

# *Resource Details - Black Culture and History*

## *Black History and Civil Rights*

### **D23: Africans in America: America's Journey Through Slavery**

Only half of the over 20 million Africans kidnapped into slavery survived the torturous trip to the New World. This landmark film exposes the truths of slavery through surprising revelations, dramatic recreations, rare archival photography and riveting first-person accounts. It helps define the reality of slavery's past through the insightful commentary of a wide range of voices including General Colin Powell, authors John Edgar Wideman and Barry Unsworth and leading scholars. The four 90-minute segments include: 1450-1750: The Terrible Transformation; 1750-1805: Revolution; 1791-1831: Brotherly Love; 1831-1865: Judgment Day. 360 Min. Guide. Age: 14-Adult

### **V51: All God's Children**

This documentary short tells the story of the Black Church's embracement of African American lesbians and gay men as dedicated members of its spiritual family. Prominent religious, intellectual and political leaders, family members, and activists speak out about the role of the church and the importance of a commitment to equal rights and social justice for all people. The families, the church members, and the gay activists weigh in with heartfelt stories about exclusion and discrimination, then about inclusion and the call for healing. 26 Min. Age: 12-Adult

### **V158: Beyond the News: Racism**

Martin Luther King, Jr. shares his dream in his 1963 Washington address: that his children would one day be living in a nation where they would not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. Thirty years later, people of color are finding that this is often still just a dream. When the structures of a society have been formed on a set of assumptions that create injustice for some groups within that society, the process for bringing change is a long and difficult struggle. This video was produced to help Christians take another look at racism as it exists today. It examines white privilege and how the church and individuals can work at issues of racism. Guide. 25 min. Age: adult

### **V489=: Eyes on the Prize Series**

The civil rights struggle in America between 1954 and 1956 has been termed the 'Second American Revolution.' New national leaders emerged in protests for integration and voter's rights. This series is the most comprehensive television documentary ever produced on the American civil rights movement. It focuses on the people, the events, and the issues of those turbulent years. Dramatic movements, presented chronologically, come to life through archival footage and present day interviews in these six videos. Age: Adult.

### **V490: Eyes on the Prize: #1 Awakenings, 1954-1956**

Highlights events of 1954-1956 that began the modern black freedom struggle. Prior to 1954, racism was rationalized under a 'separate but equal' doctrine. It was during this time that existing organizations, local leaders and ordinary citizens became involved in the black freedom struggle. The personal courage of Rosa Parks triggered the 1955-56 Montgomery, Alabama, boycott which forced the desegregation of public buses. 60 min.

### **V491: Eyes on the Prize: #2 Fighting Back, 1957-1962**

Public schools became a battlefield when blacks rejected the notion of 'separate but equal' education. This episode explores the critical 1954 Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. the Board of Education*; the story of nine black teenagers who integrated Little Rock's Central High School in 1957; and James Meredith's enrollment at the University of Mississippi in 1962. The program identifies the national organizations involved in the struggle to integrate schools and how they affected the freedom struggle. 60 min.

### **V492: Eyes on the Prize: #3 Ain't Scared of Your Jails, 1960-1961**

In 1960, large numbers of college students and young people began to get involved in the black struggle. The focus of black protest changed from legal battles to personal and group challenges against racial inequities. This program focuses on four related stories: the lunch counter sit-ins of 1960; the formation of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); the impact of the movement on the 1960 presidential campaign; and the freedom rides of 1961. 60 min.

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### **V493: Eyes on the Prize: #4 No Easy Walk, 1962-1966**

In Albany, Georgia, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s strategy of nonviolence was tested by Police Chief Laurie Pritchett. In Birmingham, Alabama, school children filled the city's jails after they marched against Bull Connor's fire hoses. In the nation's capital, marchers captured national and international attention. This program places the civil rights phenomenon in a broad historical context, describing the growing commitment of activists to nonviolent tactics. In the period between 1962 and 1966, the civil rights struggle became a mass movement. 60 Min.

