



HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

This month, teachers across Minnesota are finding their own ways to celebrate Black History Month. How will you teach this important topic? **The history of African Americans in Minnesota** can be approached from numerous perspectives. You and your students can tap into the following resources:

- ★ [Gordon Parks](#): nationally-known photographer, filmmaker, composer, and writer. He was a staff photographer for Life Magazine for many years beginning in 1949. Parks has written 15 books (including "The Learning Tree" of 1963), and written and directed many films (including "Shaft" of 1971).
- ★ [Roy Wilkins](#): was one of the country's top civil rights leaders in the 1950s-1970s. He worked at the national NAACP office from 1934-1977, serving as Executive Director from 1955-1977. Wilkins played a major role in Brown vs. Board of Education, the 1954 landmark case that led to school desegregation. He also helped organize the pivotal 1963 civil rights march on Washington. On Jan. 24, 2001, the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp in Wilkins' honor.
- ★ [Toni Stone](#): (Marcenia Lyle Alberga) graduated from Roosevelt (currently Riverview): Toni Stone made history in 1953 when she was signed by the Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro Leagues, making her the first woman ever to play professionally in a men's league.
- ★ [Harold Brown](#): a WWII Tuskegee airman, graduated from High School in Minneapolis, MN
- ★ [African American Stories in Minnesota](#):
 - George Bonga: first African American born in Minnesota. He was a fur trader and interpreter for American Indians and the United States government.
 - William Grey and John Hickman: helped make a better life for African Americans in our state.
 - Nellie Stone Johnson: helped make new laws to help Minnesotans, especially African Americans and women.
- ★ [African Americans in Minnesota History](#)
- ★ [Rondo and the Civil Rights Movement](#)
- ★ [Other info on the Rondo Neighborhood – prior to Interstate 94](#)
- ★ [African Americans in Aviation](#)
- ★ [List of Distinguished African Americans in Aviation and Space Science](#)
- ★ [Transportation Then and Now – African American Contributions to the Rail Industry](#)