

African American History Challenge

Life Upon These Shores

Part Fourteen – Foundations of the New Civil Rights Movement (1950—1963)

- A. Breaking A Barrier: Billy Eckstine
1. In the 1940's, his resonant baritone and bebop trumpet catapulted him to stardom and a provocative image in *Life*. Name him.
- B. Postwar Accomplishments: ...
1. In 1948, this American champion high jumper and sprinter became the first African American woman to win an Olympic gold medal. Name her.
 2. A 1944 graduate of Dunbar High School, in 1949 this young man became the first African American to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy. Name him.
 3. In 1950, the poet Gwendolyn Brooks became the first African American to win what prestigious award for writing?
 4. This Harvard Ph.D. graduate won the 1950 Nobel peace prize for his role in negotiating peace between Israel and the surrounding Arab states. Name him.
- C. Brown v. Board of Education...
1. Two Supreme Court cases decided June 5, 1950, set the foundation for the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision. Name one of these 1950 cases.
 2. In a 1954 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that “in the field of public education separate facilities are inherently unequal.” Name the case.

D. Invisible Man

1. In 1952, this African American wrote *The Invisible Man*, which was acclaimed by many to be the most significant novel published since World War II. Name the author.

E. The White Citizens Council

1. Thousands of Whites across the South, angered by the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, formed an organization to resist racial desegregation. Name it.

F. Emmitt Till

1. In August 1955, a 14-year old African American visited his uncle in Mississippi, whereupon he was brutally beaten and shot dead for flirting with a White woman. Name the child.

G. Rosa Parks And Boycotting The Buses

1. In late 1955, when she refused to give up her seat on a bus, this Black activist started a 381 day boycott that brought an end to segregation on buses in Montgomery. Name her.
2. In December 1955, after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus, a group was formed to coordinate a bus boycott. Who was chosen to lead this group?

H. Little Rock and the Civil Rights Act of 1957

1. In 1957, in Little Rock, when nine African American students were denied entrance to Central High School by the Arkansas governor and White mobs, what was the action taken by President Eisenhower?
2. In 1957, when a racial crisis was occurring in Little Rock, Arkansas, an important relevant law was passed by Congress. What was the name of this law?

- I. Southern Christian Leadership Conference...
1. In 1957, following the successful Montgomery bus boycott, Martin Luther King, Jr. kept the civil rights movement energized by forming a new national organization for African American rights. What was the name of that organization?
- J. A Raisin In The Sun
1. In the late 1950's, Lorraine Hansberry wrote a play that helped define race and economics, based upon an African American family moving to a White suburb of Chicago. Name the play.
 2. "What happens to a dream deferred?/Does it dry up/like a raisin in the sun?/or fester like a sore--/and then run?" Name the poet who wrote this.
- K. Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and Sit-Ins
1. In April 1960, following sit-in protests against racial segregation in several southern cities, college students organized their own national protest group. What was the name of this group?
- L. Biloxi Wade-In, Atlanta Kneel-In...
1. In 1960, in Biloxi, Mississippi, the major publicized civil rights protest was an effort to integrate what?
 2. In 1960, local civil rights activists conducted several "kneel-ins." What were these?
 3. In Jacksonville, Florida, in August 1960, the local Klan attacked 3000 Blacks gathered to support sit-in efforts. What was different about this Klan attack?
 4. On January 10, 1961, in Athens, Georgia, two African American students, Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton Holmes, accomplished what monumental feat?

M. Freedom Rides

1. In 1961, the efforts made by CORE to convince the federal government to enforce desegregation in interstate transit was commonly referred to as what?
2. During the Freedom Rides through the South in 1961, who was president of the United States?

N. Bill Russell And The Boston Celtics

1. Born in Louisiana in 1934, this basketball star led his college to two national championships and the Boston Celtics to eleven NBA titles—and also became the first African American NBA coach. Name him.

O. James Baldwin's Go Tell It On The Mountain

1. Born in New York in 1924, and known as the written voice of the civil rights movement, he wrote six novels and six books of essays dealing with social, racial and gender relationships. Name him.