### **V494: Eyes on the Prize: #5 Mississippi - is This America? 1962-1964**

In 1961, Mississippi became a testing ground for constitutional principles as the civil rights movement concentrated its energies on the right to vote in this state. This program focuses on the extraordinary personal risks faced by ordinary citizens as they assumed responsibility for social change, particularly the 1962-1964 voting rights campaign. By 1964, conflicts between movement leaders and liberals became apparent as the newly formed Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party challenged the Democratic Party Convention in Atlantic City. 60 Min.

### **V495: Eyes on the Prize: #6 Bridge to Freedom, 1965**

Ten years after Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man and nearly twenty years after the decree that 'separate but equal' was unconstitutional, millions had joined the fight and thousands of blacks and whites came together to march fifty miles for freedom in Selma, Alabama. This program highlights this historic march as the last great gathering of the southern-based movement, and provides an opportunity to examine the gains made by the civil rights protests. 60 Min.

### **V2312: Pride & Prejudice: A History of Black Culture in America**

Unlike other immigrants who arrived in America, the peoples of Africa came as slaves, deprived of their customs and traditions, stripped of their freedom, and defined only by race. What unique and rich cultural traditions emerged from these tragic beginnings? This program describes how blacks created their cultural identity in the U.S., and the profound impact they had on all Americans. It looks at special challenges that African-Americans have faced, and their brilliant accomplishments. Guide. 28 Min. Age: 8-Adult

## *Black History and Methodism*

### **D392: Black Methodism: A Legacy Faith**

### **V186: Black Methodism: Legacy of Faith**

This video explores the 200 year history of Blacks in Methodism. Particular attention is given to the origins of Black participation in the Methodist movement, to John Wesley's association with African converts, to Methodism's long struggle with segregation and issues of racial inclusiveness, to the commitments and contributions of African Americans to United Methodism, and to the mission priorities that confront Black United Methodists as they seek to remain vital and relevant today and in the future. The viewer will experience this rich historical tapestry through art, music and a prestigious group of outstanding historians and church leaders. 28 Min. Age: 12-Adult

### **V2335: Legacy of Faith II: A Church for the 21st Century**

The legacy of the African-American United Methodist Church is rooted in heartfelt worship, vital preaching, rousing music and a continuing ministry of caring and working for justice. Viewers will see how four churches are building a legacy for the future: St. John's UMC, Houston, TX; Immanuel UMC, Lafayette, LA; Crossroads UMC, Compton, CA; and Ben Hill UMC, Atlanta, GA. 32 Min. Age: Adult

### **V2491: Supporting Leadership for Life**

Since 1972, United Methodists have expanded the vision of the church by planting seeds of hope for a lifetime of Black leaders. The 11 historically Black colleges and universities related to The UMC have educated and trained models of hope, justice, discipleship and ministry through the support of the Black College Fund apportionment. This video is a powerful testimony of students, graduates and college presidents, whose messages echo John Wesley and the founders of these institutions. Four 60-90 second vignettes are included. Guide. 8 Min. Age: Adult

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### *For Children*

#### **V37: African Tales**

This video includes three African fables which will help children learn more about Africa and its culture: 'Banana Thieves,' 'The Spider and the Antelope,' and 'The Boastful Crocodile.' It also includes a look at daily life in Zaire from the perspective of a child. Guide. 23 Min. Age: 5-12

#### **V1569: Rugmaker: A Folktale of Africa, The**

This tale from East Africa shows how everyone -- even a chief's son -- can benefit from knowing a trade. Kamalo doesn't care about having an occupation until he meets the woman he wants to marry. His love for Chinowana makes him use his rugmaking talents, which also help him save his hunting party when captured by an enemy tribe. Bold, colorful animation aptly describes the dry, hot African bush and the grace and dignity of a people who take pride in their crafts. Guide 8 Min. Age: 5-12

