Arthur Ashe

The first black tennis player selected to the United States Davis Cup team and the only black man ever to win the singles title at Wimbledon.

Barbara Jordan

The first African American elected to the Texas Senate after Reconstruction and the first Southern African-American woman elected to the United States House of Representatives.

Benjamin O. Davis Jr.

The first African-American "Brigadier" general in the United States Air Force.

Bessie Coleman

The first African-American woman to hold a pilot license.



Billie Holiday

A jazz and swing music singer with a career spanning for 26 years.



A leader in the African American community and of the contemporary black elite.



The first African-American Secretary of State.

Fred Jones

Invented the first portable air conditioning unit.



A national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York.

Garrett Morgan

Invented the modern-day gas mask and traffic light.

George Washington Carver

Inventor who developed hundreds of products using peanuts, sweet potatoes and soybeans.



The first African American to travel into space.



Most famous "conductor" on the Underground Railroad.



An African American professional baseball player who broke Major Leagues Baseball's infamous "color barrier" when he started at first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

John Lewis

One of the "Big Six" leaders of groups who organized the 1963 March on Washington.

Katherine Johnson

Helped send the first
Americans into space and
the first astronauts into
space.

Langston Hughes

Known for his jazz poetry during the Harlem Renaissance.



A jazz musician who became the first African-American jazz musician to write an autobiography.

Malcolm X

An African American leader in the civil rights movement.

Mary McLeod Bethune

Devoted her life to ensure the right to education and freedom from discrimination for black Americans. She opened one of the first schools for African American girls.

Matthew Henson

An African American explorer best known as the co-discoverer of the North Pole.

Misty Copeland

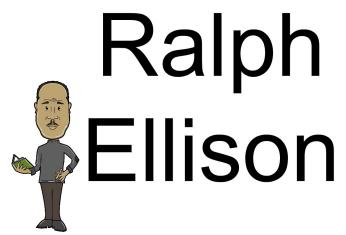
The first African American female principal dancer with the American Ballet Theatre.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Played a key role in the American civil rights movement. He sought equality and human rights for African Americans through peaceful protest.

Muhammad Ali

One of the greatest boxers in history.



Best known for his novel Invisible Man, which won the National Book Award.



The first Black student to attend the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology and America's first Black architect.

Shirley Chisholm

The first black woman elected to the United States Congress.

Sojourner Truth

An African American abolitionist and women's rights activist best-known for her speech on racial inequalities, "Ain't I a Woman?".

Thurgood Marshall

The first African American to hold the position of associate justice of the Supreme Court.

Web Dubois

One of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

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