

BLACK HISTORY

Biography Books in Great Lakes Media Center

B ALI

Haskins, Jim.

Champion: the Story of Muhammad Ali [2002].

A biography of Muhammad Ali.

B ALI

Rummel, Jack

Muhammad Ali [1988].

Chronicles the life of the heavyweight boxing champion, from his early years to his draft resistance through his astounding boxing career which established him as one of the greatest fighters of all time.

B ALI

Denenberg, Barry

The Story of Muhammad Ali: Heavyweight Champion of the World [1996].

B ALI

Myers, Walter Dean

The Greatest: Muhammad Ali [2001].

An illustrated biography of boxing great Muhammad Ali that addresses his politics, his fight against Parkinson's disease, and boxing's dangers.

B AND

Newman, Shirlee Petkin.

Marian Anderson: lady from Philadelphia [1965].

B AND

Freedman, Russell.

The Voice That Challenged a Nation : Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights [2004].

Drawing on Anderson's own writings and other first-person accounts, Freedman shows readers a singer in pursuing her art in the context of the social and political climate of the day.

B ANG

Shapiro, Miles

Maya Angelou [1994].

Discusses the life and work of the noted black writer.

B ANG

Angelou, Maya

Selected From I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings and The Heart of a Woman [1989].

Includes two selections from Angelou's works, a short biography of Joe Louis, a short history of segregation, and more.

B ARM

Collier, James Lincoln

Louis Armstrong: An American Success Story [1985].

A biography of one of America's most important musicians, who was born in extreme poverty and never had a real music lesson, but became world famous for his singing and trumpet playing.

B ASH

Weissberg, Ted and King, Coretta Scott

Arthur Ashe--Tennis Great [1991].

Presents the life of an important black athlete and tennis player, Arthur Ashe.

B BRI

Bridges, Ruby.

Through My Eyes [1999].

Ruby Bridges recounts the story of her involvement, as a six-year-old, in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960.

B CAR

Aliki

A Weed is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver [1965].

A simple biography of the man, born a slave, who became a scientist and devoted his entire life to helping the South improve its agriculture.

B CHA

Mathis, Sharon Bell and Ford, George Cephas

Ray Charles [1973].

A biography of the Black musician who became famous despite his blindness.

B COS

Herbert, Solomon J and Higgins, Nathan Irvin

Bill Cosby [1992].

Examines the life and show business career of Bill Cosby.

B COS

Sanford, William R and Schroeder, Howard.

Bill Cosby [1986].

A biography of a popular comedian, star of his own television show.

B COU

Jaffe, Nina

A Voice for the People: The Life and Work of Harold Courlander [1997].

A biography of the folklorist and novelist who recorded the traditional songs and stories of the people of Haiti, the Hopi Indians, and black communities, connecting the African-American traditions.

B DIC

Nielsen, Nancy J.

Eric Dickerson. [1988].

A biography of Los Angeles running back Eric Dickerson.

B DOU

Banta, Melissa

Frederick Douglass [1993].

A biography of the man who, after escaping slavery, became an orator, writer, and leader in the anti-slavery movement in the nineteenth century.

B DUN

Haskins, James

Katherine Dunham [1982].

Relates the life story of the famous choreographer who, wherever she has lived, has worked at bringing creative arts participation to the community.

B EQU

Kennerly, Karen and Equiano, Olaudah

The Slave Who Bought His Freedom: Equiano's Story [1971].

The autobiography of a slave kidnapped from a West African tribe as a child who, during his voyages and trials in various parts of the world, educated himself and ultimately purchased his freedom.

B FEE

Feelings, Tom.

Black Pilgrimage [1972].

A black artist describes his life, from his birthplace in Brooklyn to his adopted home, Ghana, and how various experiences helped him develop new aspects of his talent.

B FOR

Douty, Esther Morris

Charlotte Forten: Free Black Teacher [1971].

A biography of the nineteenth-century black woman who taught newly-freed slaves.

B FOR

Yates, Elizabeth and Unwin, Nora Spicer.

Amos Fortune, Free Man [1989, 1950].

The life of the eighteenth-century African prince who, after being captured by slave traders, was brought to Massachusetts where he was a slave until he was able to buy his freedom at the age of sixty.

B GOL

Blue, Rose and Naden, Corinne J.

Whoopi Goldberg: Entertainer [1994].