Part Fifteen - The Movement At High Tide (1963—1968)

- A. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter From Birmingham Jail"
1. In 1963, while leading a campaign in Alabama, Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote a document that is critical to understanding King's belief in non-violent direct action as a weapon against segregation. What is the name of that document?
 2. During his anti-segregation campaign in Birmingham in 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote this response to clergymen critical of his tactics: "Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will." In what document did he write those words?
- B. March On Washington...16th Street Church Bombing
1. On August 28, 1963, more than 200,000 people converged on the Lincoln Memorial in the nation's capital for what event?
 2. The most renowned occurrence at the 1963 March on Washington was a speech outlining a vision of egalitarian America. What was the name of the speech and the speaker?
 3. Two weeks after the 1963 March on Washington, a horrid event occurred at the same church used by Martin Luther King, Jr. earlier in that year to organize protest marches. Name the church and briefly explain what happened.
- C. Live At The Apollo
1. The first African American artist to record a live concert and release it as an album was whom?
- D. LeRoi Jones's Blues People And King's Nobel Peace Prize
1. In 1963, the book entitled *Blues People : Negro Music In White America* was published. It was the first sociological analysis of African American music. Name the author.

2. In 1964, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the youngest recipient ever, who donated the \$54,000 prize to civil rights organizations. Name this American civil rights leader.

E. Chaney, Goodman, And Schwerner...Freedom Summer

1. In June 1964, White supremacists murdered three volunteers in Philadelphia, Mississippi. This occurred during a voter-registration drive that was called by what name?
2. In 1964, at the Democratic National Convention, Mississippi civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer presented the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party credentials in an attempt to replace what group?

F. War On Poverty, Economic Opportunity Act

1. In January 1964, President Lyndon Johnson declared an “unconditional war on poverty.” In August 1964, Johnson signed a law that would conduct that war. What was the name of the law?
2. In 1965, a controversial study suggested that African Americans lived in a “culture of poverty” attributable to the legacy of slavery. This study was known by what name?
3. In 1966 and 1967, President Lyndon Johnson appointed numerous African Americans to prominent federal offices. Name at least one of those appointed during those years.

G. Civil Rights Act of 1964 And Voting Rights Act of 1965

1. This law, enacted during the Lyndon Johnson administration, intended to outlaw discrimination in public accommodations, allows the government to initiate desegregation lawsuits and prevent discrimination based on gender. Name the law.
2. This law, enacted during the Lyndon Johnson presidential administration, was intended to eliminate tactics used by stubborn southerners to keep Blacks from voting. Name the law.

- H. Manchild In The Promised Land And ...Malcolm X
1. In 1965, Claude Brown wrote a book about his childhood in postwar Harlem, in which he illuminated challenges to the first generation of Blacks that moved to the North. Name the book.
 2. In October 1965, the author Alex Haley published his book about a Black man born in Omaha who escaped the downward spiral of crime to become a leader in the Nation of Islam. Name the book.
- I. Malcolm X And The Nation Of Islam
1. After joining the Nation of Islam, Malcolm X took the surname "X" to symbolize what?
 2. Born Malcolm Little in Omaha, he later became Malcolm X, and eventually changed his name to what?
 3. This statement summarized the ideology of a major civil rights leader during the late 1950's and early 1960's: "You cannot find one Black man, I don't care who he is, that has not been personally damaged in some way by the devilish acts of the collective White man." Name the leader.
- J. James Meredith And Medgar Evers
1. In 1962, 5,000 army troops were sent to control mobs so that this African American could enroll at the all-White University of Mississippi. Name the student involved.
 2. On the night of June 12, 1963, this official for the Mississippi branch of the NAACP was shot dead by a White supremacist. Name the victim.
- K. Civil Rights Protests And Urban Rioting In The North
1. During the 1960's, Blacks staged boycotts and protest rallies against school districts in several major northern cities. Name one such city discussed by Gates.

2. In 1964 and 1965, riots by Blacks in Harlem, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Watts were in response to what perceived misconduct?
- L. Selma, 1965
1. Beginning in March 1965, Martin Luther King, Jr. and other activists conducted three marches in Selma, Alabama. These marches led to the passage of what major federal law?
- M. Sammy Younge, ...The March Against Fear
1. In June 1966, after James Meredith was shot by a klansman, multiple Black leaders staged a march across Mississippi. Two major changes dealing with African American self-identity resulted from that march. Name at least one of these changes.
- N. "Float Like A Butterfly, Sting Like A Bee"
1. After becoming heavyweight champion by defeating Sonny Liston in 1964, this boxer went on to become a political activist and international celebrity. Name him.
- O. Black Panthers, US, Kwanzaa
1. Formed in October 1966 in Oakland, this organization advocated Black Power and revolutionary social changes as a part of its "Ten Point Program." Name the group.
 2. For a brief period in 1967, the Black Panther Party merged with another Black activist organization. Which group was that?
 3. In 1966, Maulana Ron Karenga founded a holiday founded upon the seven cardinal principles of people of African descent. Name the holiday.
 4. In 1965, the group US was founded by what two men?

