

hidden figures black history month

****Hidden Figures Black History Month: Celebrating Unsung Heroes of Science and Space****

hidden figures black history month is a powerful phrase that evokes stories of courage, intellect, and perseverance. During Black History Month, we often reflect on the monumental contributions of African Americans across various fields. Among these narratives, the story of the "Hidden Figures" stands out as a testament to resilience and brilliance in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). These African American women, whose work was pivotal to the success of NASA's early space missions, remained largely unrecognized for decades. Celebrating hidden figures during Black History Month not only honors their legacy but also inspires new generations to break barriers in STEM and beyond.

The Untold Story of Hidden Figures

The term "Hidden Figures" gained widespread attention thanks to the 2016 film of the same name, which dramatized the lives of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson. These women were mathematicians and engineers at NASA during the 1950s and 1960s, a time when segregation and discrimination were rampant in American society. Despite these challenges, their calculations and expertise were critical in launching astronaut John Glenn into orbit and ensuring his safe return.

Who Were These Hidden Figures?

- ****Katherine Johnson****: Known for her exceptional skill in analytical geometry, Katherine calculated trajectories for the Mercury and Apollo missions. Her work ensured the precision needed for safe space travel.
- ****Dorothy Vaughan****: A gifted mathematician and computer programmer, Dorothy became NASA's first African American supervisor. She mastered early computer programming languages and helped transition the agency's workforce into the computer age.
- ****Mary Jackson****: Starting as a mathematician at NASA, Mary became the agency's first black female engineer. She advocated for equal opportunities for women and minorities throughout her career.

Their stories reveal much more than scientific achievement; they highlight the intersection of race, gender, and professional excellence.

Why Hidden Figures Matter During Black History Month

Black History Month is a dedicated time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout history. Incorporating the narratives of hidden figures into this celebration brings attention to those who have historically been marginalized or overlooked. Their stories challenge the traditional narratives that often exclude women and minorities from scientific history.

Moreover, honoring hidden figures during Black History Month serves as a reminder that diversity fuels innovation. NASA's success in those early space explorations was not just about technology—it was about the people behind the numbers. Recognizing these women's achievements encourages inclusivity in STEM fields today, inspiring young black girls and boys to pursue careers in science and engineering.

Educational Impact and Representation

Integrating hidden figures into Black History Month curriculums and events can have a profound educational impact. It helps students see themselves reflected in history and understand that scientific genius knows no gender or racial boundaries. Schools and communities celebrating these figures often:

- Use biographies and documentaries to teach about their lives.
- Host STEM workshops and mentorship programs inspired by their legacy.
- Encourage discussions on the importance of diversity in scientific fields.

This approach not only honors the past but also cultivates a more inclusive future.

How to Celebrate Hidden Figures During Black History Month

Celebrating hidden figures during Black History Month can be both meaningful and fun. Whether you're an educator, parent, or community leader, there are plenty of ways to highlight their contributions and spark curiosity about STEM.

Organize Educational Events

- **Film Screenings**: Host a viewing of *Hidden Figures* followed by discussions or Q&A sessions about the women's impact on NASA and civil

rights.

- ****Guest Speakers****: Invite local scientists, engineers, or historians to share insights about African American contributions to STEM.
- ****STEM Challenges****: Create math or science challenges inspired by the work of Katherine Johnson and her colleagues.

Create Interactive Learning Experiences

- Develop projects where students calculate or simulate space trajectories.
- Use programming exercises to introduce basic coding concepts, honoring Dorothy Vaughan's pioneering work in computer science.
- Highlight engineering principles through hands-on activities, reflecting Mary Jackson's path to becoming an engineer.

Promote Literature and Resources

There are many books and resources available that celebrate hidden figures and African American women in STEM, such as:

- **Hidden Figures** by Margot Lee Shetterly
- **Rise of the Rocket Girls** by Nathalia Holt
- Children's books like **Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race** by Margot Lee Shetterly

Sharing these materials can deepen understanding and appreciation for these incredible women.