B GOO

Newman, Matthew and Schroeder, Howard

Dwight Gooden [1986].

A biography of Dwight Gooden, record-making pitcher for the New York Mets.

B GOO

Edelson, Paula

Cuba Gooding, Jr. [2000].

This book discusses the life and career of the actor who won a Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his role in the movie Jerry Maguire.

B GRI

Aaseng, Nathan

Florence Griffith Joyner: Dazzling Olympian. [1989].

A biography emphasizing the running career of the Olympic gold medallist who set new records in the 1988 Games in Seoul.

B JAC

Kosof, Anna

Jesse Jackson [1987].

A biography of the black Presidential candidate in 1984 who is a major leader of Afro-Americans today.

B JAC

Chaplik, Dorothy

Up With Hope: A Biography of Jesse Jackson [1986].

Follows the life of the influential civil rights leader, covering his childhood, education, and work in the civil rights movement.

B JAC

Jackson, Jesse

Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord! : The Life of Mahalia Jackson, Queen of Gospel Singers [1974].

A biography of the famous black gospel singer who hoped, through her art, to break down some of the barriers between black and white people.

B JAC

Mabery, D. L.

Janet Jackson [1988].

A biography of Janet Jackson, "baby" in a famous family, who is not only Michael Jackson's sister, but a strong singing talent who has also worked in television.

B JAC

Rolfe, John

Bo Jackson [1991].

A biography of the star athlete who plays both professional baseball and football.

B JOH

Gutman, Bill.

Magic Johnson: Hero On and Off court [1992].

Examines Magic Johnson's career as a record-breaking champion with the L.A. Lakers and discusses his fight against AIDS.

B JOR

Dolan, Sean and Huggins, Nathan Irvin

Michael Jordan [1994].

Follows the life and basketball career of the talented player for the Chicago Bulls, Michael Jordan.

B JOR

McCune, Dan

Michael Jordan [1988].

A career biography of high-scoring Michael Jordan, basketball player with the Chicago Bulls.

B JOR

Gutman, Bill

Michael Jordan: Basketball Champ [1992].

A biography of Michael Jordan, detailing his career as the NBA's top scorer with the Chicago Bulls.

B JOR

Pietrusza, David

Michael Jordan [1999].

Describes the life and career of Michael Jordan, including his childhood in North Carolina, involvement in sports, success with the Chicago Bulls, retirement from basketball, second career in baseball, and triumphant return to the Bulls.

B KIN

Shuker, Nancy

Martin Luther King [1985].

Summary: Follows the life of the Baptist minister and black leader who won the Nobel Peace Prize before finally being assassinated in 1968.

B KIN

Jakoubek, Robert E.

Martin Luther King, Jr. [1989].

Examines the life of the Baptist minister and civil rights leader who helped American blacks win many battles for equal rights.

B KIN

Darby, Jean

Martin Luther King, Jr. [1990].

A biography of the civil rights leader whose philosophy and practice of nonviolent civil disobedience helped American blacks win many battles for equal rights.

B KIN

Carson, Clayborne

The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr. [1998].

The autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr. 1929-1968.

B LEE

Hardy, James Earl

Spike Lee [1995].

Provides an overview of the life and works of the African American filmmaker.

B LEO

Haskins, James

Sugar Ray Leonard [1982].

Chronicles the amateur and professional boxing career of the champion from Palmer Park, Maryland.

B LEO

Burchard, S. H

Sports Star, Sugar Ray Leonard [1983].

A biography of the 1976 Olympic gold medal winner who became the welterweight champion of the world.

B LEW

Aaseng, Nathan

Carl Lewis: Legend Chaser [1985].

A biography of Carl Lewis, the man who broke Jesse Owens's record by winning four gold medals in track and field in the 1984 Olympic games.

B MAN

Hoobler, Dorothy and Hoobler, Thomas.

Nelson and Winnie Mandela. [1987].

Presents the lives and careers of the imprisoned leader of the African National Congress and his wife, an activist in the struggle for black majority rights in South Africa.

B MAN

Kramer, Ann.

Nelson Mandela [2003].

A biography of Nelson Mandela.

B MAR

Aldred, Lisa

Thurgood Marshall [1990].

Examines the life of the first black man to be appointed an associate justice of the highest court in the country.

B MUR

Wilburn, Deborah A.

