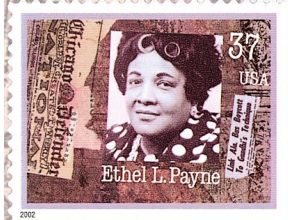


# Black Heritage: Women Who Made a Difference Page 1 ->

**STAMP DISCOVERY**  
EDUCATION PROGRAM  
POSTAL HISTORY FOUNDATION



Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman are not included in this lesson as most students are very familiar with their importance in American history. The people in this lesson should also be recognized for their important contributions to U.S. history and humanity. This worksheet may be copied for educational use only. Many of these stamps are recent and currently not available in sufficient numbers for students. Grade 3+



- 1.) \_\_\_\_\_ was appointed Dean of Howard University School of Law and Ambassador to Luxembourg. She was appointed Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in 1977 and later headed the Health and Human Services Department. She was the first African-American to serve in the Cabinet of the United States and as a U.S. Ambassador. (1924-1985)
- 2.) This person understood that “Women’s rights and civil rights are indivisible.” \_\_\_\_\_ was one of the organizers of the March on Washington in 1963 but realized that she was not considered an equal by leaders of the civil rights movement. She helped form the National Women’s Political Caucus and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. (1912-2010)
- 3.) One of the most important black scholars in United States history, \_\_\_\_\_ was born into slavery and was able to gain an education and eventually earn a Ph.D in history from the Sorbonne in Paris. She delivered many speeches calling for civil rights and women’s rights. “The cause of freedom is not the cause of a race or a sect, a party or a class-it is the cause of human kind, the very birthright of humanity.” (1858-1964)
- 4.) The daughter of former slaves, \_\_\_\_\_ developed a very successful business manufacturing hair products. She became one of the nation’s first female millionaires and one of the leading African-American philanthropists. Her priorities were education, charitable institutions, political rights and economic opportunities for women.(1867-1919)
- 5.) Her refusal to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus resulted in her arrest and the successful boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama bus system. Later \_\_\_\_\_ participated in the March on Washington in 1963, and the march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996. (1913-2005)
- 6.) \_\_\_\_\_ was a Vietnam War correspondent and wrote about the segregation of U.S. troops. She also wrote about the unjust treatment of minorities. In 1972, she became the first female African-American commentator to be employed by a national network (CBS) and to receive accreditation as a White House correspondent. (1911-1991)
- 7.) As the first black woman to serve in the Texas senate and later elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, \_\_\_\_\_ worked very hard for proper health care, consumer protection, women’s rights, free legal services for the poor, and the prevention and treatment of alcoholism and cancer. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994. (1936-1996)
- 8.) \_\_\_\_\_ was the first black woman in Congress (1968) and the first black person to seek the nomination for president of the United States from the Democratic Party in 1972. She was an advocate for women and minorities during her seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives representing the state of New York. (1924-2005)
- 9.) After teaching, \_\_\_\_\_ became a journalist while writing about her experiences suing a railroad company for racial discrimination. She spent a large part of her career leading an anti-lynching crusade and promoting voting rights for women. In 1909 she founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). (1862-1931)
- 10.) \_\_\_\_\_ wrote about the real-life experiences of being an African-American in the South. She earned a degree in anthropology and was one of the writers at the center of the Harlem Renaissance. She also researched African-American and Caribbean folklore. (1891-1960)
- 11.) \_\_\_\_\_ was a leading educator and civil rights activist. She believed that education provided the key to racial advancement. She started one of the first colleges for African-American students, Bethune-Cookman College. (1875-1955)

# Black Heritage: Women Who Made a Difference p.2

Women who paved the way for the next generation in literature, music, dance, sports, and more!