#### **V2544: Martin's Big Words**

Using quotes from some of his beloved speeches, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. comes to life in stunning collage art and vibrant watercolor paintings in this profound and important biography about beliefs and dreams and following one's heart. It tells of Martin's work as a minister and civil rights leader who believed in making changes with non-violence. Guide. 8 Min. Age: 4-12

### *Notable People in Black History*

#### **V691: George Washington Carver**

Born into slavery and reared during Reconstruction, George Washington Carver struggled through poor health, poverty and prejudice to become a great benefactor, not only to his people, but to all people as well. Carver is known in history books as the 'peanut man.' But his work as a creative scientist stretches far beyond that endeavor. His story is one of hope, meaning and inspiration. 29. min. Age 12-Adult

#### **V819: Harriet Tubman**

Discover how this African-American serves as a role model for youth today as you learn of her many outstanding accomplishments. Explore her life as an anti-slavery activist known as the "Moses of her people," through archival footage, photographs, period music, and interviews with leading authorities on her life. This program examines Harriet's significance in society today, her individual message, basic biographical information, and inspirational and motivational factors in her life. 30 Min. Age 8-Adult

#### **V1152: Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Discover how this African-American serves as a role model for youth today as you learn of his many outstanding accomplishments. Explore his life as civil rights leader through archival footage, photographs, period music, and interviews with leading authorities on his life. This program examines King's significance in society today, his individual message, basic biographical information, and inspirational and motivational factors in his life. Hear the story of this great orator who led our nation in the fight against racial discrimination with his powerful words and deeds. 30 Min. Age: 10-Adult

#### **V1153: Martin Luther King, Jr.: From Montgomery to Memphis**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. first rose to national prominence as a result of his courageous leadership in a struggle against bus segregation in Montgomery, Alabama. Influenced by his example and leadership, a mass civil rights movement developed which brought racial injustice to the forefront of the American consciousness and was responsible for ending laws of segregation and establishing a more just society. Dr. King's leadership fostered the non-violent style of the movement. This video tell his story from the Montgomery beginnings to his death in Memphis. 27 Min. Age: 12-Adult

#### **V1154: Martin Luther King, Jr.: Letter From Birmingham Jail**

Features original news footage of segregation and violence against blacks that took place in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963. Martin Luther King, Jr. (played by Franz Turner) is portrayed -- behind bars -- in the act of writing his famous 'Letter From Birmingham Jail.' The document was to become one of the fundamental arguments behind the civil rights movement's activities in the years to come. Hosted by Robert Guillaume. 26. min. Age: 14-Adult.

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### **V1155: Martin Luther King: I Have a Dream**

Includes the 'I Have a Dream' speech, scenes of the civil rights struggle and King's 'I Have Been to the Mountaintop' speech. 35 min. Age: 12-Adult.

### **V1158: Mary McLeod Bethune**

Discover how this African-American serves as a role model for youth today as you learn of her many outstanding accomplishments. Explore her life as a pioneer, educator, and civil rights champion. Mary dedicated her life to her belief that education was the means to uplift people and combat racism, sexism, and injustice. She also played a significant role in our nation to end segregation and racial discrimination. 30 Min. Age: 10-Adult

### **V1661: Sojourner Truth**

Discover how this African-American serves as a role model for youth today as you learn of her many outstanding accomplishments. Explore her life as an anti-slavery activist, devout Christian, and spokesperson for women's rights against oppression. She took her name Sojourner Truth in 1843 as she acted on her call from God to care for the needy and the oppressed. She became a traveling preacher, and God gave her the name Sojourner, because she would be 'traveling up and down the land' ..., and the name Truth, because she 'was to declare truth to the people.' 30 min. Age: 10-Adult