The Broader Impact of Hidden Figures on Society

The story of hidden figures transcends NASA and space exploration; it represents a broader cultural shift towards recognizing marginalized voices in history and science. Their legacy has:

- Encouraged diversity initiatives in STEM education and the workplace.
- Sparked conversations about equity and inclusion in scientific research.
- Inspired media representations that celebrate black excellence in intellectual fields.

By bringing hidden figures to light during Black History Month, society takes a step closer to honoring all contributors to human progress.

Inspiring the Next Generation

The visibility of hidden figures sends a powerful message to young people, especially girls and minorities, that they too can excel in challenging fields. This inspiration is crucial for building a diverse pipeline of future scientists, engineers, and innovators. Programs like scholarships, mentorships, and STEM camps dedicated to underrepresented groups often cite stories of hidden figures as motivation.

Lessons on Perseverance and Excellence

Beyond their scientific achievements, the hidden figures exemplify resilience in the face of systemic barriers. Their determination to excel despite segregation and discrimination is a valuable lesson for all. It teaches us that talent and hard work can break down even the most entrenched obstacles, a message especially resonant during Black History Month.

Each February, as we celebrate Black History Month, revisiting the stories of hidden figures enriches our understanding of history and inspires a more inclusive future. Their brilliance, courage, and contributions continue to illuminate the path forward, reminding us that history is made not just by the famous but also by those whose stories were once hidden.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who are the 'Hidden Figures' celebrated during Black History Month?

The 'Hidden Figures' refer to a group of African American women mathematicians and engineers, including Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, who worked at NASA and made significant contributions to the U.S. space program despite facing racial and gender discrimination.

Why is 'Hidden Figures' important in the context of Black History Month?

'Hidden Figures' highlights the overlooked achievements of Black women in STEM fields, emphasizing their crucial role in American history and inspiring recognition and celebration of Black contributions during Black History Month.

What major accomplishments did Katherine Johnson achieve as one of the Hidden Figures?

Katherine Johnson calculated critical flight trajectories for NASA missions,

including the first American in space and the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, ensuring their success and safety.

How did the story of the Hidden Figures change public perception about African American women?

The story of the Hidden Figures brought to light the intelligence, perseverance, and critical contributions of African American women who had been marginalized, challenging stereotypes and inspiring many to pursue careers in science and technology.

What role did Dorothy Vaughan play at NASA as one of the Hidden Figures?

Dorothy Vaughan was NASA's first African American supervisor and an expert in computer programming, who led a team that transitioned from manual calculations to electronic computing, significantly advancing NASA's capabilities.

How is Black History Month used to educate people about the Hidden Figures?

During Black History Month, schools, organizations, and media highlight the stories of the Hidden Figures through documentaries, books, films, and events to educate the public about their contributions and the broader history of African Americans in science and technology.

What lessons can be learned from the Hidden Figures during Black History Month celebrations?

The Hidden Figures teach lessons about resilience, determination, and breaking barriers in the face of discrimination, encouraging inclusivity and recognition of diverse contributions to history and progress.

Additional Resources

Hidden Figures Black History Month: Unveiling Unsung Heroes of Science and History

hidden figures black history month serves as a powerful reminder of the extraordinary contributions made by African American women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), particularly during pivotal moments in American history. This annual observance not only honors the perseverance and brilliance of these trailblazers but also challenges the mainstream narratives that have historically marginalized their stories. The term "hidden figures" gained widespread recognition through the 2016 film adaptation of Margot Lee Shetterly's book, which chronicles the lives of

three remarkable African American women at NASA – Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson. These women's work was instrumental in propelling the United States ahead in the space race, yet their stories remained largely untold for decades.

As Black History Month continues to evolve in its scope and impact, the emphasis on "hidden figures" underscores a broader imperative: to identify and celebrate those whose contributions have been overlooked due to race and gender biases. The intersection of Black history, women's history, and STEM achievements offers a rich tapestry of narratives that inspire and educate. This article delves into the significance of hidden figures during Black History Month, explores the socio-historical context of their achievements, and examines the ongoing efforts to bring such stories to light.

The Historical Context of Hidden Figures in Black History Month

The recognition of hidden figures during Black History Month is rooted in a long history of systemic exclusion and erasure within educational, scientific, and cultural institutions. African American women in STEM faced not only racial segregation but also gender discrimination, which compounded the challenges they encountered in pursuing careers in predominantly white and male-dominated environments.

