



A FREE ELEMENTARY RESOURCE PACK FROM EDMENTUM

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# Black History Month

PreK–6<sup>th</sup>

Grade Range

## What Does This Pack Include?

This pack has been created by teacher, for teachers. In it you'll find high quality teaching resources to help you and your students learn about black history, the civil rights and equality.

To go directly to the content, simply click on the title in the index below:

LESSON PLANS:				
Pre-K – Grade 5				
Explore George Washington Carver text and sequence events in informational text.				

FACT SHEETS:				
Grades 3–5	Pre-K–Grade 2	Pre-K–Grade 5	Pre-K–Grade 2	Grades 3–5
Discover details about famous black inventors, including Edmund Albius, Marie Van Brittan Brown, and many more.	Explore the history of famous black inventors, from George Washington Carver to Garrett Morgan.	Learn about Rosa Parks and why she's one of the most important figures of the civil rights movement.	Understand how the Abolition of Slavery came about.	Discover the background of The Slave Trade.

ACTIVITY SHEETS:	
Pre-K – Grade 2	Grades 3–6
Think about what you would ask Rosa Parks if you'd have met her.	Consider some of the famous African Americans who are making a difference today.

CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS:	
Pre-K–Grade 5	Pre-K–Grade 5
Read one on George Washington Carver's quotes and discuss what it tells you about him.	Discuss why you think Rosa Parks did not give up her seat on a bus to a white man.

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### **Overview**

In this 30-minute activity, students will explore sequencing events in informational text.

### **Materials**

- George Washington Carver text
- Sentence strips
- Index cards with first, then, finally written on them
- Pocket chart

### **Lesson Preparation (5 minutes)**

Copy the text below and make one copy for each small group of students. Cut the text into chunks at the slash symbols and paper clip them together.

Do you like peanut butter?/

You can thank George Washington Carver for popularizing it!

Carver wanted to help poor farmers.

First, he taught them how to keep their soil healthy by planting different crops in different years.

Next, he discovered that peanuts were good for the soil.

Carver found out that peanut plants grow fast. There were lots of peanuts to use!

He then invented different ways to use peanuts. He used them in paper and shampoo.

Finally, Carver created peanut butter!

Write three events from your life on sentence strips, e.g., I became a second-grade teacher. I went to college at Millikin University. I was born in 1965.

### **Lesson (20 minutes)**

#### **Introduction**

Ask: “Have you ever looked at a scrapbook or a baby book? They tell the story of someone’s lives, just like a biography does. They usually tell the events in order, from birth to adulthood. Today, we’re going to talk about how you can describe the order of events in a biography and other informational texts.”

#### **Procedure**

##### **Part I**

• Say: “Biographies tell about the events in someone’s life. It’s important to pay attention to the order the events happened, because they help you understand more about the person.”

• Point to the sentence strips. “These tell important events in my life. What do you notice?”



(They are not in order.) You're right. It doesn't make sense to say I went to college before I was born! The order of events makes a difference. Let's put these in order."

- Say: "How did you know in what order to put these events? (I thought about each event and what needed to happen before other events could happen.)" Say: "Strategic readers think about what is happening and their time order. They also look for clue words to help them."

- Place the index cards in the pocket chart at the beginning of each sentence. Discuss what each clue word means and how it gives a clue to the order in which events happen. Say: "Clue words help us understand time order, or the sequence of events."

### **Part II**

- Display the George Washington Carver text. Read the text aloud and ask students to think about the order of events.

- Ask: "Which signal words do you see?" Highlight words as students mention them.

- Place students in small groups. Give each group a set of text chunks. Ask students to use their understanding of the text and the clue words to put the events in order.

### **Conclusion**

Remind students that strategic readers use the content and clue words to help them understand the sequence of events in a text.

### **Assesment (5 minutes)**

Ask students to turn to a partner and use clue words to describe the events in George Washington Carver's life.

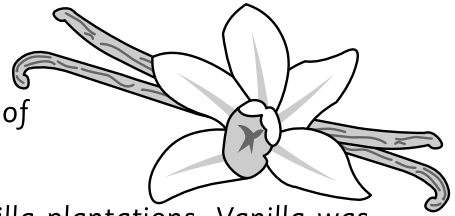




## **Famous Black Inventors**

### **Edmond Albius**

- Edmond Albius was born into slavery on the French island of Réunion in 1829.
- At the time, many of the slaves in Réunion worked on vanilla plantations. Vanilla was popular, but it was difficult and expensive to grow because the crop was not easily pollinated by insects.
- At the age of 12, Albius found a way to pollinate the vanilla by using a thin stick to press the male and female parts together.
- After this, it was much easier to grow vanilla. As a result, crop owners became richer, but Albius was never paid for his invention.
- Albius's method of fertilizing vanilla is still used throughout the world today.

