

Black History Month



Google Slides Digital Activity

Black History Month
Name That Canadian!

Read the information and how they became Black Canadian on the

Skill: Main Idea

Black History Month
Famous Black Canadians

Did you know that:

- Rose Fortune a former slave, She also became the first poet.
- In 1853, Mary Ann Shadd from the editor of a newspaper. She
- William Hall from Horton Bluffs he became the first Canadian to be a
- Dr. Anderson Fuffin Abbott became the first Black Canadian to be a
- John Ware, a Texas cowboy, moved to the Northwest Territories and into
- Harry Jerome from Prince Albert won a bronze medal at the 1904
- Portia White from Truro, Nova Scotia she sang for Queen Elizabeth
- In 1996, Donovan Bailey of Ontario won the Olympic Games. He won the
- Josiah Henson was born a slave in America. He formed a community
- Oscar Peterson is one of the most famous singers and musicians in the world for his music.
- Elijah McCoy was a Black Canadian and on his return to Canada in 1870 he noticed that the world for his music.

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Black History Month

Read the information to learn how home for more than four

Skill: Noting Details

When did it happen?

Record the year or years

1. Slavery was abolished in Canada
2. The Coloured Corps was formed
3. The British Imperial Act was passed
4. Mathieu Da Costa arrived in Canada
5. Oliver Lejeune was born
6. The Abolition Act was passed
7. Black people were allowed to join the military
8. The Parliament of Canada was formed
9. During the War of 1812
10. 800 free black people came to Vancouver Island

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Black History Month

Black Canadians were not allowed to join combat units in the military during World War I. They contributed to the war effort. A segregated battalion made up of Black Canadians called The **Number 2 Construction Battalion** was formed. They were responsible for building bridges, digging trenches and clearing roads.

When the Second World War came, Black Canadians were allowed to join the armed forces and fight in the military.

In the United States, a historian named Carter G. Woodson established **Negro History Week** on the birthday of two famous African American men, **Abraham Lincoln** and **Frederick Douglass**. In 1976, it became **Black History Month**.

In December 1995, the **Parliament of Canada** passed a motion to put forth by the Honourable **Jean Augustine, M.P.** to the Prime Minister. Her motion was to make **February** Black History Month.

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Black History Month

Canadian history books fail to mention the presence of people of African descent even though they have been living in Canada since the early 1600s. There is little mention of the fact that slavery once existed in the territory that is now Canada. Many of the Loyalists who settled in the Maritimes were black. Black Canadian soldiers made many sacrifices while defending Canada during wartime as far back as the War of 1812.

The first person of African descent to set foot in what would become Canada arrived around four hundred years ago. According to records, in 1604, **Mathieu Da Costa** arrived with the French explorers **Pierre Du Gua De Monts** and **Samuel de Champlain**. He was a free man who worked as an interpreter and helped to communicate with the Mik'maq people who lived in the area.

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In 1779, in an attempt to win the **War of American Independence**, the British military invited all black men, women and children to help them with their cause and in return they would win their freedom. Many accepted the invitation; as a result, ten percent of the **United Empire Loyalists** were black.

The **Abolition Act** was passed in Upper Canada (Ontario) in 1793. This law made it illegal to bring slaves into Upper Canada and freed slaves over the age of twenty-five. Upper Canada soon became a safe haven for runaway slaves.

In 1833, the **British Imperial Act** abolished slavery throughout the empire including Canada. This law encouraged approximately twenty thousand black people to escape to Canada by way of the **Underground Railway** between 1800-1865.

An important battle took place during the **War of 1812** at **Queenston Heights** between the British and the Americans. A group of black soldiers called the **Coloured Corps** fought with the British. This Corp was formed by **Richard Pierpont**, a **Black Loyalist** and a true Canadian hero.

Railway porters worked on the two main Canadian railways in the late 1880s. They played a major role in the struggle for black rights in Canada. Through their unions such as the **"Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters"** and the **"Order of Sleeping Car Porters,"** they gained recognition for black workers. They made important contributions to the campaign for human rights to end discrimination in railway employment.

In 1858, eight hundred free black people came to find a new life on **Vancouver Island** in British Columbia leaving behind a racially oppressive life in San Francisco. Even though they faced intense discrimination, these pioneers enriched the political, religious, and economic life of the colony.

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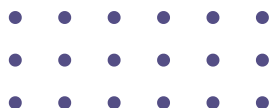
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ANSWER KEY

Black History Month:

When did it happen?