During the mid-20th century, particularly in the 1940s through the 1960s, America's technological and scientific advancements were closely tied to the Cold War and the space race. NASA, a critical institution in this era, relied heavily on mathematicians and engineers to execute complex calculations necessary for space missions. African American women mathematicians, known colloquially as "human computers," played an essential role in these efforts despite being relegated to segregated workspaces and denied professional recognition.

Black History Month, established by historian Carter G. Woodson as "Negro History Week" in 1926 and expanded in 1976, provides a platform to revisit and celebrate such contributions. The inclusion of hidden figures in the month-long observance serves not only as an acknowledgment of their scientific achievements but as a corrective to historical narratives that have traditionally centered white men.

Key Personalities: Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson

The stories of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson encapsulate the essence of hidden figures and their impact on American history:

- **Katherine Johnson:** Renowned for her extraordinary skill in complex orbital mechanics calculations, Johnson's work was critical in ensuring the success of John Glenn's 1962 orbital mission. Her ability to verify computer-generated trajectories cemented her status as a pioneering mathematician at NASA.
- **Dorothy Vaughan:** As NASA's first African American supervisor, Vaughan's expertise in programming and mathematics helped transition the agency from manual calculations to computer programming, particularly with the IBM systems that revolutionized spaceflight operations.
- **Mary Jackson:** Breaking barriers as NASA's first African American female engineer, Jackson's technical contributions and advocacy for equal opportunities helped pave the way for future generations of women in STEM.

Their stories, once hidden, now serve as educational cornerstones during Black History Month, inspiring new dialogues about diversity, equity, and inclusion in scientific fields.

Hidden Figures Black History Month: Bridging the Past and Present

The contemporary significance of hidden figures during Black History Month extends beyond historical recognition. It challenges existing educational curricula and workplace cultures to embrace inclusivity and representation.

Educational Impact and Curriculum Integration

Incorporating the narratives of hidden figures into school programs and university courses has proven essential in diversifying STEM education. Studies show that representation in curricula positively influences the academic motivation and career aspirations of underrepresented students. By highlighting African American women's contributions in science and engineering, educators can combat stereotypes that suggest these fields are inaccessible to minorities or women.

Schools and institutions increasingly use Black History Month as an opportunity to introduce students to these role models through multimedia presentations, literature, and interactive projects. The film "Hidden Figures" itself has become a resource for educators, enabling a visual and emotional connection to history that textbooks alone cannot provide.

Workplace Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives

The legacy of hidden figures also informs contemporary diversity and inclusion policies within STEM industries. Companies and organizations recognize that fostering diverse talent pools contributes to innovation and problem-solving. Programs celebrating Black History Month often include panels, workshops, and mentorship opportunities that spotlight historical figures alongside current leaders in science and technology.

However, challenges remain. Despite progress, African American women remain underrepresented in many STEM fields. Addressing these disparities requires sustained efforts rooted in awareness, education, and structural change – all themes resonant with the hidden figures' stories.

Broader Cultural Implications of Hidden Figures During Black History Month

The celebration of hidden figures contributes to a wider cultural reexamination of whose histories are valued and preserved. It prompts questions about the mechanisms of historical visibility and invisibility, particularly regarding race and gender.

Redefining Historical Narratives

Traditional historical narratives have often marginalized minority contributions, leading to a skewed understanding of scientific and cultural progress. The focus on hidden figures encourages a more nuanced and inclusive approach to history, one that acknowledges the complexity of social dynamics and the multiplicity of contributors.

Empowerment Through Storytelling

Storytelling serves as a powerful tool for empowerment during Black History Month. By bringing hidden figures to the forefront, communities and individuals find sources of pride and resilience. These stories challenge prevailing biases and inspire future generations to envision themselves as innovators, leaders, and change-makers.

Media Representation and Its Effects

The success of "Hidden Figures" in mainstream media demonstrated the economic and cultural viability of stories centered on African American women in STEM.

This visibility creates a positive feedback loop, encouraging more content creators to explore similar themes and expanding public awareness.