Eddie Murphy [1993].

Discusses the professional and personal life of the well-known comedian.

B ONE

Gutman, Bill

Shaquille O'Neal: Basketball Sensation [1994].

B OWE

Owens, Jesse and Neimark, Paul G

The Jesse Owens Story [1970].

The black athlete who won four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics tells his life story.

B PAI

Humphrey, Kathryn Long

Satchel Paige [1988].

Surveys the life and career of the Negro League's pitching phenomenon, the first baseball player in the Negro Leagues to be inducted in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

B PAI

Rubin, Robert

Satchel Paige: All-Time Baseball Great [1974].

A biography of the black pitcher who might have been the greatest pitcher of major league history had his color not barred him from the majors until the last eight years of his career.

B PAR
Hull, Mary
Rosa Parks [1994].

B PAR
Nobleman, Marc Tyler
Rosa Parks [2002].
Rosa Parks-biography.

B PAY
Leder, Jane Mersky and Schroeder, Howard
Walter Payton [1986].
A career biography of Walter Payton of the Chicago Bears, who broke rushing records and is known as a "complete player."

B PIP
Gutman, Bill
Scottie Pippen: The Do-Everything Superstar [1997].
Looks at the career of this basketball star who, in spite of playing in the shadow of Michael Jordan, has become one of the greatest all-around performers in the sport's history.

B RIC
Koenig, Teresa and Schroeder, Howard
Lionel Richie [1986].
Examines the life of the Alabama musician and songwriter who gained prominence with the Commodores and went on to a highly successful solo career.

B ROB
Frommer, Harvey
Jackie Robinson [1984].
Follows the famous sports figure who broke baseball's color barrier from his early years in California through his struggle with the Brooklyn Dodgers to his post-playing career.

B ROB
Robinson, Jackie and Duckett, Alfred
Breakthrough to the Big League: The Story of Jackie Robinson [1965].
Autobiography of the baseball star who was the first black player to be accepted by a major league team.

B ROB
O'Connor, Jim and Butcher, Jim
Jackie Robinson and the Story of All-Black Baseball [1989].
Presents a biography of the first black baseball player to play in the major leagues when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. Also traces the history of all-black baseball teams.

B ROB

Davidson, Margaret

The Story of Jackie Robinson: Bravest Man in Baseball [1996].

B ROB

Miller, Dawn M. David

Robinson: Backboard Admiral [1991].

Profiles the college and professional basketball career of the U.S. Naval Academy graduate who entered the National Basketball Association in 1989 after completing two years with the Navy.

B ROS

Wyeth, John

Diana Ross [1996].

B SAN

Gutman, Bill

Barry Sanders: Football's Rushing Champ [1993].

Describes the life and football career of the college All-American and Detroit Lions' star running back.

B SMI

Gutman, Bill

Emmitt Smith, NFL Super Runner [1995].

B SMI

Stauffer, Stacey

Will Smith [1999].

Explores the life and career of this rap musician turned actor and his rise to stardom in such films as "Independence Day" and "Men in Black."

B SUM

Haskins, James and Stifle, J. M

Donna Summer: An Unauthorized Biography [1983].

A biography of a talented vocalist who has performed a variety of styles of music.

B THO

Macht, Norman L.

Clarence Thomas [1995].

A biography of Judge Thomas, with a focus on his controversial confirmation for a seat on the Supreme Court.

B TIL

Tillage, Leon Walter

Leon's Story [1997].

The son of a North Carolina sharecropper recalls the hard times faced by his family and other African Americans in the first half of the 20th century and the changes that the civil rights movement made.

B TRU

Tolan, Mary M and Taylor-Boyd, Susan

Sojourner Truth: The Courageous Former Slave Who Led Others to Freedom [1991].

Follows the life of the former slave who gained renown as an abolitionist and advocate of women's rights.

B TUB

Petry, Ann Lane

Harriet Tubman, Conductor on the Underground Railroad [1996, 1983].

Story of a young African American woman who devoted her life to helping others escape to freedom.

B TUB

Burns, Bree

Harriet Tubman [1992].

A biography of the Afro-American woman best known for her work with the underground railroad, describing her childhood as a slave, her escape to the North, her work during the Civil War, and more.

B TUR

Koenig, Teresa and Schroeder, Howard

Tina Turner [1986].

