

Great African-Americans!

February is African-American Month in honor of the contributions and achievements made by African-Americans. Enlighten your students to the many cultural and historic contributions made by these great people. Assign each student one achiever to research. They may like to use these suggestions in their study.

QUESTIONS TO ASK!

1. Is your African-American Achiever a hero? Why or why not?
2. What inspired your achiever to succeed?
3. How did your achiever's childhood differ from that of other children?
4. Did your achiever receive support or help from anyone? Who?
5. If you could interview your achiever, what would he or she say is their greatest accomplishment?

TIME LINES

Ask students to create a time line noting the special events of a chosen African-American achiever's life. Have them begin with the date the achiever was born. Significant childhood events that helped form the achiever's character should also be noted. Make sure they also record the achiever's education, if they married and whether she or he had children. Have students continue the time line showing the various accomplishments their great person achieved throughout his or her life.

IT'S ALL IN A NAME!

Instruct students to write poems or statements of fact using the letters in the name of a famous African-American. Tell them to make sure that each line accurately portrays their achiever's life. Here is an example using the name of Rosa Parks.

- P** Picked crops on a plantation as a child
A Appreciated and excelled in school
R Refused to sit at the back of the bus
K Ku Klux Klan could not defeat her
S Segregation was stopped with the help of Rosa Parks

EARNED AWARDS

Have students select a specific African-American achiever that has been recognized by earning a specific award. Ask them to research the award and the organization that gives it. Tell the students to find out how the recipients are selected and to list other persons that have received the honor.

LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Have students select one great African-American achiever and comprise a list of his or her accomplishments and facts without mentioning the achiever's name. Post the lists on the class board and have all students guess the identities. Award those students with the most correct answers with a special treat.