- P. Edward Brooke And Julian Bond
1. In November 1966, upon election in Massachusetts, this 47-year-old became the first Black elected to the U.S. Senate from any northern state. Name him.
 2. One of the founding members of SNCC, this Black activist served in the Georgia state legislature from 1967 to 1987, then as Chairman of the NAACP from 1998 to 2010. Name him.
- Q. Loving v. Virginia, 1967
1. As of 1967, in America, 17 states still legally prohibited interracial marriage. These restrictions began to end with what 1967 U.S. Supreme Court decision?
- R. Riots, Newark, Election Of Black Mayors
1. In 1967, inflammatory speeches by SNCC leaders ironically brought about the election of Maryland's governor to vice-president under Richard Nixon. Name him and briefly explain his ascent.
 2. In July 1967, clashes between Blacks and the police cost 43 lives in one northern city and 23 in another. Name these cities.
 3. In November 1967, African Americans gained formal political power for the first time in two American cities by being elected mayor. Name these cities.
- S. Martin Luther King: Chicago, Vietnam And Assassination
1. In 1966, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the SCLC initiated efforts to improve conditions for Blacks in the North. He began in which northern city?
 2. In 1967, as he grew disillusioned with President Johnson, Martin Luther King, Jr. incurred Johnson's wrath by openly criticizing what?

3. On April 3, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot to death. In what city and what specific site?
- T. Civil Rights Act Of 1968
1. The Civil Rights Act of 1968 has proven most effective through the enforcement of Title VIII of the act, which is more commonly known by what name?
- U. The Orangeburg Massacre And The Kerner Report
1. In February 1968, at South Carolina State College, student protests resulted in state troopers shooting three students to death. This event is known by what name?
 2. In July 1967, a study reported the following: “Our nation is moving toward two societies, one Black, one White—separate and unequal.” Name the group that issued this report.
- V. Poor People’s Campaign And Resurrection City
1. In May 1968, the civil rights organization SCLC launched the Poor People’s Campaign in the nation’s capital. The shanties and tents built on the National Mall was called what?
- W. Tommie Smith And John Carlos—The 1968 Olympics
1. At the 1968 Olympics, two Black American sprinters displayed their empathy for victims of racism in America by doing what?

Part Sixteen - Cultural Integration (1969—1979)

- A. Quincy Jones: American National Treasure
1. Born in Chicago in 1933, this African American produced music for “The Bill Cosby Show” and “Roots”, and produced the hit Michael Jackson albums, “Off the Wall” and “Thriller.” Name him.
- B. Arthur Ashe: A Study In Bravery
1. Born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1943, he took up tennis early, and became the first African American male to win the U.S. Open, the Australian Open, and the Wimbledon Tennis Championship. Name him.
- C. Chicago Eight, Fred Hampton, Angela Davis
1. In 1968, at the Democratic National Convention, protests by Black Panther Bobby Seale and others put them on trial as a group known by what name?
 2. In 1969, in Chicago, tension between the police and the Black Panther Party led to a raid that killed what Panther leader?
 3. In Northern California, in 1970, the kidnapping of a judge by the Black Panthers led to the arrest and trial of the most visible and influential Black activist on the West Coast. Name her.
- D. Equal Employment Opportunity Act
1. Key amendments to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 were provided by a 1972 law intended to establish fair hiring practices. Name the law.
- E. Growth Of Black Political Power
1. In 1968, in Brooklyn, this Columbia University graduate became the first African American woman elected to the U.S. Congress. Name her.

2. In 1971, the thirteen African Americans in Congress formed a coalition intended to keep Black issues in the forefront. What was this bloc called?

F. Soul Train

1. In August 1970, Chicago television personality Don Cornelius produced a Black version of American Bandstand. What was this program entitled?

G. Busing In Boston

1. In June 1974, a U.S. District Court judge in Boston found that an intentional pattern of racial discrimination existed in the Boston Public Schools. What remedy did he order?

H. Blacks In The Military

1. During the 1960's and 70's, this career sailor became the first Black to 1) command an American warship; 2) earn the rank of rear admiral; and 3) achieve flag rank. Name him.
2. In 1980, the U.S. Naval Academy graduated its first Black female. Name her.
3. This Tuskegee graduate flew 101 combat missions in the Korean War and 78 combat missions in Vietnam, and in September 1975 became the first African American four-star general in the nation's history. Name him.

I. Alex Haley And Roots

1. Born in 1921, this African American served as the chief journalist for the U.S. Coast Guard, wrote the *Autobiography of Malcolm X*, and in 1976 published *Roots: The Saga of An American Family*. Name him.