- 1.) Denied entry to flight schools in the United States because she was black, and a woman, \_\_\_\_\_ traveled to France to learn aviation. She was the first black American to receive an international pilot's license. Her goal to start an aviation school for blacks was never realized because of her death in a plane crash at a stunt show. (1892-1926)
- 2.) After being denied the right to perform at Constitution Hall because she was black, \_\_\_\_\_ performed on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to a crowd of 75,000 in 1939. She was the first black opera singer to appear on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera in New York. In 1963 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1897-1993).
- 3.) Called the "Mother of Blues," \_\_\_\_\_ was born in Alabama in the 1886. In her teenager years, she started performing in minstrel shows and later started recording records in 1932. She recorded more than 100 songs over five years with various famous artists such as Louis Armstrong. (1886-1939)
- 4.) \_\_\_\_\_ was an American poet, singer, memoirist, and civil rights activist. She published three books of essays, seven autobiographies, and several books of poetry. She received dozens of awards and more than 50 honorary degrees. Many of her books are studied at the college level. Her writing centered around racism, identity, family, and travel. (1928-2014)
- 5.) This person was a dancer, choreographer, author, educator, anthropologist, and social activist. \_\_\_\_\_ had one of the most successful dance careers in African-American and European theater of the 20th century. She directed her own dance company for many years. (1909-2006)
- 6.) \_\_\_\_\_ began singing in Harlem nightclubs as a teenager and recorded her first song at age 18. Artie Shaw hired her to lead his all-white orchestra. She pioneered a new way of manipulating phrasing and tempo and was known for her vocal delivery and improvisational skills. She had a major influence on jazz and pop singing. (1915-1959)
- 7.) This chef, teacher, and author championed the use of in-season ingredients, and influenced the American view of Southern cooking as fried chicken (pan fried), pork, and fresh vegetables, especially greens. \_\_\_\_\_ authored four cook books about Southern cooking and life in a small community of freed slaves and their descendants. (1916-2006)
- 8.) In her lifetime, \_\_\_\_\_ was known as the First Lady of Song, Queen of Jazz, and Lady Ella. Her voice was flexible, wide-ranging, accurate and pure. She was also noted for her impeccable diction, phrasing, intonation, and scat singing. She could imitate every instrument in an orchestra. She recorded with all the great jazz bands of the time. (1917-1996)
- 9.) \_\_\_\_\_ was the first American woman to win three gold medals in track and field at a single Olympics in 1960. As a child, she became ill with double pneumonia, scarlet fever, and polio which resulted in her having to wear a brace on her left leg. With a lot of hard work and physical therapy, she became a world class athlete. (1940-1994)
- 10.) \_\_\_\_\_ was one of the first black athletes to cross the color line in international tennis. In 1956, she became the first African American to win a Grand Slam title, the French Championships. She won both Wimbledon and U.S. Nationals (precursor of the US Open) twice and was voted Female Athlete of the Year by the Associated Press twice. (1927 – 2003)
- 11.) Referred to as "The Queen of Gospel", \_\_\_\_\_ was heralded internationally as a singer and civil rights activist. She recorded 30 albums during her career. "I sing God's music because it makes me feel free", Jackson once said about her choice of gospel, adding, "It gives me hope. With the blues, when you finish, you still have the blues." (1911-1971)

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- 1.) Patricia R. Harris was appointed Dean of Howard University School of Law and Ambassador to Luxembourg. She was appointed Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in 1977 and later headed the Health and Human Services Department. She was the first African-American to serve in the Cabinet of the United States and as a U.S. Ambassador. (1924-1985)
- 2.) This person understood that "Women's rights and civil rights are indivisible." Dorothy Height was one of the organizers of the March on Washington in 1963 but realized that she was not considered an equal by leaders of the civil rights movement. She helped form the National Women's Political Caucus and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. (1912-2010)
- 3.) One of the most important black scholars in United States history, Anna Julia Cooper was born into slavery and was able to gain an education and eventually earn a Ph.D in history from the Sorbonne in Paris. She delivered many speeches calling for civil rights and women's rights. "The cause of freedom is not the cause of a race or a sect, a party or a class-it is the cause of human kind, the very birthright of humanity." (1858-1964)
- 4.) The daughter of former slaves, Madam C.J. Walker developed a very successful business manufacturing hair products. She became one of the nation's first female millionaires and one of the leading African-American philanthropists. Her priorities were education, charitable institutions, political rights and economic opportunities for women.(1867-1919)
- 5.) Her refusal give up her seat and move to the back of the bus resulted in her arrest and the successful boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama bus system. Later Rosa Parks participated in the March on Washington in 1963, and the march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996. (1913-2005)
- 6.) Ethel L. Payne was a Vietnam War correspondent and wrote about the segregation of U.S. troops. She also wrote about the unjust treatment of minorities. In 1972, she became the first female African-American commentator to be employed by a national network (CBS) and to receive accreditation as a White House correspondent. (1911-1991)
- 7.) As the first black woman to serve in the Texas senate and later elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, Barbara Jordan worked very hard for proper health care, consumer protection, women's rights, free legal services for the poor, and the prevention and treatment of alcoholism and cancer. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994. (1936-1996)
- 8.) Shirley Chisholm was the first black woman in Congress (1968) and the first black person to seek the nomination for president of the United States from the Democratic Party in 1972. She was an advocate for women and minorities during her seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives representing the state of New York. (1924-2005)
- 9.) After teaching, Ida B. Wells became a journalist while writing about her experiences suing a railroad company for racial discrimination. She spent a large part of her career leading an anti-lynching crusade and promoting voting rights for women. In 1909 she founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). (1862-1931)
- 10.) Zora Neale Hurston wrote about the real-life experiences of being an African-American in the South. She earned a degree in anthropology and was one of the writers at the center of the Harlem Renaissance. She also researched African-American and Caribbean folklore. (1891-1960)
- 11.) Mary McLeod Bethune was a leading educator and civil rights activist. She believed that education provided the key to racial advancement. She started one of the first colleges for African-American students, Bethune-Cookman College. (1875-1955)