Nevertheless, it is important to critically assess media portrayals to ensure they do not oversimplify or romanticize complex histories. Authentic representation requires attention to both achievements and the systemic obstacles these women faced.

Looking Forward: The Role of Hidden Figures in Future Black History Month Observances

As the dialogue around diversity in STEM and historical recognition continues to evolve, hidden figures will likely maintain a prominent place in Black History Month celebrations. Their stories serve as a bridge linking past struggles and triumphs with ongoing efforts toward equality and representation.

Educational institutions, corporations, and cultural organizations are increasingly tasked with not only commemorating these pioneers but integrating their legacies into sustained programs and policies. This approach ensures that recognition transcends symbolic gestures and contributes to tangible progress.

Furthermore, expanding the scope of hidden figures beyond NASA and the space race to include other sectors such as medicine, technology, and activism will enrich Black History Month's narrative landscape. Highlighting a wider array of unsung heroes reinforces the multifaceted contributions of African Americans throughout history.

By continuing to illuminate these hidden figures, Black History Month transforms into a dynamic platform for learning, advocacy, and inspiration, inviting society to confront its blind spots and embrace a more inclusive vision of history and possibility.

[Hidden Figures Black History Month](#)

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hidden figures black history month: *Black History Is All Our History* Salli Penni, 2024-07-31
In celebration of Black History Month, this engaging book from award-winning barrister Dr Sally Penni MBE shines a spotlight on a number of notable Black Britons (plus a handful of world figures)

and their achievements. From well-known figures such as Lewis Hamilton to lesser-known yet equally amazing individuals (such as Walter Tull, considered the UK's first professional black footballer) the book fascinates and informs in equal measure. This quick-read biographical anthology is a great reminder of the diversity of both British and world history, and is a perfect either as a pick-up, put-down book, or as a captivating binge read. From black Romans to black Tudors and black soldiers... Black History is All Our History!

hidden figures black history month: *The 1960s on Film* Jim Willis, Mark Miller, 2021-10-11 The 1960s on Film tells the narrative of the 1960s through the lens of the movie camera, analyzing 10 films that focus on the people, events, and issues of the decade. Films create both an impression of and – at times for younger audiences – a primary definition of events, people, and issues of an era. The 1960s on Film examines the 1960s as the decade was presented in ten films that focused on that decade. This book analyzes both what the films have to say about the era and how close they come to accurately depicting it. For example, films such as Mississippi Burning and Selma tell the story of racial conflict and hope for reconciliation in the 1960s. Other films such as The Right Stuff and Hidden Figures show the deep fascination America had at that time with the burgeoning space program and NASA, while Easy Rider analyzes the role of rock music and drugs among young people of the decade. The Deer Hunter studies the controversies surrounding the war in Vietnam.

hidden figures black history month: *Kreativität* Melanie Raabe, 2020-11-02 Kreativität ist eine Lebenseinstellung Kreativität macht glücklich – und sie hilft uns dabei, die Herausforderungen des Lebens zu meistern, im Großen wie im Kleinen. Melanie Raabe, SPIEGEL-Bestsellerautorin und selbst lange auf der Suche nach ihrem „ganz persönlichen Ding“, erklärt in diesem Buch, weshalb wir alle kreativ sind und wie wir die Inspiration finden, um auf das zu stoßen, was uns im Innersten ausmacht und weiterbringt. Dabei geht es um Mut und Beharrlichkeit, Leichtigkeit und Durchhaltevermögen, um Originalität und Schnapsideen, um Produktivität und Prokrastination, ums Scheitern und vor allem: ums Weitermachen, auch wenn ein rauer Wind bläst. Denn Kreativität ist mehr als der gelegentliche Geistesblitz. Kreativität ist eine Lebenseinstellung.

