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Black History Month Biographies



6 Black Leaders

Reading Passages +
Questions

Graphic Organizers

ELA & SS Standards
Aligned

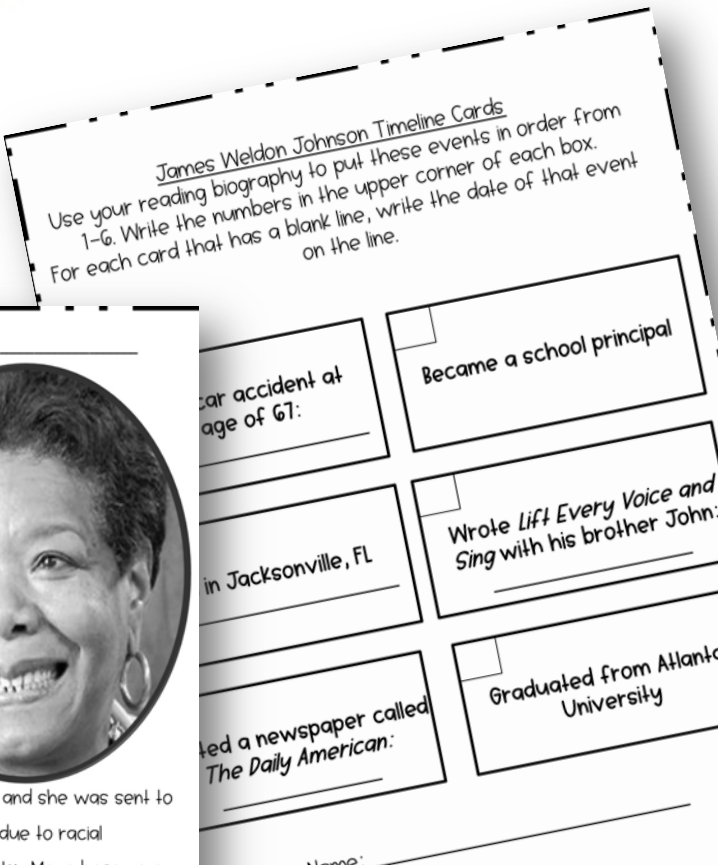
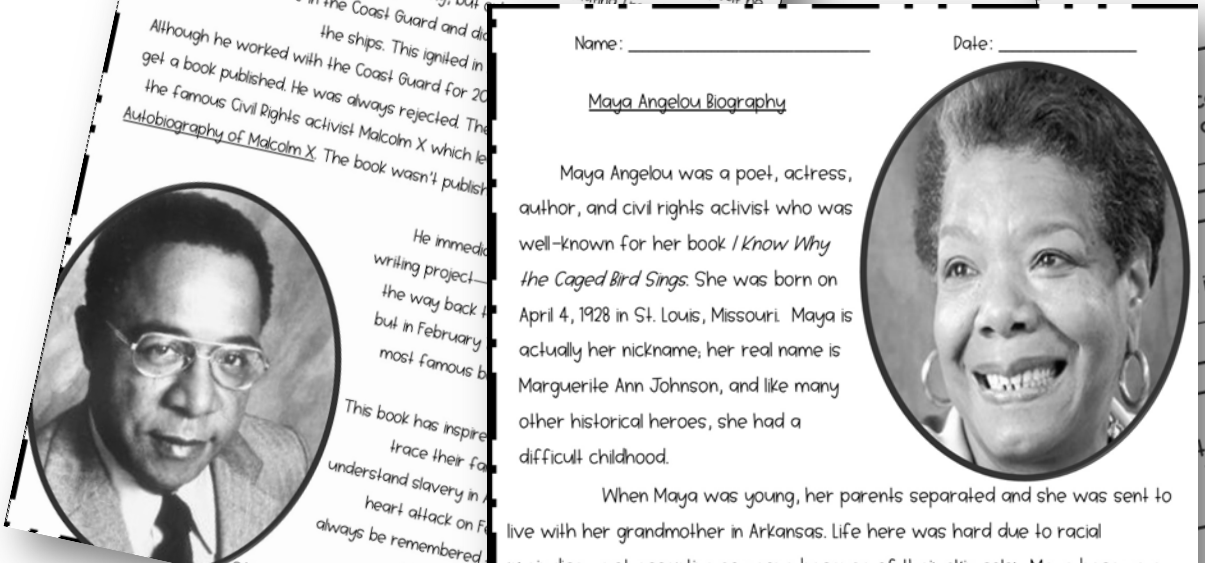
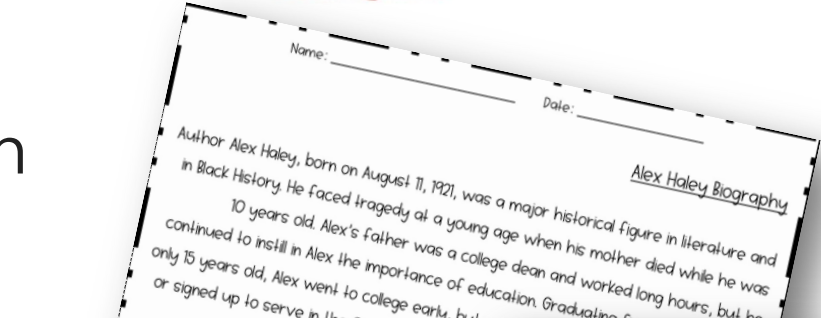

