values, etc. by getting rid of BHM completely, claiming it is an example of “reverse racism” against the history of white people or other demographic groups (***our prior advisory learning should point us to how and why this sort of thinking is highly PROBLEMATIC!***)

“There is a teaching practice I would like to raise awareness around and correct.

In an attempt to ease into conversations to discuss slavery, Jim Crow, and the Civil Rights Movement, I will hear teachers announce that Black History is oftentimes hard and sad to talk about. Have you heard this, too? Or maybe you’ve even said it?

I don’t know about you, but I want my Black History to be celebratory. I want to hear the stories of inventors, artists, filmmakers, designers, and chefs. I want to meet the people in my community and hear how they get up to go to work everyday. I want to be read to by local Black folx and visit local Black-owned businesses. And I want to create a month-long project focused on solutions for my community. I want to center Blackness through micro-affirmations, “subtle or apparently small acknowledgments of a person’s value and accomplishments” (Mary Rowe).

That’s why this disclaimer gave me pause. When have I heard a teacher give a disclaimer that white history is sad and hard to talk about? When have I heard that about American history? And what conclusions will learners draw about themselves and others when we say Black History is sad? And more important, who is that statement serving?

Moving forward, it’s important to note Black history is full of beautiful stories worthy to be told and heard by all. American history is hard history full of violence and misuse of power. And as we tear down problematic storylines that only serve to protect one group by promoting Black inferiority, ***we must tell a more accurate and truthful account of American history all year long.”***

BRITT HAWTHORNE



britt hawthorne (she/her)

@britthawthorne_



Happy Black History Month 🧑🏾

Just a reminder, we focus on the positive contributions and accomplishments Black people have made to the U.S.

Teaching hard history such as police violence, segregation, slavery, etc. is reserved for US history and that happens all year long.

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advisory, part II:

INDEPENDENT EXPLORATION

INDEPENDENT PROCESS EXPECTATIONS

- Choose one of the four strands
- Spend some time exploring the resources (video, text, audio)
- Take some notes so that you can share your learning with others
- Share your thinking when the group comes back together

INDEPENDENT EXPLORATION TASK OPTIONS / STRANDS

BLACK HISTORY ARTICLES + RESOURCES

STRAND #1: [click here](#)

FROM JOHN LEWIS TO SENATOR REVEREND RAPHAEL WARNOCK

- Articles from The New York Times, The Atlantic, Rolling Stone and more.
- Videos in the form of interviews, retrospectives, eulogies and more.
- Explore how a legendary civil rights leader and statesman paved the way for the most recent elected official to “flip the Senate”. How did these individuals work together and learn from one another?

STRAND #2: [click here](#)

SHAKING THINGS UP AND MAKING THINGS HAPPEN: CELEBRATING BLACK FEMALE ACTIVISTS

- Articles and videos from The New York Times, CNN, PBS, Teen Vogue and more.
- Shaking things up and making things happen--then and now--Black women have been on the forefront of social justice movements that work! What can we learn from them?

STRAND #3: [click here](#)

HERSTORY OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT

Source 1: [Black Lives Matter Founders](#)

Source 2: [TIME 100 Most Influential People](#)

Want to learn more about the herstory of the Black Lives Matter Movement? Read through both sources above! Consider why it's important to learn about BLM and its founders. What can we learn from these women?

STRAND #4: [click here](#)

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN STEM

- Provide embedded link to resource/article/slides
- Indicate source of resource/article
- Provide a framing question or summary of the resource to help students decide if it's what they want to explore today

FROM JOHN LEWIS TO SENATOR REVEREND RAPHAEL WARNOCK

DIRECTIONS: Choose at least three resources to explore and document your thoughts in this graphic organizer.



Articles (read at least one)	Videos
Atlanta's Rev. Raphael Warnock arrested, released during July 18 protest in D.C., July 21, 2017	John Lewis: John Lewis: Good Trouble - Official Trailer
Stacey Abrams Backs Warnock's Senate Bid in Georgia (includes her exact words at bottom of article), Jan. 30, 2020	High school students interview John Lewis (start at 13:40)
John Lewis posthumous essay in NYT, July 30, 2020	Warnock on Lewis (start at 3:34)
Georgia Sends a Preacher to Washington, Aug. 23, 2020	Warnock eulogy for Lewis (start at 4:30)
The Pastor, The Pandemic, and the Political Race of a Lifetime, Dec. 31, 2020	Democracy Now interview with R. Warnock
How Martin Luther King Jr. Recruited John Lewis, King issue	Trevor Noah retrospective

CELEBRATING BLACK FEMALE ACTIVISTS

DIRECTIONS: Choose at least three resources to explore and document your thoughts in [this graphic organizer](#).

Articles (read at least one)	Videos
For an historical perspective on the role of Black Women: <u>Many Social Justice Movements have been Started by Black Women. But History Forgets.</u>	Stacey Abrams lost a close Governor's race in Georgia two years ago and has since led the Democratic Party in Georgia to recent success. <u>Listen to her as a teen at the 30th Anniversary of the March on Washington.</u>
<u>These Teen Girls Are Fighting for a More Just Future.</u> These four young women are building a better tomorrow.	<u>Learn more about Amanda Gorman</u> and her life as the nation's first youth poet Laureate.
<u>The Bold Accomplishments of Women of Color Need to Be a Bigger Part of Suffrage History.</u> The Smithsonian exhibition "Votes For Women" delves into the nature of persistence.	<u>Black Women leading the charge to organize Georgia Voters</u> This 3 minute video will introduce you to several of the Black Women activists who organized Georgia voters.
<u>Young, gifted and black: The next generation of activists.</u> Learn about student leaders from the University of California and the ways they are shaking things up.	<u>Led by Black Women, Organizers in Georgia Work to Replicate Election Success in Senate Runoff</u> Watch this 10 minute video to learn more about the women who foster a multicultural, multigenerational, multiracial democracy.

HERSTORY OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT

Directions: Read through both resources and record your thoughts on this document.



advisory, part III:

**PROCESSING
+ REFLECTION**

REFLECTION PROMPTS

1. What did you decide to spend time looking at or exploring today on your own?
2. What insights / new or reaffirmed learning / added perspective did you gain in the exploration time you had today?
3. What do you think is missing from this conversation/exploration process? What do you still want to know?



RESOURCES FOR FURTHER READING, LEARNING, & REFLECTING

1. [5 Black History Moments You Won't Learn in School](#) & [Why Black History Month Still Matters](#), both from Teen Vogue
2. [This Is How I Feel: A Playlist By Young Black Listeners](#), from NPR
3. [14 Black Activists and Authors Providing Crucial Insight Into Racial Justice in the US](#), from Global Citizen
4. [Youth Activists: Black Lives Matter Inspires New Protest Movement](#), from Rolling Stone
5. ['This is how you change politics': How black activism is shaping 2020](#), from PBS NewsHour
6. [26 Little Known Black History Heroes - Famous African Americans](#), from the Oprah Magazine
7. [Black Activists Wonder: Is Protesting Just Trendy for White People?](#), from the New York Times