hidden figures black history month: *Focus On: 100 Most Popular Drama Films Based on Actual Events* Wikipedia contributors,

hidden figures black history month: *Reclaiming the Black Past* Pero G. Dagbovie, 2018-11-13 The past and future of Black history In this information-overloaded twenty-first century, it seems impossible to fully discern or explain how we know about the past. But two things are certain. Whether we are conscious of it or not, we all think historically on a routine basis. And our perceptions of history, including African American history, have not necessarily been shaped by professional historians. In this wide-reaching and timely book, Pero Gaglo Dagbovie argues that public knowledge and understanding of black history, including its historical icons, has been shaped by institutions and individuals outside academic ivory towers. Drawing on a range of compelling examples, Dagbovie explores how, in the twenty-first century, African American history is regarded, depicted, and juggled by diverse and contesting interpreters—from museum curators to filmmakers, entertainers, politicians, journalists, and bloggers. Underscoring the ubiquitous nature of African-American history in contemporary American thought and culture, each chapter unpacks how black history has been represented and remembered primarily during the “Age of Obama,” the so-called era of “post-racial” American society. Reclaiming the Black Past is Dagbovie's contribution to expanding how we understand African American history during the new millennium.

hidden figures black history month: *Educating African American Students* Gloria Swindler Boutte, 2022-07-12 This straightforward and reader-friendly text provides strategies for P-12 educators who are interested in ensuring the cultural and academic excellence of African American students. It presents a careful balance of published scholarship, a framework for culturally relevant teaching, and research-based cases of teachers who excel at teaching Black children. Examples from multi-ethnic teachers across P-12 grades and content areas (e.g., ELA, science, mathematics, social studies, arts) are presented so that others can extrapolate in their respective educational settings. This book explains Black culture, anti-Black racism, African Diaspora Literacy,

African American Language, and pro-Black and actionable steps that educators can adopt and implement. Examples of culturally relevant family and community involvement are provided. As with the previous edition, readers will appreciate a multitude of resources. After reading this book, educators will view educating African American students as exhilarating and rewarding and Black students will flourish.

hidden figures black history month: Pro-Blackness in Early Childhood Education Gloria Swindler Boutte, Jarvais J. Jackson, Saudah N. Collins, Janice R. Baines, Anthony Broughton, George Lee Johnson, 2024 This book provides evidence-based curriculum examples, pedagogies, and resources; demonstrates how teachers can achieve Pro-Black teaching while also addressing curricular standards; and explains the benefit of Pro-Black teaching for all children--

hidden figures black history month: Teaching Beautiful Brilliant Black Girls Omobolade Delano-Oriaran, Marguerite W. Penick, Shemariah J. Arki, Ali Michael, Orinthia Swindell, Eddie Moore Jr., 2021-03-27 Be a part of the radical transformation to honor and respect Beautiful Brilliant Black Girls! This book is a collective call to action for educational justice and fairness for all Black Girls - Beautiful, Brilliant. This edited volume focuses on transforming how Black Girls are understood, respected, and taught. Editors and authors intentionally present the harrowing experiences Black Girls endure and provide readers with an understanding of Black Girls' beauty, talents, and brilliance. This book calls willing and knowledgeable educators to disrupt and transform their learning spaces by presenting: Detailed chapters rooted in scholarship, lived experiences, and practice Activities, recommendations, shorter personal narratives, and poetry honoring Black Girls Resources centering Black female protagonists Companion videos illustrating first-hand experiences of Black Girls and women Tools in authentically connecting with Black Girls so they can do more than survive - they can thrive.

hidden figures black history month: Black and Great Rene Germain, 2022-05-12 An inspiring read from start to finish. It is not often you get to read a compilation of experiences and insight from such a diverse variety of Black British talent, who have all excelled in their chosen field. The wisdom shared in the book will be invaluable for budding scientists, politicians, sportspeople, bankers and entertainers alike. - Selina Flavius, author and founder of Black Girl Finance Featuring interviews and letters from some of the UK's leading Black voices in their respective fields - including Beverley Knight MBE, Trevor Nelson MBE, Gina Yashere, Christine Ohuruogu MBE, Ronke Lawal, Kayode Ewumi, Kwame Kwei-Armah OBE, JB Gill, Tangy Morgan, Alexandra Burke, Professor Patricia Daley (the first Black woman to be appointed a lecturer at the University of Oxford) and Ashley Walters - Black and Great is essential reading for Black professionals ready to make their mark in the working world and beyond! Black and Great not only highlights the specific challenges Black people face in the working world, but provides readers with honest and practical advice to thrive and carve out the career of their dreams, whilst embracing their Blackness. The book will share the career journeys of over 20 successful Black British professionals and entrepreneurs from TV & film, sport, media, law, medicine and finance through open letters and interviews, providing advice, support and encouragement to Black students and professionals starting out in their working lives. From personal branding to salary negotiation and overcoming Imposter Syndrome, this candid and inspirational book reveals their highs and lows, how they bounced back from failure, plus the best and worst advice they have received over the years.