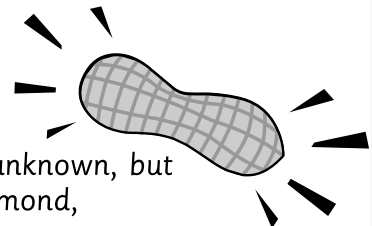


### **Marie Van Brittan Brown**

- Marie Van Brittan Brown was born in Queens, New York in 1922.
- Along with her husband, Albert, she invented the first home security system and was awarded a patent in 1969.
- Her system had a motorized camera and four peepholes to which the camera could move. The images from the camera were displayed on a monitor.
- Brown also had a plan for people to be able to unlock their doors with a remote control.

### **George Washington Carver**

- The exact year and date of George Washington Carver's birth is unknown, but it is believed to be January, 1864. He was born into slavery in Diamond, Missouri.
- Carver was a bright student who was accepted to attend Highland College, but when he arrived there, he was rejected because he was black. He was later accepted at Iowa State College, where he was the first black student.
- Carver studied and taught botany. He taught students about the importance of crop rotation, or alternating the planting of crops to get better production. This helped farmers to produce better harvests of cotton, an important cash crop.





- One of the plants Carver used to help add nutrients back to the soil after repeated cotton plantings was the peanut plant. Peanut plants grew well and fast. Carver had to think of new ways to use all the peanuts that were being produced. At one convention he attended, he showed 145 different items made from peanuts!



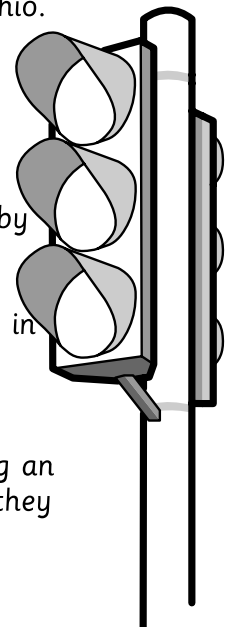
## Charles Drew

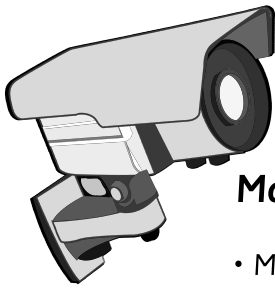


- Charles Drew was born in 1904 in Washington, D.C.
- He was a doctor, surgeon, and medical researcher. As a researcher, he studied ways to store blood. He organized the first large-scale blood bank in the U.S.
- Drew also started the first mobile blood donation stations, or what we sometimes call “bloodmobiles.”
- He went on to work for the Red Cross, but resigned because the U.S. armed forces demanded that blood be typed according to race, and that African American donors’ blood be stored separately from whites. Drew argued that there was no scientific evidence that blood type differed by race, and he was later proven correct.

## Garrett Morgan

- Garrett Morgan was born in Paris, Kentucky in 1877.
- At the age of 18, Morgan began working at a sewing shop in Cleveland, Ohio. He later developed and patented his own sewing machine.
- Morgan and his wife later opened a clothing store that had 32 employees.
- He always wanted to know how and why things worked. If he needed a machine for his business and couldn’t buy one, he would solve the problem by inventing one.
- In 1916, Morgan noticed that firefighters needed protection from breathing in smoke and gases. He invented a hood to prevent them from breathing the fumes.
- Morgan was the first black man in Cleveland to own a car. After witnessing an accident, he decided that a traffic signal was needed to show drivers when they should stop. This signal was an early version of the traffic light we still use today.