J. Black Women Activists Of The 1970's

1. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed this Georgetown law professor as the first woman chair of the E.E.O. Name her.

2. In 1963, this graduate of Yale Law School became the first Black woman lawyer in the state of Mississippi, and later began the Children's Defense Fund, which pursued equal rights for children. Name her.
3. In 1965, this graduate of George Washington University was appointed as the first Black female ambassador, then later, under President Carter, became the first African American woman to hold a cabinet post. Name her.

K. The Morehouse School Of Medicine And Louis Sullivan

1. Louis Sullivan, the Secretary of Health and Human Services under the elder George Bush, was best known for establishing what institution in Atlanta, in 1975?

L. Birth Of Hip Hop

1. Beginning in New York City in 1973 with DJ Kool Herc, and continuing with Grandmaster Flash, Zulu Nation, and Public Enemy, this musical style has become the most far-reaching in the world. Name it.

M. The Bakke Case And Affirmative Action

1. Affirmative Action hiring and admission was set back in 1978 when the Supreme Court ruled that universities could not establish rigid quota systems requiring admission of a set number of minorities. What case rendered this decision?

Part Seventeen – Achievement (1980—2008)

A. African Americans In Entertainment

1. In the 1980's and 90's, Robert L. Johnson of BET and Oprah Winfrey of the Oprah Show reached what monetary distinction?
2. In 1983, the African American writer Alice Walker won the Pulitzer Prize for what novel?
3. Not only did Rita Dove win a Pulitzer Prize in poetry, but in 1993 she became the first African American to serve in what distinctive literary capacity ?
4. The African American playwright August Wilson won the Pulitzer Prize in 1985 for one of his plays, then again in 1990 for another play. Name one of these two plays.

B. Martin Luther King Day

1. On January 20, 1986, the nation first celebrated the only national holiday that recognizes a public citizen. Name it.

C. Thriller And Purple Rain

1. In December 1982, a musical album was released that eventually became the all-time best-selling album, selling over 100 million copies. Name the singer and the album.
2. Born in Minneapolis in 1958, this African American soul star reached stardom with the releases “1999”, “Purple Rain”, and “When Doves Cry.” Name the artist.

D. Jesse Jackson And Ronald Brown

1. Raised in South Carolina, this Black preacher, activist and politician established Operation Push and the Rainbow Coalition in the 1970's, and ran for President in 1984 and 1988. Name him.

2. In 1988, he was elected Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, making him the first African American chair of a major American political party. Name him.
- E. Fred Gordon And Barbara Harris
1. Another racial barrier fell in October 1987 when the U.S. Army appointed a Black man, Fred Gordon, to what position?
 2. In February 1989, in Boston, African American Barbara Harris became the first woman to serve as a Bishop in which religious organization?
- F. Spike Lee
1. Born in Atlanta and reared in Brooklyn, this film producer presented “School Daze” in 1988, “Do the Right Thing” in 1989, and “Jungle Fever” in 1991. Name him.
- G. Growing Political Power, 1989—1991
1. Born in Richmond, Virginia, this Korean War veteran became the nation’s first African American governor in 1989. Name him.
 2. Born in Washington, D.C. in 1944, Sharon Pratt Kelly became the first African American woman mayor of a major American city in 1990. What city was this?
 3. In 1992, Illinois elected the first Black woman to the U.S. Senate. Name her.
- H. Riots In Howard Beach, Bensonhurst, Virginia Beach, And L.A.
1. In December 1986, in Queens in New York City, a White mob attacked three Black men, causing one to be killed in traffic. History records this incident by what name?
 2. On August 23, 1989, in Brooklyn, 16-year-old Yusuf Hawkins was attacked by a White mob and shot dead. Subsequently Blacks and Whites clashed for the next two years. By what name is this incident known?

3. On Labor Day 1989, race riots occurred in Virginia when local White youth interfered with an annual Black fraternity celebration. What vacation town did this occur at?
4. The deadliest riot in American since the 1960's occurred in response to the 15-minute beating of a motorist by the Los Angeles police. Name the victim of this beating.

I. Clarence Thomas

1. In October 1991, this native Georgian became the second African American to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, despite misgivings by many Blacks about his conservative interpretation of the law. Name this Justice.

J. Air Jordan

1. Although cut from his high school team as a sophomore, this basketball player went on to become a two-time college player of the year, 1984 Olympic gold-medal winner, NBA Rookie of the Year, and six-time NBA champion. If you can, name him.