hidden figures black history month: Black Women Shattering Stereotypes Kay Siebler, 2021-04-21 Black Women Shattering Stereotypes: A Streaming Revolution focuses on the work, voices, and perspectives of Black women in popular film and television. Kay Siebler argues that within the past five years, in response to the digital age and the number of racist stereotypes being purported in dominant culture, Black women creators are making entertainment media that fights back against these racist and sexist narratives and celebrates the realities of being Black and being a woman in today's world. When Black women are behind the camera, writing, directing, and producing, Siebler finds, the representations of Black women change dramatically in empowering and important ways. Focusing on films and series produced since 2015 that are made by, for, and

about Black women, Siebler analyzes the portrayals of Black women and their culture in *Bessie*, *Self Made*, *Hidden Figures*, *Harriet*, *Insecure*, *Being Mary Jane*, *Twenties*, and *Chewing Gum*, among others. Siebler intertwines these analyses with in-depth interviews with over one hundred Black women throughout the book, offering a variety of perspectives across the broad spectrum of demographics that are—and are not—being represented in mainstream media.

hidden figures black history month: *Black American History For Dummies* Ronda Racha Penrice, 2021-04-14 Go deeper than the Black History you may think you know! *Black American History For Dummies* reveals the terrors and struggles and celebrates the triumphs of Black Americans. This handy book goes way beyond what you may have studied in school, digging into the complexities and the intrigues that make up Black America. From slavery and the Civil Rights movement to Black Wall Street, Juneteenth, redlining, and Black Lives Matter, this book offers an accessible resource for understanding the facts and events critical to Black history in America. The history of Black Americans is the history of Americans; Americans dance to Black music, read Black literature, watch Black movies, and whether they know it or not reap the benefits of the vibrant political, athletic, and sociological contributions of Black Americans. With this book, you can dive into history, culture, and beyond. See how far there's yet to go in the approach to studying Black American culture and ending racism. Get the authoritative story on the growth and evolution of Black America from slavery, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, the Civil Rights era through to today. Discover the Black artists, musicians, athletes, and leaders who have made the United States what it is. Develop a fuller understanding of concerns about police brutality and other front-and-center race issues. Find out how every aspect of American life connects to Black history. *Black American History For Dummies* is for anyone who needs to learn or re-learn the true history about Black Americans.

hidden figures black history month: Nuances of Blackness in the Canadian Academy Awad Ibrahim, Tamari Kitossa, Malinda S. Smith, Handel Kashope Wright, 2022-02-02 The essays in *Nuances of Blackness in the Canadian Academy* make visible the submerged stories of Black life in academia. They offer fresh historical, social, and cultural insights into what it means to teach, learn, research, and work while Black. In daring to shift from margin to centre, the book's contributors confront two overlapping themes. First, they resist a singular construction of Blackness that masks the nuances and multiplicity of what it means to be and experience the academy as Black people. Second, they challenge the stubborn durability of anti-Black tropes, the dehumanization of Blackness, persistent deficit ideologies, and the tyranny of low expectations that permeate the dominant idea of Blackness in the white colonial imagination. Operating at the intersections of discourse and experience, contributors reflect on how Blackness shapes academic pathways, ignites complicated and often difficult conversations, and reimagines Black pasts, presents, and futures. This unique collection contributes to the articulation of more nuanced understandings of the ways in which Blackness is made, unmade, and remade in the academy and the implications for interrelated dynamics across and within post-secondary education, Black communities in Canada, and global Black diasporas.

