

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.



Booker T. Washington

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



Colin Powell

The first African-American Secretary of State.

Fred Jones



Invented the first portable air conditioning unit.



Frederick Douglass

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.



Guion Bluford

The first African American to travel into space.



Harriet Tubman

Most famous "conductor"
on the Underground
Railroad.



Jackie Robinson

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.

Louis Armstrong



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.



Ralph Ellison

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



Robert Robinson

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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