### **V2063: Last Breeze of Summer**

Lizzy Davis, a school principal, reminisces about her adolescence in Texas in 1957, when integration of schools began. As a young black girl, Lizzy was shoved into hostilities on her first day of class. Although difficult, she decides to return to the angry world which can fulfill her ambitions - a world where she must stand on her own. 30 Min. Age: 12-Adult

### **V2300: Great Black Innovators**

African Americans have contributed in thousands of ways to American life and society. And yet, many of their significant achievements have been ignored or claimed by someone else. Historic photographs and dramatic re-enactments shed light on some of the greatest black American innovators, like Madame C.J. Walker and Matthew Henson, who excelled in spite of adversity and discrimination, and whose accomplishments improved life for us all. Guide. 32 Min. Age: 10-Adult

### **V2551: Rosa Parks: The Path to Freedom**

By Mrs. Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat on the bus, she set off a chain of events that changed the world forever. This biography describes a dynamic but quiet woman, whose demand for civil rights led to the social changes of the sixties. Viewers hear the events that led to Rosa's defiant act in 1955 when she was arrested, and an overview of the bus boycott and the segregation laws that were finally overturned. Learn the story of Rosa Parks, an ordinary African American citizen who took decisive action, and truly deserves the title of the mother of the civil rights movement. 20 Min. Age: Adult

### **V2614: Real Bottom Line, The: Jesse Jackson**

The Reverend Jesse Jackson has become one of the most eloquent and vigorous human rights leaders of this century. He began his work as a student activist leader during the sit-in movement and met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1965, becoming his assistant for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He continues his work through the Rainbow PUSH coalition, which he founded in 1986, broadening his civil rights agenda to encompass economic rights of inclusion for minorities and women to ensure fairness and equality for all. Guide. 22 Min. Age: Adult

### **V2952: Real Bottom Line, The: Ruby Dee**

Ruby Dee, award winning actress whose career includes theater, movies and television is also the author of My One Good Nerve. 28 Min. Age: Adult

### **V2680: Murder of Emmett Till, The**

The shameful, sadistic murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till, a black boy who whistled at a white woman in a Mississippi grocery store in 1955, was a powerful catalyst for the civil rights movement. Although Till's killers were apprehended, they were quickly acquitted by an all-white, all-male jury and proceeded to sell their story to a journalist, providing grisly details of the murder. Three months after Till's body was recovered, the Montgomery Bus Boycott began. Guide. 60 Min. Age: 14-Adult

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### **V2722: Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin**

A master strategist and tireless activist, Bayard Rustin is best remembered as the organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, one of the largest nonviolent protests ever held in the United States. He brought Gandhi's protest techniques to the American civil rights movement, and helped mold Martin Luther King, Jr. into an international symbol of peace and nonviolence. Despite these achievements, Rustin was silenced, threatened, arrested, beaten, imprisoned and fired from important leadership positions, largely because he was an openly gay man in a fiercely homophobic era. Bayard stands at the confluence of the great struggles for civil, legal and human rights by African-Americans and lesbian and gay Americans. 85 Min. Age: 14-Adult

### **V2760: Ruby Bridges**

This inspiring true story of one little girl whose strength and dignity during the racially charged 1960s helped change history. Six-year-old Ruby is chosen to be the first African American to integrate her local New Orleans elementary school, and she is subjected to the true ugliness of racism for the first time. Guided by the love of her mother and father, Ruby's heroic struggle for a better education becomes a lesson for us all. 90 Min. Age: 10-Adult

### **V2915: Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks**

A documentary about how Rosa Parks sparked a revolution by sitting still. Her simple act of defiance against racial segregation on city buses inspired the African American community of Montgomery, Alabama to unite against segregation. This video also tells the story of countless brave, largely unherald citizens that helped galvanize the Civil Rights movement. Discussion Guide. 40 Min. Age: 12-Adult