hidden figures black history month: Redefining Geek Cassidy Puckett, 2022-04-20 After six years teaching technology classes to first-generation, low-income middle-school students in Oakland, California, Cassidy Puckett has seen firsthand that being good with technology is not something people are born with—it's something they learn. In *Redefining Geek*, she overturns the stereotypes around the digitally savvy and identifies the habits that can help everyone cultivate their inner geek. -- Through her solid research and her experiences with working with diverse student learners, Puckett does an exemplary job in helping readers understand and rethink what it means to be technologically competent... This knowledge and her guidance—coupled with a thorough examination of how our biases can further exacerbate the digital divide—is beneficial in designing tech curriculum and programs that are more inclusive and supportive to the diverse communities that they are serving. A must-read for any professional seeking to improve and advance technology education. -- Susanne Tedrick, author of *Women of Color in Tech*

hidden figures black history month: 100 Black Women Who Shaped America Glenn L.

Starks, 2024-06-27 This introductory text explores the lives of 100 Black women and their unique and meaningful legacies upon the history, society, and culture of the USA. Today, the names and remarkable achievements of Black women such as Maya Angelou, Serena Williams, Michelle Obama, and Oprah Winfrey are well known to many Americans. Yet throughout American history, many lesser-known Black women like them have made invaluable contributions to sports, science, the arts, medicine, politics, and civil rights. Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, who published the first newspaper written for and by African American women, championed the cause of women's suffrage. Matilda Sissieretta Jones, whose father was an enslaved person, toured Europe and performed at the White House in front of four different presidents as one of the great sopranos of her generation. Augusta Savage, overcoming racism and sexism, became one of the most celebrated sculptors in history. This book serves as an important reminder that the story of America cannot be told without the Black women who, with strength and determination, have always pushed America forward even when others held them back.

hidden figures black history month: Black Culture, Inc. Patricia A. Banks, 2022-04-19 A surprising and fascinating look at how Black culture has been leveraged by corporate America. Open the brochure for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and you'll see logos for corporations like American Express. Visit the website for the Apollo Theater, and you'll notice acknowledgments to corporations like Coca Cola and Citibank. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, owe their very existence to large corporate donations from companies like General Motors. And while we can easily make sense of the need for such funding to keep cultural spaces afloat, less obvious are the reasons that corporations give to them. In *Black Culture, Inc.*, Patricia A. Banks interrogates the notion that such giving is completely altruistic, and argues for a deeper understanding of the hidden transactions being conducted that render corporate America dependent on Black culture. Drawing on a range of sources, such as public relations and advertising texts on corporate cultural patronage and observations at sponsored cultural events, Banks argues that Black cultural patronage profits firms by signaling that they value diversity, equity, and inclusion. By functioning in this manner, support of Black cultural initiatives affords these companies something called diversity capital, an increasingly valuable commodity in today's business landscape. While this does not necessarily detract from the social good that cultural patronage does, it reveals its secret cost: ethnic community support may serve to obscure an otherwise poor track record with social justice. Banks deftly weaves innovative theory with detailed observations and a discerning critical gaze at the various agendas infiltrating memorials, museums, and music festivals meant to celebrate Black culture. At a time when accusations of discriminatory practices are met with immediate legal and social condemnation, the insights offered here are urgent and necessary.

hidden figures black history month: African-American Holidays, Festivals, and Celebrations, 2nd Ed. James Chambers, 2019-09-01 Presents more than 100 diverse holidays and festivals observed by Americans of African descent, exploring their history, customs, and symbols. Also includes a chronology, bibliography, and index.

hidden figures black history month: Wild Tongues Can't Be Tamed Saraciea J. Fennell, 2021-11-02 Edited by The Bronx Is Reading founder Saraciea J. Fennell and featuring an all-star cast of Latinx contributors, *Wild Tongues Can't Be Tamed* is a ground-breaking anthology that will spark dialogue and inspire hope. In *Wild Tongues Can't Be Tamed*, bestselling and award-winning authors as well as up-and-coming voices interrogate the different myths and stereotypes about the Latinx diaspora. These fifteen original pieces delve into everything from ghost stories and superheroes, to memories in the kitchen and travels around the world, to addiction and grief, to identity and anti-Blackness, to finding love and speaking your truth. Full of both sorrow and joy, *Wild Tongues Can't Be Tamed* is an essential celebration of this rich and diverse community. The bestselling and award-winning contributors include Elizabeth Acevedo, Cristina Arreola, Ingrid Rojas Contreras, Naima Coster, Natasha Diaz, Saraciea J. Fennell, Kahlil Haywood, Zakiya Jamal, Janel Martinez, Jasminne Mendez, Meg Medina, Mark Oshiro, Julian Randall, Lilliam Rivera, and Ibi Zoboi.

