



*Building Our Future Through  
Education, History and Culture!*

## FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS / CELEBRATIONS RECOGNITION IN THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

February 2017:  
Black History Month  
Washington's Day / Presidents' Day ... Monday, February 20th

*Holidays observed by the United States Virgin Islands  
strengthen an important process in the development of the territory.*

*Compliments of:  
Virgin Islands Department of Education  
Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education*

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Referred to as National African American History Month, **Black History Month** is an annual celebration of achievements of black Americans. It is also a time to recognize the important role of African Americans in United States history.

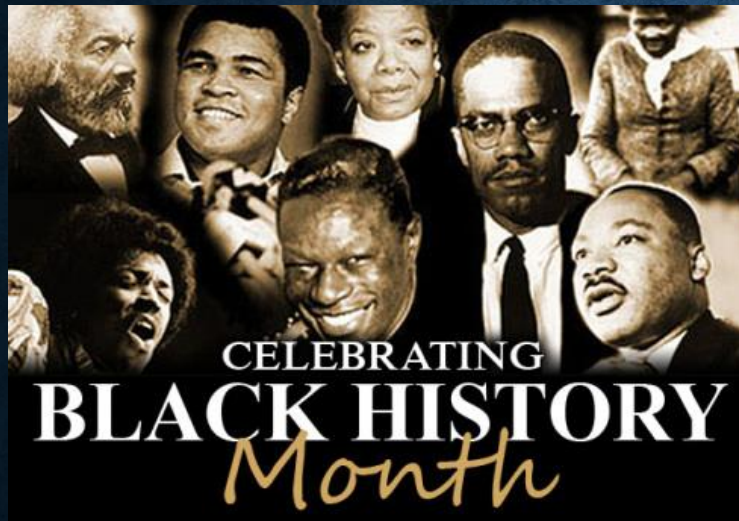
A half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States, Black History Month commenced in 1915. In September of that year, the Harvard-trained historian Mr. Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), which is dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by black Americans and persons of African descent. This group, which is known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to establish clubs, host performances and lectures, and organize local celebrations.

Across the country cities' mayors issued yearly proclamations recognizing Negro History in the decades to follow. By the late 1960s, accolades in part to the Civil Rights Movement and a growing awareness of black identity, Negro History Week had blossomed into Black History Month on many college campuses. It was President Gerald R. Ford who officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Mr. Woodson and other prominent African Americans are known for these events, which grew out of "Negro History Week". From 1976, each president of the U.S. has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also dedicate a month to celebrating black history.

In the United States Virgin Islands, it is necessary that the accomplishments of the African American be showcased each day of the year with extra emphasis during the month of February as Black History Month is celebrated nationally.





## Black Inventor's and their Invention's

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Paper	Africans	Shoe	W. A. Deitz	Elevator	Alexander Miles
Chess	Africans	Player Piano	Joseph Dickinson	Gas Mask	Garrett Morgan
Alphabet	Africans	Arm for Record Player	Joseph Dickinson	Traffic Signal	Garrett Morgan
Medicine	Africans	Doorstop	O. Dorsey	Hair Brush	Lyda Newman
Civilization	Africans	Doorknob	O. Dorsey	Heating Furnace	Alice H. Parker
Aero plane Propelling	James S. Adams	Photo Print Wash	Clatonia J. Dorticus	Airship (Blimp)	J.F. Pickering
Biscuit Cutter	A.P. Ashbourne	Photo Embossing Machine	Clatonia J. Dorticus	Folding Chair	Purdy/Sadgyar
Folding Bed	L.C. Bailey	Postal Letter Box	P.B. Downing	Hand Stamp	W.B. Purvis
Coin Changer	James A. Bauer	Toilet (Cominode)	T. Elkins	Fountain Pen	W.B. Purvis
Rotary Engine	Andrew J. Beard	furniture Caster	David A. Fisher	Dust Pan	L.P. Ray
Car Coupler	Andrew J. Beard	Guitar	Robert Flemining, Jr.	Insect Destroyer Gun	A.C. Richardson
Letter Box	G.E. Becket	Golf Tee	George F. Grant	Baby Buggy	W.H. Richardson
Stainless Steel Pads	Alfred Benjamin	Motor	J. Gregory	Sugar Refinement	N. Rillieux
Torpedo Discharger	H. Bradberry	Lantern	Michael Hamey	Clothes Dryer	G.T. Sampson
Disposable Sringe	Phil Brooks	Thermo Hair Curlers	Solomon Harper	Cellular Phone	Henry Sampson
Home Security System	Marie Brown	Gas Burner	B.F. Jackson	Pressing Comb	Walter Sammons
Corn Planter	Henry Blair	Kitchen Table	H.A. Jackson	Curtain Rod	S.R. Scott
Ironing Board	Henry Blair	Programmable Remote		Lawn Sprinkler	J.W. Smith
Street Sweepers	C. B. Brooks	Controllers	Joseph N. Jackson	Automatic Gearshift	R.B. Spikes
Horse Bridle Bit	L. F. Brown	Video Commander	Joseph N. Jackson	Urinanalysis Machine	Dewey Sanderson
Horsehoe	Oscar E. Boykin	Sani-Phone	Jerry Johnson	Hydraulic Shock Absorber	Ralph Sanderson
Pacemaker	Otis Boykin	Super Soaker	Lonnie Johnson	Refrigerator	J. Standard
Guided Missile	Otis Boykin	Bicycle Frame	Issac R. Johnson	Map	T.W. Stewart
Lawn Mower	John A. Burr	Space Shuttle Retrieval Arm	Win. Harwell	Stairclimbing Wheelchair	Rufus J. Weaver
Typewriter	Burrige & Marshman	Printing Press	W.A. Lavalllette	Helicopter	Paul E. Williams
Train Alarm	R. A. Butler	Envelope Seal	F.W. Leslie	Fire Escape Ladder	J.B. Winters
Image Converter for		Laser Fuels	Lester Lee	Telephone Transmitter	Granville T. Woods
Radiation Detector	Geo. Carruthers	Pressure Cooker	Maurice W. Lee	Electric Cutoff Switch	Granville T. Woods
Peanut Butter	George W. Carver	Window Cleaner	A. L. Lewis	Relay Instrument	Granville T. Woods
Paints & Stains	George W. Carver	Pencil Sharpener	John L. Love	Telephone System	Granville T. Woods
Lotions & Soaps	George W. Carver	Fire Extinguisher	Tom J. Marshal	Electro Medi Brake	Granville T. Woods
Automatic Fishing Reel	George Cook	Lock	W. A. Martin	Galvanic Battery	Granville T. Woods
Ice Cream Moki	A. L. Cralle	Shoe Lasting Machine	Jan Matzelliger	Electric Railway System	Granville T. Woods
Blood Plasma	Dr. Charles Drew	Lubricators	Elijah McCoy	Roller Coaster	Granville T. Woods
Horse Riding Saddle	Win. D. Davis	Rocket Catapult	Hugh MacDonald	Auto Air Brake	Granville T. Woods

