



Heroic Quotes

K-5

Objective: Students will discover prominent African Americans throughout history, learn about their accomplishments and the impact they had in the world.

Topics & Keywords for Discussion: heroism, oppression, civil rights.

Materials: Magazines, scissors, glue, markers, multimedia paper

Opening Activity: Ask students to share about heroes- what makes someone (real or fictional) heroic? What defines a HERO? Who are YOUR heroes? Why do you look up to them, or admire them? Does someone in YOUR life consider YOU a hero?

Core Activity: February is "Black History Month," a time to commemorate African-Americans who have changed the world.

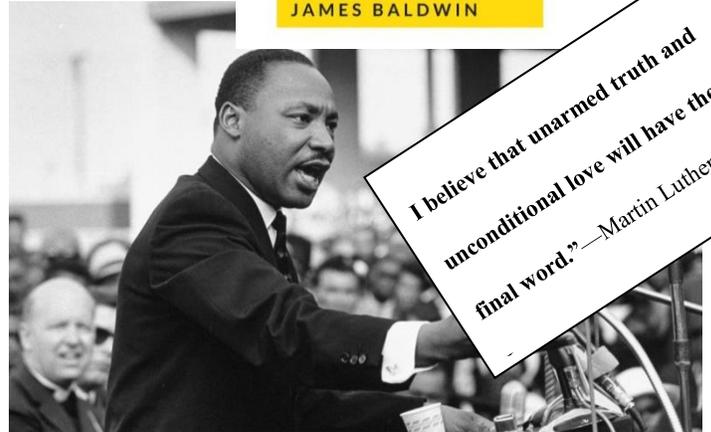
Celebrating Black History began in 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard Ph.D., initiated "Negro History Week." Dr. Woodson, a historian, chose the second week in February because it included the birthdays of [Frederick Douglass](#) and [Abraham Lincoln](#). In 1976, the Bicentennial (200th birthday) of the U.S.A., the week-long observance was extended to the entire month of February in order to have enough time for celebratory programs and activities.

Choose one of the quotes from celebrated black Americans throughout history (you can either RE-WRITE IT in your own handwriting, or cut and paste the quote) and create a collage to express the quote or your reaction to the quote.

Reflection: What is bravery? What is courage? Do you have to be courageous to be a hero? Why did you choose your quote? What does your quote say about the HERO who originally said it? What does your choice of quote say about YOU and what's important to you?

"I can't believe what you say,
because I see what you do."

JAMES BALDWIN



“Never be limited by other people’s limited imaginations.”

—Dr. Mae Jemison, first African-American female astronaut

“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.”—Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The cost of liberty is less than the price of repression.”

—W.E.B. Du Bois

“In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute.”

—Thurgood Marshall, first African American U.S. Supreme Court member

“Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated.” —Coretta Scott King

“Whatever we believe about ourselves and our ability comes true for us.”

—Susan L. Taylor, journalist

“Defining myself, as opposed to being defined by others, is one of the most difficult challenges I face.”

—Carol Moseley-Braun, politician and lawyer

“One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings.”

—Franklin Thomas, activist, philanthropist, and former president of the Ford Foundation

“My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.”

—Desmond Tutu

“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.”

—Langston Hughes

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.”

—Frederick Douglass

“The time is always right to do what is right.”

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Have a vision. Be demanding.”

—Colin Powell

“Freedom is never given; it is won.”

—A. Philip Randolph, civil rights activist

“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.”

—Booker T. Washington

“We all have dreams. In order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort.”

—Jesse Owens, world record-setting Olympic athlete