## *People's Stories*

### **V2343: Short Wait Between Trains, A**

At the end of WW II, four highly decorated African American combat soldiers are back in America from the European Theatre of Operations. They have survived the carnage and horror of combat, and are looking forward to civilian life. While waiting to switch trains in rural Georgia, they are involved in a violent confrontation demonstrating that all they have fought for has not yet been achieved. 25 Min. Age: Adult

### **V2341: Poet's Voice, A**

African American poet Naomi Long Madgett shares stories from her own life and that of her ancestors as she reads from her work. She takes us back to her Oklahoma childhood, introducing her relatives, most notably her Aunt Octavia, an intriguingly independent woman who tragically died at the age of 34. Naomi's poems tell an immensely moving family saga. 27 Min. Age: Adult

### **V2480: Black Soul**

This exhilarating immersion into the heart of Black culture is via a whirlwind voyage through the defining moments of Black History. As an old woman initiates her grandson into his past, a series of perpetually transforming images unfold before our eyes. The boy traces his ancestry to mighty Pharaohs, and to valiant kings whose praises are sung beneath the baobab tree. Suddenly, the beating of drums conjures forth the slave market and far-flung exile. At long last, the boy makes his way from the lush Caribbean to the snows of the Americas. Guide. 10 Min. Age: 4-Adult

### **V2540: Freedom Bags**

This program tells the story of African-American women who migrated from the rural south during the first three decades of the 20th Century. Hoping to escape from the racism and poverty of the post-Civil War South, they boarded segregated trains for an uncertain future up North. Most could find jobs only as house workers. With spirit and humor, the women remember their tactics for self preservation in the homes of their employers, where they often faced exploitation and sexual harassment. These were proud women who kept their dignity and sense of worth through difficult times. 32 Min. Age: Adult

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### **V2679: Two Towns of Jasper**

On June 7, 1998, three white men from Jasper, Texas, chained African-American James Byrd to a pick-up truck and dragged him until his body disintegrated. This powerful documentary takes you to the white and black communities as it records their separate reactions to the most vicious racially motivated murder in the last 50 years. This film provides an unprecedented opportunity to see the divisions that separate one person from another. Guide. 83 Min. Age: 14-Adult

## *Literature and Poetry*

### **V728: God's Trombones: A Trilogy of African American Poems**

This video is based on the poems of African-American author-educator James Weldon Johnson. The poems are written in the oratorical style of the black preachers he heard as a youth, voiced here by James Earl Jones and Dorian Harewood. The three are: THE CREATION, which conveys the wonderments the early Bible writers felt about creation; GO DOWN DEATH, a powerful, imaginative meditation on death; THE PRODIGAL SON tells the story of forgiveness and unconditional love. (Clay painting and animation) 30 Min. Age: 12-Adult

### **V650: Follow the Drinking Gourd**

In this story based on the traditional American folksong, Morgan Freeman recounts the compelling adventures of one family's escape from slavery via the Underground Railroad. Taj Mahal's heartfelt blues score, along with the beautiful artwork, perfectly captures the drama of this perilous flight to freedom. Guide. 30 Min. Ages: 5-10

## *Music and Musicians*

### **CD11: Sacred Songs of Gee's Bend**

The music that has emerged from Gee's Bend is remarkable, and important to the community. The songs were a primary part of life and integral to the farm work, porch gatherings, quilting, etc. Disc 1 was recorded in 1941 and disc 2 contains recordings from 2002; the connections between the two are numerous. The recordings give a glimpse into the life of Gee's Bend: its rich artistic tradition, strong sense of personal and cultural identity, strong religious beliefs, and genuine care. 28 Min. Age: Adult

### **V2520: Duke Ellington**

Duke Ellington was hailed as the "King of the Keys." Most people called his music jazz, but he said it was "the music of my people." During his career, Duke wrote, played, and painted music with his band's fine sounds. This great man proudly celebrated the history of African-Americans, from slavery to civil rights struggles. Brian Pinkney's glorious artwork swings and sways to Duke Ellington's spellbinding music. Guide. 15 Min. Age: 5-10