Majestic Temple Compilation'z

### Suggested Family and Classroom Activities:

Attend a special Black History Month Celebration

Plan and/or participate in a special Black History Month Celebration program

Research the history of Black History Month and share what you have learn with someone

### Courtesy of

**Text:** <http://www.iaohra.org/celebrate-black-history-month/> <http://asalh.org/blackhistorythemes.html>;

**Pictures:** <http://theobamacrat.com/2015/02/12/black-history-month-series-2015-robert-robinson-taylor-june-8-1868-december-13-1942/comment-page-1/>; <http://etchujohnayuk.com/>

# WASHINGTON'S DAY / PRESIDENTS' DAY

Presidents' Day, which is a federal holiday, is celebrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in February. Through an Act of Congress in 1879, it was implemented for government offices and by 1885 it spread to all federal offices. The birthday of President George Washington was first celebrated on his birthday on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was the first federal holiday to honor an American citizen.

In 1951 the "President's Day National Committee" was formed by Harold Stonebridge Fischer. Its National Executive Director for 20 years attempted to create a President's Day not to honor a particular President, but to honor the office of the President. The original inauguration day of March 4 was deemed to be Presidents Day. However, this date was stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee (which had authority over federal holidays) and consequently January was suggested, but they felt because of the closeness to the birthdays of President Lincoln and President Washington, three holidays so close together would be unduly burdensome. Another attempt through the Uniform Monday Holiday Act was made to rename the holiday to "Presidents' Day" to honor the birthdays of both presidents, but this proposal failed in committee and the bill was voted on and signed into law on June 28, 1968, but kept the name Washington's Birthday. On January 1, 1971 the Uniform Monday Holiday Act shifted the federal holiday to the third Monday in February to celebrate the contribution of all presidents. President Richard Nixon is often identified for changing Washington's Birthday into President's Day by issuing a proclamation on February 21, 1971 which declared the third Monday in February to be a "holiday set aside to honor all presidents, even myself." Actually, the presidential records indicate that he merely issued an Executive Order (11582) on February 11, 1971 defining the third Monday of February as a holiday, and the announcement of that Executive Order identified the day as "Washington's Birthday."

On the federal level an attempt to clear up some of this confusion was made through the introduction of the 'Washington-Lincoln Recognition Act of 2001' to Congress in 2001. Although it failed to clear subcommittee and died without ever being voted upon, this bill proposed that "the legal public holiday known as Washington's Birthday shall be referred to by that name and no other by all entities and officials of the United States Government" and requested "that the President issue a proclamation each year recognizing the anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln and calling upon people of the United States to observe such anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities."

The holiday is commonly referred to as Presidents' Day in the United States Virgin Islands. It is celebrated during the weekend as the Agriculture and Food Fair on St. Croix, USVI. As customary, thousands travel from far and near and pack the grounds of Rudolph Shulterbrandt Agricultural Complex in Estate Lower Love. All are encouraged to attend the 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for a weekend of food, fun, entertainment, and exhibits of livestock, culture and much more!





**Suggested Family and Classroom Activities:**

Participate and/or attend the Agriculture Fair on St. Croix

Visit local sites in the US Virgin Islands that are / were named after presidents

Participate and/or attend a Presidents Day parade

Research the history of the Presidents Day holiday and share what you have learn with someone

Attend special ceremony commemorating the holiday

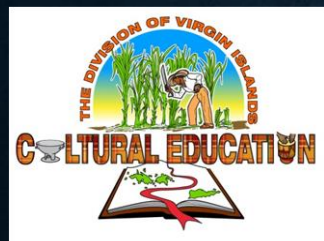
Visit a Presidential memorial site on the mainland

**Courtesy of**

**Text:** [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington's\\_Birthday](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington's_Birthday); <http://usparks.about.com/od/historicalparks/a/Presidents-Day.htm>;

<http://www.snopes.com/holidays/presidents/presidentsday.asp>;

**Pictures:** <http://eafinc.org/holiday-survey-2016/>



To receive complimentary monthly electronic holidays celebration recognition, kindly contact

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