Examines the veteran rock performer who made a spectacular comeback to become known as one of the best singers in the music business.

B TUT

Lantier-Sampon, Patricia and Winner, David

Desmond Tutu: Religious Leader Devoted to Freedom [1991].

Examines the life of the South African bishop and civil rights worker who has worked extensively to improve conditions for his fellow citizens.

B WAS

Bontemps, Arna Wendell

Young Booker; Booker T. Washington's Early Days [1972].

Traces the events of his youth and early career that were the driving force behind Booker T. Washington's determination to help educate his people.

B WEB

Knapp, Ron

Chris Webber: Star Forward [1997].

A biography of the young player who was a member of the University of Michigan's "Fab Five" in 1993 and Rookie of the Year in the NBA the next year.

B WEL

Fradin, Dennis B and Fradin, Judith Bloom

Ida B. Wells : Mother of the Civil Rights Movement [2000].

B WIN

Nicholson, Lois

Oprah Winfrey [1994].

B WIN

Presnall, Judith Janda

Oprah Winfrey [1999].

Discusses the life of talk show host Oprah Winfrey, her early years, life in Baltimore and Chicago, the evolution of her television show, and her charity work.

B WON

Sanford, William R and Schroeder, Howard

Stevie Wonder [1986].

A biography of the famed musician, blind from birth, whose whole life has been spent writing songs and making music, winning many awards and giving delight to people.

B X

Shirley, David

Malcolm X [1994].

B X

Rummel, Jack

Malcolm X [1989].

A biography of the Black Muslim who became a leader of a movement to unite black people throughout the world.

PB BIO X

Stine, Megan

The Story of Malcolm X Civil Rights Leader.

920 CHI

Chittenden, Elizabeth F.

Profiles in Black and White: Stories of Men and Women Who Fought Against Slavery [1973].

Biographies of lesser-known Americans who took a stand and made a difference in the struggle for freedom including William Nell, Prudence Crandall, Ann Wood, Sarah and Angelina Greinke, William and Ellen Craft, Theodore Parker, Charlotte Forten, Sarah Dickey, Elijah Lovejoy, and P.B.S. Pinchback.

920 CIV

Rennert, Richard Scott

Civil Rights Leaders [1992].

Presents brief biographies of eight people involved in the civil rights movement, including Jesse Jackson, James Weldon Johnson, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Thurgood Marshall, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Asa Philip Randolph, and Walter White.

920 FEM

Rennert, Richard Scott

Female Leaders [1993].

Presents brief biographies of eight female black Americans including Shirley Chisholm, Marian Wright Edelman, Barbara Jordan, Coretta Scott King, Carol Moseley-Braun, Rosa Parks, Madam C.J. Walker, and Ida B. Wells-Barnett.

920 GIK

Gikow, Louise

Famous African Americans in History [2002].

Includes short biographies of over 200 African Americans categorized as political, judicial, military, and spiritual leaders; civic leaders and social activists; writers and artists; musicians, singers and dancers; actors and comedians; journalists and broadcasters; scientists, thinkers, and pioneers; and athletes.

920 HAY

Hayden, Robert C.

Eight Black American Inventors [1972].

Stories of black Americans who contributed to the industrial, technological, and economic development of America. The roster includes Garrett A. Morgan, Frederick McKinley Jones, Jan E. Matzeliger, Lewis Temple, Lewis H. Latimer, Elijah McCoy, Norbert Rilleux, and Granville T. Woods.

920 MCK

McKissack, Pat and McKissack, Fredrick.

African-American Scientists [1994].

Examines the lives and achievements of African-American scientists from colonial days to the present, including Benjamin Banneker, George Washington Carver, and several black astronauts.

920 PIN

Pinkney, Andrea Davis and Alcorn, Stephen.

Let It Shine : Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters [2000].

Includes information about: Sojourner Truth, Biddy Mason, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Mary McLeod Bethune, Ella Josephine Baker, Dorothy Irene Height, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Shirley Chisholm.

920 TAY

Taylor, Kimberly Hayes

Black Abolitionists and Freedom Fighters [1996].

Profiles the lives of eight Afro-American leaders, including Richard Allen, Sojourner Truth, Nat Turner, Henry Highland Garnet, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, and Mary Church Terrell, who were instrumental in abolishing slavery or helping former slaves achieve full citizenship.