Black History Month Lessons: Trailblazing Women
Resources Overview

Our mission is to provide rigorous, engaging and joyful lessons for learners to explore the richness of Black history and the continued creation of history. We will provide a variety of readings, resources, and activities for different topics in Black history each week, to push learners to investigate the trials and triumphs of Black Americans throughout U.S. History.

Please note that resources, which may include Newsela articles, videos from various content providers, or external activities will be hyperlinked in the activities.
Janet Mock, Writer And Activist said, “I believe that telling our stories, first to ourselves and then to one another and the world, is a revolutionary act.” These lessons will introduce you to the stories of trailblazing women. You will learn about Black women in history and Black women today who have overcome significant odds and forged a new path for Black girls and boys to be their own trailblazers around the world.
Lesson 1: Black Women Winning with Confidence

1. **Introduce:** Note: In 1870, the 15th Amendment gave African American men the right to vote. In 1920, the 19th Amendment women were granted the right to vote. Yes, the 19th Amendment did not eliminate the state laws that operated to keep Black Americans from the polls via poll taxes and literacy tests—nor did the 19th Amendment address violence or lynching.
   - What year did women gain the right to vote?
   - Did this right also include Black women?

2. **Read and Learn:** Read Opinion: Black women's untold suffrage stories must finally be heard OR Black women paved the way for Harris. As you read, highlight examples of how each woman in the articles overcame discrimination and oppression. Then read Shirley Chisholm made history so other women could follow OR Kamala Harris' vice president-elect acceptance speech. As you read, use one color to highlight the challenge the leader addressed. Use a different color to highlight how she changed history. Add connections and questions you have.

3. **Discuss:** Find a small group of four peers, using video or messenger chat on your Learning Management Platform. Discuss the following questions as a group:
   - What kinds of resistance did Black women face during suffrage? How does this connect to issues of injustice of African Americans today?
   - Why do you think Black women’s stories are not told as often as White women’s in American history?
   - In what ways, have these women helped you understand how to become your own trailblazer?

4. **Create:** Choose one activity to complete:

   Option 1: Write an Op-Ed in support of the claim, “Black women’s history is central to American history.” Consider the questions: How did Black women strategize in order to gain the right to vote? What evidence today shows they are trailblazers?

   Option 2: Website design! Vice President-elect Kamala Harris acknowledged, “Black women, who are often - too often - overlooked, but so often prove that they are the backbone of our democracy...” Design a website that showcases Black women who were overlooked and fought confidently for justice.
Lesson 2: Black Women Winning With Competence

1. **Introduce**: Use the Paired Image Analysis graphic organizer (included on next slide) to compare two photos: "Black Rosies" and "We Can Do It!" What do you notice and wonder about these photos?

2. **Read and Learn**: Read Cathay Williams: First (documented) black woman to serve in U.S. Army and These Black female heroes made sure U.S. forces got their mail in WWII. As you read, highlight examples of Black women’s courage and competence. Add text-to-self connections or questions you have.

3. **Discuss**: Respond to the following prompts on your learning management platform:
   - Who is Cathay Williams? Why is her story so uniquely important in Black History? Military History?
   - In what ways did the military discriminate against and/or reinforce stereotypes about Black women?
   - How did Black women show competence despite adversity in the U.S. and abroad?

4. **Create**: Refer back to the image from "Black Rosies": forgotten Black women workers of World War II and read the article that accompanies it. Draw a new poster (on paper or digitally) that reflects the Black Rosies as heroes.
Paired Image Analysis

**Directions**: Choose 3 details in each image and describe them in the correct column provided for each image. On the RIGHT, add notes about the similarities/difference between the details recorded for each image based on your background knowledge or class activity. Finally, record a conclusion that can be made by synthesizing your observations and inferences about the images.

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<th>Detail #1</th>
<th>Detail #2</th>
<th>Detail #3</th>
<th>Similarities/Differences in Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Image #1</td>
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<td>Conclusion</td>
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Lesson 3: Black Women Winning with Opinions

1. **Introduce:** On a piece of paper, write whether you Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree or Strongly Disagree with the statement: “As long as Black people continue to be treated in this way ... then no one is safe.” You will have a chance to share your thoughts in the discussion.

2. **Read and Learn:** Read Angela Davis: "We knew that the role of the police was to protect white supremacy" and Black women mayors move U.S. toward a more equal government. As you read, highlight examples of challenges Black women have faced. Use another color to highlight how these Black women overcame challenges. Add your text-to-world connections and questions.

3. **Discuss:** Share your annotations on your Learning Management Platform and responses questions:
   - What did Angela Davis mean by the statement, "...as long as Black people continue to be treated in this way ... then no one is safe?" Has your position changed or remained the same?
   - Despite the odds, how did Angela Davis and Black elected women leaders design the change they wanted to see in America?
   - In the article, it states, "And that we could be a part of that change?" In what ways can you be a trailblazer, too?

4. **Create:** Choose one activity to complete.

   Option 1. Opinion Speech. Write a 1 minute speech addressing an issue you want to change and the steps you will take to achieve it. Use one quote from an article to set the tone for your speech.

   Option 2. Virtual Town Hall: Organize a town hall with your classmates and invite a local elected leader. Create an agenda with a list of questions to ask about issues important to you and follow up with action steps.
Social-Emotional Learning Connection

**Anything Is Possible:** Kamala Harris is a trailblazing woman. She made history as the first woman, first Black and first South Asian Vice President of the United States, realizing the dreams of people throughout the world, who wanted to see a woman in this position of power. In becoming Vice President, she broke through a glass ceiling, demonstrating that anything is possible. Take a few minutes to think about your dreams. Remember that no dream is too big or too small! Once you have taken some time to think, use the **Anything is Possible** worksheet to draw images of your dreams in the boxes. On the accompanying lines, describe your dreams and why they are important to you.

**CASEL Competency Alignment:** Self Awareness, Self Management

**SEE Learning Alignment:** Personal Awareness (Attention and Self Awareness), Personal Compassion (Self Compassion), Personal Engagement (Self Regulation)
Directions: Draw pictures in the boxes on the left. Use the lines on the right to describe the images you drew.

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