

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is dedicated as Black History Month, honoring the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. history, including the civil rights movement and their artistic, cultural and political achievements.¹



Black History Month can be traced all the way back to September of 1915, when historian Carter G. Woodson and Minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History – also known as the ASNLH. This organization was dedicated to researching and promoting the achievements of not only black Americans but all prominent people of African descent. In 1926, this group sponsored a National Negro History Week.²



The month of February was chosen because Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were born in that month. Many communities around the country began to organize local celebrations on the achievements of black Americans.³

Black History Month was first proposed by black educators, and the Black United Students at Kent State University in February of 1969. The first celebration of Black History Month took place at

Kent State one year later, from January 2, 1970 – February 28, 1970. Six years later, Black History Month was being celebrated all across the country in educational institutions, centers of black culture and community centers, both great and small, when President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month, during the celebration of the United States Bicentennial. He urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history”³.

The Pan-African flag was created in 1920 by the members of the UNIA which later became an African nationalist symbol for the world-wide liberation of people of African origin. As an emblem of Black pride, the flag became popular during the Black Liberation movement of the 1960s.



Red: The blood that unites all people of Black African ancestry, and shed for liberation.

Black: Black people whose existence as a nation, though not a nation-state, is affirmed by the existence of the flag.

Green: The abundant, natural wealth of Africa.⁴



1. <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history>

2. <http://www.holidayscalendar.com/event/black-history-month/>

3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_History_Month

4. https://www.theunia-acl.com/index.php/history-red-black-green#Colors_and_significance

Photos: Bing.com