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Black History Month Biographies

★ Biographies Included:

- James Weldon Johnson
- Maya Angelou
- Carter G. Woodson
- Marian Wright Edelman
- Mary McLeod Bethune
- Alex Haley

Gives students a chance to learn about Black heroes beyond Dr. King and Rosa Parks.



Alex Haley Biography
Name: _____ Date: _____
Author Alex Haley, born on August 11, 1921, was a major historical figure in literature and in Black History. He faced tragedy at a young age when his mother died while he was 10 years old. Alex's father was a college dean and worked long hours, but he continued to instill in Alex the importance of education. Graduating at only 15 years old, Alex went to college early, but he signed up to serve in the Coast Guard and did the ships. This ignited in him a passion for the Coast Guard for 20 years. Although he worked with the Coast Guard for 20 years, he never got a book published. He was always rejected. The famous Civil Rights activist Malcolm X which led to the *Autobiography of Malcolm X*. The book wasn't published until 1963. He immediately started a writing project—the way back to Africa—but in February 1961, he had a heart attack on Florida. This book has inspired many people to trace their families and understand slavery in America. It will always be remembered.

Maya Angelou Biography
Name: _____ Date: _____
Maya Angelou was a poet, actress, author, and civil rights activist who was well-known for her book *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. She was born on April 4, 1928 in St. Louis, Missouri. Maya is actually her nickname, her real name is Marguerite Ann Johnson, and like many other historical heroes, she had a difficult childhood. When Maya was young, her parents separated and she was sent to live with her grandmother in Arkansas. Life here was hard due to racial segregation and poverty. She was one of the first students to graduate from the college.

James Weldon Johnson Timeline Cards
Use your reading biography to put these events in order from 1-6. Write the numbers in the upper corner of each box. For each card that has a blank line, write the date of that event on the line.

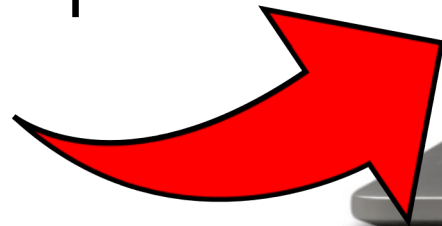
_____ car accident at age of 67:	_____ Became a school principal
_____ in Jacksonville, FL	_____ Wrote <i>Lift Every Voice and Sing</i> with his brother John:
_____ ed a newspaper called <i>The Daily American</i> :	_____ Graduated from Atlanta University

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Black History Month Biographies

With this resource, students learn *why* and *how* Black History Month began and *who* started it!

Google Forms quiz included.



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Black History Month Biographies

Black History Month
biographies Planning Page

Black History Month Biography—Person (s):

Essential Question/ Lesson Hook:	Standards:
Skills / Objectives:	Timeline to Complete:
Resources Needed:	
Extras:	

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**Lesson Plan
Included**

**This resource is NOT
editable.**

**Life Timelines on
each person**

4th--6th Grades

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Black History Month Biographies

★ What Other Teachers Are Saying:

• This was a great resource especially **during guided reading to have small group discussions that transformed into wonderful classroom learning and talks.**

-Victoria

• **This set helped my students to learn about a variety of accomplished African-Americans during our nonfiction unit.** The activities helped them find evidence in the text and use ordering skills to make timelines... -Christina

The activities helped them find evidence in the text and use ordering skills to make timelines... -Christina

Order the events of each person's life.

Name: _____ Date: _____
James Weldon Johnson Biography

James Weldon Johnson had many important achievements during his lifetime. Leading the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—or NAACP—and working as an early civil rights activist, are just two of his many accomplishments. James, with the help of his brother John, also wrote *Lift Every Voice and Sing* in 1899, which is now the official anthem for the NAACP. Many others call this song the Black American National Anthem. James wrote it as a poem, and his brother created the music.

Before achieving these things, James grew up in Jacksonville, FL with his family. He was born on June 17, 1871. Slavery—holding someone against his or her will—had ended in the United States in 1865, so James was born free. However, there was still a lot of segregation during this time because whites and blacks were not living together in harmony; they lived separated.