K. Photo Essay: Modern Olympians

1. Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Florence Griffith-Joyner, Carl Lewis, Edwin Moses, and Michael Johnson all have what sport in common?
2. Born in Chicago, this athlete was the first Black athlete in the world to win a gold medal in an individual Winter Olympics sport. Name him.
3. These African American sisters dominated American and world women's tennis in the late 1990's and early 2000's, and won gold medals in the 2000 Olympics. Name both.
4. This African American sprinter won the 100 meter dash at the 2004 Athens Olympics and the 2005 Helsinki World Championships, becoming one of few to ever double. Name the sprinter.

L. Advancement In The Sciences

1. This Air Force Academy graduate became an astronaut, and in 1989 became the first Black to command a space shuttle, the Discovery. Name this space pioneer.
2. On September 12, 1992, this Stanford and Cornell Medical School graduate became the first African American woman in space. Name her.
3. This graduate of the University of Arkansas Medical School became the first African American Surgeon General, in 1993. Name her.
4. Born in 1955 in Buffalo, New York, in 1995 this M.D. became the first African American to direct the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB prevention. Name her.

M. Giant Steps

1. Born in Harlem in 1937, this CCNY graduate became the first African American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and in 2001 the first Black Secretary of State. Name him.
2. Upon taking office in 2001, President George W. Bush named the first African American woman to serve as National Security Advisor, and in 2005 she became the first Black woman to serve as Secretary of State. Name her.

N. The Achievements Of Carl Lewis And Tiger Woods

1. Born in 1961 in New Jersey, this track star won four gold medals in the 1984 Olympics and won the Olympic long jump in four consecutive Olympics. Name him.
2. Born in California in 1975, this golfer was the first African American to win the Masters Championship, and eventually won the other majors three times each. Name him

- O. Pulitzer Prize Stories: Toni Morrison And George Walker
1. Born in Ohio in 1931, this African American writer won a Pulitzer Prize in 1988 for her best novel, *Beloved*, and in 1993 became the first African American to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. Name her.
 2. Born in Washington, D.C., in 1922, this Black composer won the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for Music, for the composition *Lilacs*, a song cycle based on Walt Whitman's poem about the assassination of President Lincoln. Name the composer.
- P. Tom Joyner
1. Born in Alabama in 1949, this broadcaster, in 1994, became the first African American to host a national radio program, wherein he pushed advertisers to address Black markets and launched voter registration drives. Name him.
- Q. Louis Farrakhan And The Million Man March
1. In 1995, this Nation of Islam leader organized the Million Man March, which promoted family values and emphasized the rebuilding of urban neighborhoods. Name this leader.
- R. Proposition 209 And The Texaco Suit
1. Despite its name, the American Civil Rights Institute, founded in California in 1996, actually sought to end what major civil rights strategy?
 2. In 1996, a major American oil company announced a historic \$140 million settlement in a lawsuit brought by its Black employees. What company was this?
- S. Thomas Jefferson, Sally Hemings
1. According to DNA testing, President Thomas Jefferson, an outspoken believer in the inferiority of Blacks, fathered children with his Black slave mistress. What was her name?
- T. Abner Louima And Amadou Diallo
1. In 1997, Abner Louima became well known in New York City because of a particularly brutal incident. Explain.

2. Early one morning in February 1999, Amadou Diallo was stopped by the New York City police for suspicion of rape. Briefly explain the horrid outcome of this stop.

U. Stellar Achievements

1. In 2002, for her role as the widow of a convicted murderer, this actress became the first African American woman to win the Oscar for Best Actress. Name her.
2. In 2002, for his role as a corrupt cop in “Training Days”, this Black actor won the Oscar for Best Actor. Name him.
3. Born in 1964, in Gulfport, Mississippi, this Indiana University graduate broadcast social and political commentaries prior to publishing the best seller, *The Covenant With Black America*. Name him.

V. Barack Obama In The U.S. Senate

1. Born on August 4, 1961, in Honolulu, this future president graduated from Columbia and Harvard Law School, and became a U.S. Senator from Illinois in 2004. Name him.

W. Hurricane Katrina

1. On Monday August 29, 2005, a storm struck New Orleans, causing 12,000 residents to flee to the Superdome and ultimately killing 1200 residents—and becoming the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history. What was the storm named?

X. The 2006 Elections

1. In 2006, the U.S. House went to the control of Democrats, which resulted in Blacks becoming Chairs of four House committees. Name at least one of these chairmen.

Y. Barack Obama’s Presidential Campaign

1. On January 20, 2009, this Black man took the oath of office as President of the United States and, for so many Americans, validated centuries of struggle by African Americans. Name this 44th President of the United States of America.