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|--------------|---------|
| 1. 1793 | 2. 1812 | 3. 1833 | 4. 1604 |
| 5. 1628 | 6. 1793 | 7. 1800–1865 | |
| 8. 1995 | 9. 1779 | 10. 1858 | |

Name That Canadian!

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Dr. Anderson Fuffin Abbot | 2. John Ware |
| 3. Harry Jerome | 4. Portia White |
| 5. Mary Ann Shadd | 6. Rose Fortune |
| 7. William Hall | 8. Oscar Peterson |
| 9. Donevan Bailey | 10. Josiah Henson |
| 11. Elijah McCoy | 12. Mary Ann Shadd |
| 13. John Ware | 14. Harry Jerome |
| 15. Josiah Henson | |

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

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- When you're ready for your students to complete the assignment, you will share your downloaded copy with your students. Make sure that when you share the file, **you only allow viewing capability (not editing or commenting).**
- If you want to only share one slide at a time, open your saved copy of the file, select the slide you want to share, right-click on the slide in the view panel on the left side, select copy. Then open a new empty Google Slides presentation and paste the copied slide into the new file. If your students need more than one slide for their writing assignment, direct them to duplicate the slide.

Students will...

- When your students begin working on the assignment, instruct your students to **make a copy of the file.** This is the copy that they will edit. I would recommend having a common filename that each student should use with their name or student ID.
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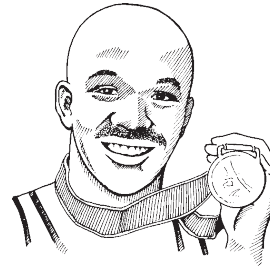
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Black History Month

Canadian history books fail to mention the presence of people of African descent even though they have been living in Canada since the early 1600s. There is little mention of the fact that slavery once existed in the territory that is now Canada. Many of the Loyalists who settled in the Maritimes were black. Black Canadian soldiers made many sacrifices while defending Canada during wartime as far back as the War of 1812.



Donavan Bailey



Michaëlle Jean Lafond

The first person of African descent to set foot in what would become Canada arrived around four hundred years ago. According to records, in 1604, **Mathieu Da Costa** arrived with the French explorers **Pierre Du Gua De Monts** and **Samuel de Champlain**. He was a free man who worked as an interpreter and helped to communicate with the Mik'maq people who lived in the area.

Slavery did exist in Canada from 1628 until it was abolished in Upper Canada (Ontario) in 1793. The first known slave, **Oliver LeJeune**, was recorded in 1628. He came to Canada from Africa when he was a child and was given the name of one of his owners, a priest.

In 1779, in an attempt to win the *War of American Independence*, the British military invited all black men, women and children to help them with their cause and in return they would win their freedom. Many accepted the invitation; as a result, ten percent of the **United Empire Loyalists** were black.

The **Abolition Act** was passed in Upper Canada (Ontario) in 1793. This law made it illegal to bring slaves into Upper Canada and freed slaves over the age of twenty-five. Upper Canada soon became a safe haven for runaway slaves.

In 1833, the **British Imperial Act** abolished slavery throughout the empire including Canada. This law encouraged approximately twenty thousand black people to escape to Canada by way of the *Underground Railway* between 1800-1865.

An important battle took place during the **War of 1812** at **Queenston Heights** between the British and the Americans. A group of black soldiers called the **Coloured Corp** fought with the British. This Corp was formed by **Richard Pierpont**, a **Black Loyalist** and a true Canadian hero.

Railway porters worked on the two main Canadian railways in the late 1880s. They played a major role in the struggle for black rights in Canada. Through their unions such as the "**Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters**" and the "**Order of Sleeping Car Porters**," they gained recognition for black workers. They made important contributions to the *campaign for human rights* to end discrimination in railway employment.

In 1858, eight hundred free black people came to find a new life on **Vancouver Island** in British Columbia leaving behind a racially oppressive life in San Francisco. Even though they faced intense discrimination, these pioneers enriched the political, religious, and economic life of the colony.

Black Canadians were not allowed to join combat units in the military during World War I but still contributed to the war effort. A segregated battalion made up of Black Canadians called **The Number 2 Construction Battalion** was formed. They were responsible for building bridges, digging trenches and clearing roads.

When the Second World War came, Black Canadians' efforts were more persistent. They were allowed to join the armed forces and went to serve with distinction in all branches of the military.