hidden figures black history month: Let's Talk Race Fern L. Johnson, Marlene G. Fine, 2023-05-16 Real conversations about racism need to start now Let's Talk Race confronts why white people struggle to talk about race, why we need to own this problem, and how we can learn to do the work ourselves and stop expecting Black people to do it for us. Written by two specialists in race relations and parents of two adopted African American sons, the book provides unique insights and practical guidance, richly illustrated with personal examples, anecdotes, research findings, and prompts for personal reflection and conversations about race. Coverage includes: Seeing the varied forms of racism How we normalize and privilege whiteness Essential and often unknown elements of Black history that inform the present Racial disparities in education, health, criminal justice, and wealth Understanding racially-linked cultural differences How to find conversational partners and create safe spaces for conversations Conversational do's and don'ts. Let's Talk Race is for all white people who want to face the challenges of talking about race and working towards justice and equity.

hidden figures black history month: Persuasive Acts Shari J. Stenberg, Charlotte Hogg, 2020-03-03 In June 2015, Bree Newsome scaled the flagpole in front of South Carolina's state capitol and removed the Confederate flag. The following month, the Confederate flag was permanently removed from the state capitol. Newsome is a compelling example of a twenty-first-century woman rhetor, along with bloggers, writers, politicians, activists, artists, and everyday social media users, who give new meaning to Aristotle's ubiquitous definition of rhetoric as the discovery of the "available means of persuasion." Women's persuasive acts from the first two decades of the twenty-first century include new technologies and repurposed old ones, engaged not only to persuade, but also to tell their stories, to sponsor change, and to challenge cultural forces that repress and oppress. *Persuasive Acts: Women's Rhetorics in the Twenty-First Century* gathers an expansive array of voices and texts from well-known figures including Hillary Rodham Clinton, Malala Yousafzai, Michelle Obama, Lindy West, Sonia Sotomayor, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, so that readers may converse with them, and build rhetorics of their own. Editors Shari J. Stenberg and Charlotte Hogg have compiled timely and provocative rhetorics that represent critical issues and rhetorical affordances of the twenty-first century.

hidden figures black history month: The Humanity Archive Jermaine Fowler, 2023-02-28 This sweeping survey of Black history shows how Black humanity has been erased and how its recovery can save the humanity of us all. Using history as a foundation, *The Humanity Archive* uses storytelling techniques to make history come alive and uncover the truth behind America's whitewashed history. The *Humanity Archive* focuses on the overlooked narratives in the pages of the past. Challenging dominant perspectives, author Jermaine Fowler goes outside the textbooks to find recognizably human stories. Connecting current issues with the heroic struggles of those who have come before us, Fowler brings hidden history to light. Praise for *The Humanity Archive*: From the African Slave Trade to Seneca Village to Biddy Mason and more, *The Humanity Archive* is a very enriching read on the history of Blackness around the world. I was hooked by Fowler's storytelling and would recommend others who want to pore over a book that outlines critical moments in history—without putting you to sleep. — Philip Lewis, Senior Editor, HuffPost Fowler sees historical storytelling and the sharing of knowledge as a vocation and a means of fostering empathy and understanding between cultures. A deft storyteller with a sonorous voice, Fowler's passion for his material is palpable as he unfurls the hidden histories. — Vanity Fair Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Jermaine Fowler is a storyteller and self-proclaimed intellectual adventurer who spent his youth seeking knowledge on the shelves of his local free public library. Between research and lecturing, he is the host of the top-rated history podcast, *The Humanity Archive*, praised as a must-listen by Vanity Fair. Challenging dominant perspectives, Fowler goes outside the textbooks to find recognizably human stories. Connecting current issues with the heroic struggles of those who've come before us, he brings hidden history to light and makes it powerfully relevant.

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