

Resource 2a: Station 1 Activity

Black History Month

Carter G. Woodson was a famous Black historian. He was born in 1875. Mr. Woodson wanted schools to teach African American history. At the time that he lived, very little was known about Black history. Woodson believed that if Black history was not taught, people would believe that his people “never contributed to the progress of mankind.”

In 1915, Mr. Woodson created the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. One year later he started the Journal of Negro History. The goals of the Association and the Journal were to help keep records of Black history and make sure all Americans understand the achievements of Black Americans.

In 1926, Woodson started the very first “Negro History Week.” He chose the second week in February to focus on teaching and learning Black history. Why did he choose February? Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12th. Frederick Douglass was born on February 14th. Many Black Americans already celebrated those birthdays that week because of all that Lincoln and Douglas did to help Black people.



In 1976, President Gerald Ford turned Negro History Week into Black History Month to dedicate more time to “honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans...”

As a result of all he did to make sure that people learned about the history and achievements of Black Americans, Carter G. Woodson is now known as the “Father of Black History.” Mr. Woodson died in 1950.

Activities:

1. Create a timeline of events described in the reading.
2. Describe one change over time that you read about in the reading or timeline.
3. Identify one cause of the change.
4. Identify one effect of the change.

Sources

- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/black-history-month>
- Woodson, Carter G. (1926) Negro History Week. Journal of Negro History. Vol. 11, No. 2. April 1926 pp. 238-242.
- Carter G. Woodson at <https://naacp.org/find-resources/history-explained/civil-rights-leaders/carter-g-woodson>
- Carter G Woodson: Father of Black History (2006). Access at <https://web.archive.org/web/20110401191535/http://www.america.gov/st/diversity-english/2005/June/20080207153802liameruoy0.1187708.html>