# Black Heritage: Women Who Made a Difference p.2

Women who paved the way for the next generation in literature, music, dance, sports, and more!



- 1.) Denied entry to flight schools in the United States because she was black, and a woman, Besse Coleman traveled to France to learn aviation. She was the first black American to receive an international pilot's license. Her goal to start an aviation school for blacks was never realized because of her death in a plane crash at a stunt show. (1892-1926)
- 2.) After being denied the right to perform at Constitution Hall because she was black, Marian Anderson performed on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to a crowd of 75,000 in 1939. She was the first black opera singer to appear on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera in New York. In 1963 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1897-1993).
- 3.) Called the "Mother of Blues," Ma Rainey was born in Alabama in the 1886. In her teenager years, she started performing in minstrel shows and later started recording records in 1932. She recorded more than 100 songs over five years with various famous artists such as Louis Armstrong. (1886-1939)
- 4.) Maya Angelou was an American poet, singer, memoirist, and civil rights activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, and several books of poetry. She received dozens of awards and more than 50 honorary degrees. Many of her books are studied at the college level. Her writing centered around racism, identity, family, and travel. (1928-2014)
- 5.) This person was a dancer, choreographer, author, educator, anthropologist, and social activist. Katherine Dunham had one of the most successful dance careers in African-American and European theater of the 20th century. She directed her own dance company for many years. (1909-2006)
- 6.) Billie Holiday began singing in Harlem nightclubs as a teenager and recorded her first song at age 18. Artie Shaw hired her to lead his all-white orchestra. She pioneered a new way of manipulating phrasing and tempo and was known for her vocal delivery and improvisational skills. She had a major influence on jazz and pop singing. (1915-1959)
- 7.) This chef, teacher, and author championed the use of in season ingredients, and influenced the American view of Southern cooking as fried chicken (pan fried), pork, and fresh vegetables—especially greens. Edna Lewis authored four cook books about Southern cooking and life in a small community of freed slaves and their descendants. (1916-2006)
- 8.) In her lifetime, Ella Fitzgerald was known as the First Lady of Song, Queen of Jazz, and Lady Ella. Her voice was flexible, wide-ranging, accurate and pure. She was also noted for her impeccable diction, phrasing, intonation, and scat singing. She could imitate every instrument in an orchestra. She recorded with all the great jazz bands of the time. (1917-1996)
- 9.) Wilma Rudolph was the first American woman to win three gold medals in track and field at a single Olympics in 1960. As a child, she became ill with double pneumonia, scarlet fever, and polio which resulted in her having to wear a brace on her left leg. With a lot of hard work and physical therapy, she became a world class athlete. (1940-1994)
- 10.) Althea Gibson was one of the first black athletes to cross the color line in international tennis. In 1956, she became the first African American to win a Grand Slam title, the French Championships. She won both Wimbledon and U.S. Nationals (precursor of the US Open) twice and was voted Female Athlete of the Year by the Associated Press twice. (1927 – 2003)
- 11.) Referred to as "The Queen of Gospel", Mahalia Jackson was heralded internationally as a singer and civil rights activist. She recorded 30 albums during her career. "I sing God's music because it makes me feel free", Jackson once said about her choice of gospel, adding, "It gives me hope. With the blues, when you finish, you still have the blues." (1911-1971)