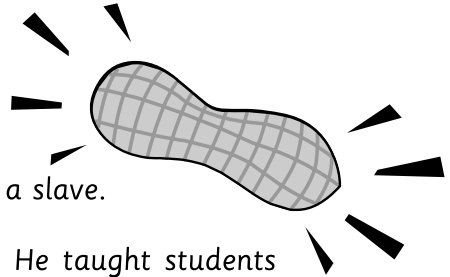
## **Famous Black Inventors**

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### **George Washington Carver**

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- Carver studied plants and taught others about them, too. He taught students how to plant different crops to make the soil better.
- One of the plants Carver used was the peanut plant. Peanut plants grew well and fast.
- Carver had to think of new ways to use all the peanuts that grew on the plant. At one meeting he went to, he showed 145 different items made from peanuts!



### **Charles Drew**

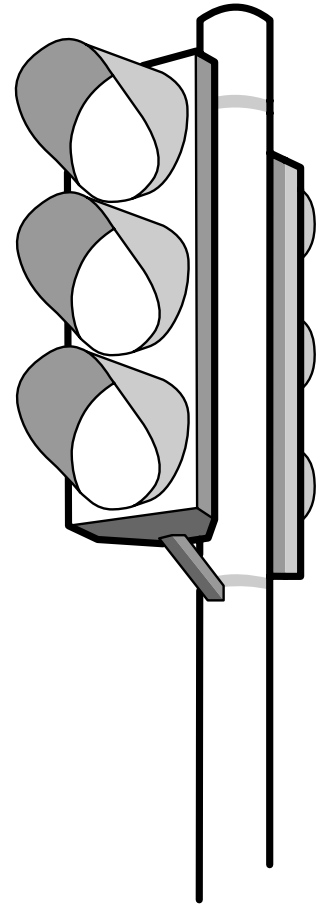
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## Rosa Parks



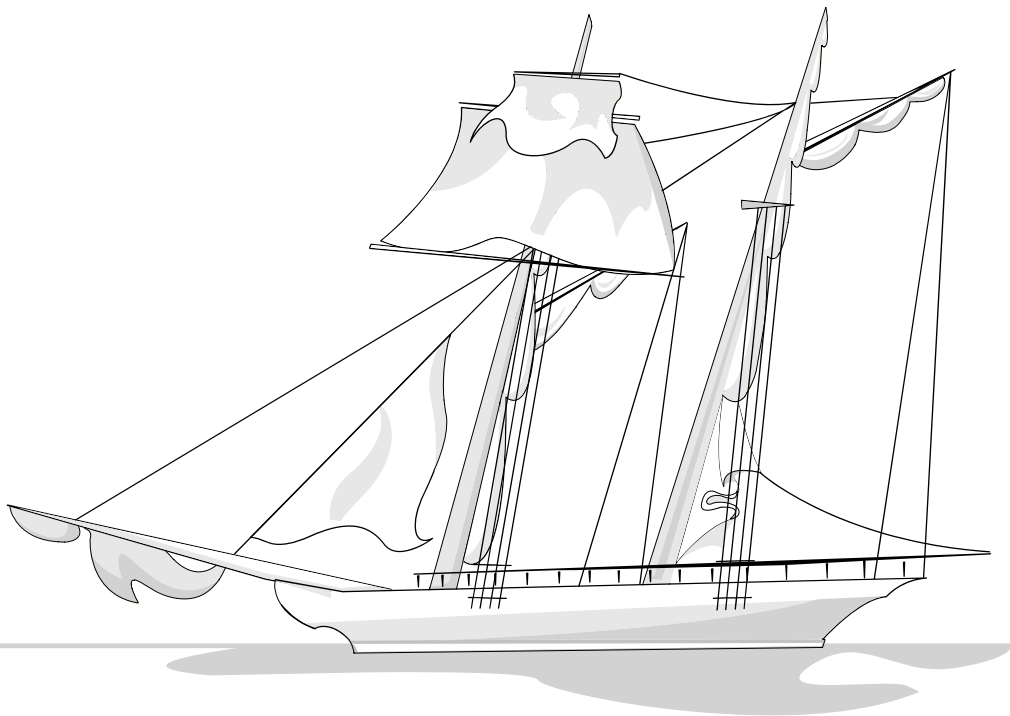
- Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama.
- She is sometimes called the “first lady of civil rights.”
- In the U.S. in the 1950s, black people were often segregated, or kept separate from, white people in public places.
- On December 1, 1955, Rosa got on a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama after a day’s work as a seamstress. She sat in a seat in an area that was for “colored” passengers.
- As the bus continued on its route, it began to fill with passengers. The bus driver saw that some white passengers were standing and he asked four black passengers to give up their seats to the white passengers.
- Rosa was one of the black passengers who was asked to give up her seat. She refused, telling the driver that she didn’t think she should have to stand up. The driver called the police, and Rosa was arrested.
- A group of people, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., came together and called for a boycott of Montgomery’s public buses. They asked for all black people not to ride the buses on the day of Rosa’s trial, which was set for December 5, 1955.
- The boycott was a success, and most of Montgomery’s buses were almost empty. The boycott lasted for months.
- There were still many people who believed that keeping blacks and whites separate was the right thing to do. There were many protests and much violence.
- Finally, in November 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation was unconstitutional. This meant that not only Montgomery, but also the rest of the United States, had to do away with segregation in public transportation.
- Because of her role in the boycott, Rosa lost her job and she and her husband were forced to leave Montgomery. They settled in Detroit, Michigan.
- Rosa Parks is considered to be one of the most important figures of the civil rights movement and is a hero to many.
- Rosa died on October 24, 2005.