In the United States, a historian named **Carter G. Woodson** proposed an observance to honour the accomplishments of Black Americans in order to raise the awareness of Black History. This led to the establishment of **Negro History Week in 1926**. Woodson chose February for this observance because the birthday of two famous abolitionists fell in that month. They were **Frederick Douglas and President Abraham Lincoln**. In 1970, the week became known as **Black History Week** and in 1976 it became **Black History Month**.

In December 1995, the **Parliament of Canada** officially recognized February as Black History Month. This motion was put forth by the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament. Her name is the Honourable **Jean Augustine, M.P. of Etobicoke-Lakeshore** and at the time was Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister. Her motion was passed unanimously by the House of Commons.



Black History Month

Read the information to find out how “Black Canadians” have made Canada their home for more than four centuries and how they have left their mark on our history.

When did it happen?

Record the year or years on the line at the beginning of each event to tell when it took place.

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- _____ 10. 800 free black people moved to Vancouver Island from the U.S. for a better life.



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Black History Month

Famous Black Canadians

Did you know that:

- Rose Fortune a former slave, from Annapolis Royal in Nova Scotia, began her own business in 1825. She also became the first policewoman in Canada.
- In 1853, Mary Ann Shadd from Chatham, Ontario, was the first woman in North America to become the editor of a newspaper. She also opened an integrated school for children.
- William Hall from Horton Bluff, Nova Scotia joined the Royal Navy when he was a teenager. In 1857, he became the first Canadian sailor as well as the first Black Canadian to receive the Victoria Cross for bravery.
- Dr. Anderson Fuffin Abbott became the first Canadian born black to become a doctor in 1861.
- John Ware, a Texas cowboy, moved to Alberta in 1882. He helped to build the Bar U Ranch in the Northwest Territories and introduced longhorn cattle to Canada.
- Harry Jerome from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, ran the 100 metre sprint in 10seconds flat. He won a bronze medal at the 1964 Olympics and a gold medal at the 1966 Commonwealth Games.
- Portia White from Truro, Nova Scotia performed as a concert singer all around the world. In 1964, she sang for Queen Elizabeth II in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.
- In 1996, Donovan Bailey of Oakville, Ontario, became the fastest man in the world at the Atlanta Olympic Games. He won the one hundred metre sprint and broke both the Olympic and World Records.
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- Elijah McCoy was a Black Canadian from Colchester, Ontario. He studied engineering in Scotland and on his return to Canada was unable to find any job other than a railway fireman. As a mechanic in the 1870's he noticed that machines had to be stopped every time they needed oil. Elijah invented a device to oil machines while they were working, and soon no machine was considered complete until it had a McCoy Lubricator.

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Black History Month

Information & Worksheets

Black History Month

Canadian history books fail to mention the presence of people of African descent even though they have been living in Canada since the early 1600s. There is little mention of the fact that slavery once existed in the territory that is now Canada. Many of the Loyalists who settled in the Maritimes were black. Black Canadian soldiers made many sacrifices while defending Canada during wartime as far back as the War of 1812.



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An important battle took place during the War of 1812 at Queenston Heights between the British and the Americans. A group of black soldiers called the Coloured Corp fought with the British. This Corp was formed by Richard Pierpont, a Black Loyalist and a true Canadian hero.

Railway porters worked on the two main Canadian railways in the late 1880s. They played a major role in the struggle for black rights in Canada. Through their unions such as the "Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters" and the "Order of Sleeping Car Porters" they gained recognition for black workers. They made important contributions to the campaign for human rights to end discrimination in railway employment.

In 1858, eight hundred free black people came to find a new life in British Columbia leaving behind a racially charged past. Although they faced intense



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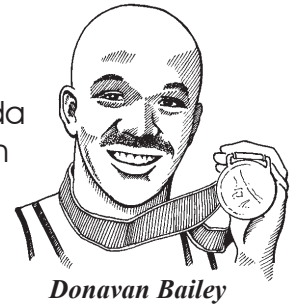
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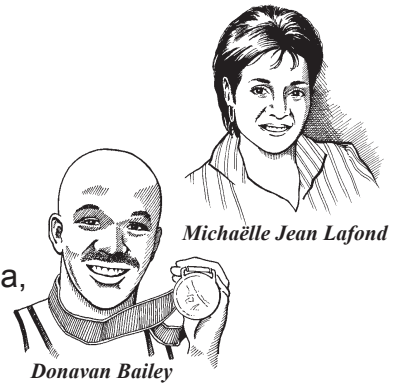
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Black History Month: (page 3)

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- | | | | |
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Name That Canadian! (page 5)

- | | |
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