

# Black History Month Video Project

RIS PTO ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE (ARC)

January 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for the Anti-Racism Committee's (ARC) Black History Month video project. As in years past, throughout the month of February we will post short videos featuring RIS students presenting on important historical Black figures that will be shared in Rogers classrooms and via social media.

We are currently looking for student volunteers who, with the help of a parent/guardian, will research an important figure from Black history and create a one minute long video based on what they have learned. We've put together a list of suggested historical figures as well as detailed instructions that you will find on the following pages. For inspiration, be sure to check out some of our past videos on the [ARC's YouTube channel](#). Moreover, in 2021 our students' efforts were featured in a News12 story that you can view [here](#).

We hope that this project will create the opportunity for parents and students to talk about race and the many contributions of Black people in the United States and beyond. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at [arc@rispto.org](mailto:arc@rispto.org).

Thank you for your time and interest in this very special project.

Best,

Erica Carryl

RIS PTO Anti-Racism Committee Co-Chair

**Black History Month Heroes: Video Project**  
RIS PTO Anti-Racism Committee

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. **CHOOSE** a Black History Month hero. Check out the ARC's list of suggested historical figures and email your top 3 choices to [arc@rispto.org](mailto:arc@rispto.org). The sooner you email, the more likely you will get your first choice. You are more than welcome to choose a person not on the list. Simply email [arc@rispto.org](mailto:arc@rispto.org) with your idea.
2. **RESEARCH** your Black History Month hero using online resources or books. A great place to start is the website [www.biography.com](http://www.biography.com).
3. **PREPARE** what you'd like to tell people about your Black History Month hero. Use the "Black History Month Heroes Question Guide" to direct your presentation. **Be sure to include which IB learner profile you believe best describes your historical figure and WHY.** Click [here](#) for a list and description of each learner profile.
4. **RECORD** a video of what you learned. Check out a sample video [here](#). Your presentation should be **no more than 1 minute in length**. All we need from you is the presentation about your Black History Month hero...we'll do the rest!

**Tips for recording:**

- Be sure to hold your recording device in landscape orientation when making your video:



← Landscape Orientation

- Find good light. If possible, record by window light.
  - Speak clearly and not too quickly. Many students have found it helpful to use a teleprompter app. There are several free ones available if you'd like to give it a try. If you are recording your presentation on a computer/laptop, check out <https://cueprompter.com/>, a free online teleprompter.
5. **EMAIL** your video to [arc@rispto.org](mailto:arc@rispto.org). If your video file is too large to email, we suggest sending it via the free website [www.wetransfer.com](http://www.wetransfer.com). **Videos are due no later than Monday, January 23, 2023.** Be sure to include the name of the Black History Month hero as well as the name and grade of the student presenter in your email.

The Committee will edit your presentation in the format seen in videos from previous years. Be on the lookout for your video to be posted during Black History Month in February.

## **List of Suggested Black History Month Heroes (2023)**

You may notice that names like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks are missing from this list. In an effort to push the conversation beyond these already well known figures, we've decided to focus on some perhaps lesser known people. Please email your top 3 choices to [arc@rispto.org](mailto:arc@rispto.org). You may also choose a figure not on this list.

*Please note that names with a line through them have already been taken. Furthermore, in an effort to share new historical figures every year, please do not select a figure who has already been featured in this project. You'll find a list of past presentations on the following page.*

### **Scholars/ Educators**

Mary McLeod Bethune (educator and activist)

Frederick Douglass (abolitionist, writer)

Sojourner Truth (fought for the freedom of slaves and for women's rights)

Booker T. Washington (educator and leader)

Ida B. Wells (journalist and activist)

Carter G. Woodson (scholar and "Father of Black History Month")

### **Writers/Artists:**

Zora Neale Hurston (writer)

Phillis Wheatley (poet)

### **Barrier Breaking Athletes/Entertainers:**

Marian Anderson (opera singer)

Louis Armstrong (musician)

Aretha Franklin (singer)

Hattie McDaniel (first Black Oscar winner)

Sidney Poitier (actor)

Fritz Pollard (first Black pro football player)

### **Scientists/Inventors/Trailblazers**

Benjamin Banneker (mathematician, astronomer)

Absalom Boston (first Black whaling ship captain)

Robert L. Johnson (first Black billionaire)

Robert Smalls (Escaped slave turned politician)

Paul R. Williams (architect)

Mary Jackson (mathematician and aerospace engineer)

Tuskegee Airmen (Black military pilots who fought in World War II)

## History Heroes Presented on in Previous Years

### A

Hank Aaron (baseball player)  
Kareem Abdul-Jabar (basketball player)  
Alvin Ailey (choreographer)  
Muhammad Ali (boxer)  
Kimberly Anyadike (Airplane pilot)

### B

Jane Bolin (attorney and judge)  
Ruby Bridges (activist)  
Gwendolyn Brooks (poet)

### C

George Washington Carver (agricultural scientist)  
Shirley Chisholm (politician)  
Bessie Coleman (airplane pilot)  
Rebecca Lee Crumpler (first Black woman doctor)

### D

Benjamin O. Davis Sr. (US Army General)  
W.E.B. DuBois (scholar and activist)

### E

Duke Ellington (musician)

### F

### G

Althea Gibson (tennis player)

### H

Matthew Henson (explorer)  
Langston Hughes (writer/poet)

### I

### J

Mae Jemison (astronaut)  
Katherine Johnson (mathematician)

### K

Susie King Taylor (educator of freed slaves)

### L

John Lewis (activist and US Representative)  
Earl Lloyd (basketball player)

### M

Thurgood Marshall (Supreme Court Justice)  
Garrett Morgan (Inventor)

### N

### O

Jesse Owens (Olympian)

### P

Gordon Parks (Photographer)  
Colin Powell (U.S. Secretary of State)

### Q

### R

Sarah Rector (child millionaire)  
Faith Ringgold (artist)  
Jackie Robinson (baseball player)  
Wilma Rudolph (Olympian)  
Bill Russell (basketball player)

### S

### T

### U

### V

James Van Der Zee (photographer)

### W

Madam C.J. Walker (entrepreneur)  
Anne Raven Wilkinson (first Black ballerina)

### X

### Y

### Z

## Black History Month Heroes Question Guide

Historical Figure's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of death (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

What is this Black History Month Hero known for?

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List any important details about this person's life:

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What struggles did this person face? What did this person have to overcome?

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Which IB learner profile do you think best describes this person and **WHY**? Feel free to pick more than one! Click [here](#) for a description of each learner profile.

Inquirer, Knowledgeable, Thinker, Communicator, Principled,  
Open-minded, Caring, Risk-taker, Balanced, Reflective