## Abolition of Slavery

### Fact Sheet

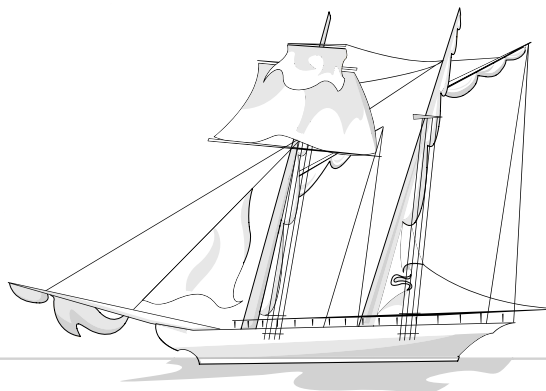
- In 1517, men from the country of Portugal started bringing slaves from Africa to America. They did this to make money.
- Workers were captured in their villages in Africa and put on ships that took them to America. The journey took over two months. Many people died before reaching America.
- Once in America, the Africans were sold as slaves. These people were forced to work for their owners. Slaves were often treated very poorly and many died at young ages.
- At the start of the Civil War in 1861, the trade of African slaves to America stopped completely.
- In December 1865, the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution was adopted. This meant that all slaves must be freed. The amendment ended slavery in the United States.





## The Slave Trade and the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

- The United Nations International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> of every year.
- It was introduced as a way of recalling a law made on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1949 to stop the selling of human beings into slavery.
- Portuguese traders exploring Africa's West Coast found the people living there to be hard workers. The Portuguese captured them and took them to work in Portugal as slaves.
- In 1517, the Portuguese started transporting slaves from Africa to America.
- Workers were captured in their villages in Africa and put on ships that took them to America. The journey took over two months. The Africans were packed tightly into the ships, kept in chains, and were not often allowed above-deck for sunlight. Many died before reaching America.
- Once in America, the Africans were sold, often to plantation owners. It is thought that over 10 million people were captured as part of the slave trade.
- It was not until the start of the Civil War in 1861 that the trade of African slaves to America stopped completely.
- In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which called for the freeing of all slaves, but the Southern states did not obey.
- In December 1865, the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution was adopted. The amendment ended slavery in the United States.
- Slavery still continues in certain parts of the world today. In some places, children are still kept as slaves.
- The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is one way of reminding people that slavery still exists and needs to be ended.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

What Would You Ask Rosa Parks?

If I could ask Rosa Parks one question, I would want to know

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**“Each person must  
live their life as a  
model for others.”**

- Rosa Parks





Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

What Would You Ask Rosa Parks?

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Accept all reasonable responses



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Who are some famous African Americans who are making a difference today? Describe some of their accomplishments.



Black History Month is a time to remember and celebrate people and events from the past. However, there are many African Americans who are making important contributions today. Think about those who are making an impact on today's world. They are the people we will be celebrating during Black History Months to come.

## Accept all reasonable responses

# Critical Thinking Question



George Washington Carver said,  
**"I wanted to know the name of every stone and flower and insect and bird and beast. I wanted to know where it got its color, where it got its life - but there was no one to tell me."**

**What does this tell you about him and how he became an inventor?**



He was curious about **everything!** Since there was no one to teach him, he had to experiment and learn on his own.



**Did you know that he made about 300 different products from peanuts, including skin lotion, shaving cream, and paper?**

# Critical Thinking Question

A key event in the civil rights movement was when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man.

Talk to your partner about why you think she did this.







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