When James grew up, he graduated from Atlanta University and became a school principal for a brief time period. Then he established a newspaper called *The Daily American* in 1891. He continued to do many great things to help all people have peace and prosperity.

He died in a car accident at the age of 67 on June 26, 1938. His legacy—what he has handed down to future generations—still continues to inspire many more.

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Name: _____

James' birth

James Weldon Johnson
Timeline
Complete this timeline of events for James' life.

You should have a total of 6 events on this timeline—which includes his birth and death. And four of them should have the dates beside them.

James' death

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Black History Month Biographies

★ What Other Teachers Are Saying:

• **I loved using this to have my students create mini reports** about what they learned about different African Americans through history.

-Jessica

• **This is an incredible resource to spark inquiry of influential Black Americans.** -Esther

• This is fantastic.... **I love how the questions force them to go back in the text to find the answers** and the timelines are a great help with my social studies standards. Great resource

-Julie

Detailed Lesson Plan

Suggested Timeline for a full week of Black History Month Biography Lessons

Day of the Week	Lesson Plan	Resources Needed
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduce Black History Month with a K-W-L Activity or Lesson Hook about itComplete one reading comprehension biography figure with whole class to set expectations (Estimated Time: 25-27 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A way to project the biography & answer key on the board for all studentsCopies of biographies for each student
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review procedures taught yesterday with an anchor chart OR write on the whiteboardComplete the 2 timeline worksheets to accompany the biography person you read yesterday with students (Estimated Time: 25-27 minutes) For fast finishers, have an activity planned while the others finish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A way to project the timelines & answer keys on the board for all students to seeAnchor Chart or board surface to write onTimelines for each student
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduce a new biography person with students: either as a whole group lesson or break into partnersYou can also use these reading passages as a special center activity for FebruaryDay Three Work (Estimated Time: 25 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Same materials from Monday
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Same process from Tuesday on your 2nd biography personYour students should remember how to complete the timelines from Monday since the layout is the sameFeel free to use these timeline pages as homework or classwork for early finishers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Same materials from TuesdayTo see more ideas on teaching Black History, visit www.thebutterflyteacher.com
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Compare and contrast the two biographies you read this week---OR---Use a review system like Plickers to gauge understanding---OR---Break into small groups to complete one of the reflection / review graphic organizers in this set	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Anchor ChartsFor more resources, visit Tanya G. Marshall--The Butterfly Teacher on TpT
Extras	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Possible Lesson Hooks: Find acceptable YouTube videos related to these figures for extensionFind picture books on these Black History Month figures to learn even more about them	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Extension Activity Idea: Have students design a poster on their favorite Black History Month biography person to present.

If you follow this timeline for the full month of February, you will finish all 6 biographies in this set during the third week. Use the final week of February to complete any extension activities or larger projects related to Black History Month.

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Black History Month Biographies

Graphic organizers included to extend the learning!

Black History Month Biographies

Directions: In the bubbles below, give a lot of details to describe James Weldon Johnson
Feel free to add more bubbles!

Draw a picture of James in center

equality Reflection

7 things I learned about Black History Month

7 things I can do to encourage equality

Name: _____

Today's Date: _____

black history month Facts

Name: _____

Today's Date: _____

What I learned about...

James Weldon Johnson: _____

Jane Elliot: _____

Maya Angelou: _____

Alex Haley: _____

Mary McLeod Bethune: _____

Abraham Lincoln: _____

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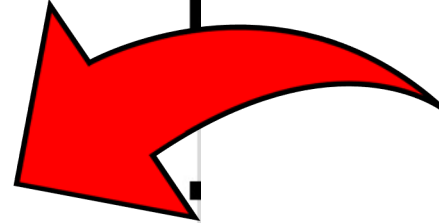
Name: _____

Date: _____

Marian Wright Edelman Biography

Marian Wright Edelman is not only an activist for the equality of African-Americans, but she has also worked tirelessly to protect all children in America. She is the founding president of the Children's Defense Fund, an organization that works hard to make sure all children stay healthy, get a good education, and are not abused. Before Edelman started the CDF, she worked hard as a civil rights activist to make sure blacks in America were treated equally.

She was born as Marian Wright on June 6, 1939 in South Carolina. Her parents urged her to get a great education so that she could use it to help make the lives of others better. After Marian graduated high school, she enrolled at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. She graduated valedictorian, the top academic



Each bio has a real picture of each person. No clipart animations.

Thanks for your interest in this resource.



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Get a Better Deal with the Bundle!



You can save 30% off when you get the bundled set with 11 meaningful Black History activities that can be used BEYOND February!

It has over 320 pages of activities.
Click the image for more details.