

# Famous Black Americans\*

**Sojourner Truth** (1797–1883) – originally named Isabella Baumfree, an African-American abolitionist and women’s rights activist.

**Harriet Tubman** (1822-1913)– Abolitionist, Humanitarian, Union Spy. She has many schools named after her. She also has her very own stamp honoring her. She is on a list of 100 Greatest African Americans.

**Booker T. Washington** (1856 –1915) - Educator, Orator, Author and Leader

**George Washington Carver** (?1864–1943) – Scientist, Educator, Inventor, Agriculturist

**Duke Ellington** (1899–1974) – American Composer, Pianist, Jazz orchestra leader, Grammy Award winner. Received a special award citation from the Pulitzer Prize board and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He has a special quarter and a stamp honoring him.

**Rosa Parks** (1913-2005)– Civil Rights Activist. Received many awards for her efforts towards freedom.

**Gwendolyn Brooks** (1917-2000) – Writer, Poet, Pulitzer Prize winner, Teacher, Poet Laureate of Illinois (1968)

**Ray Charles** (1930–2004) – Composer, Pianist, Vocal Artist, Grammy Award winner. Member of the Rock and Roll AND Jazz Hall of Fame. He is ranked #10 on the list of 100 Greatest Artists of all time (Rolling Stones Magazine 2004).

**Maya Angelou** (1928– ) - Autobiographer and Poet. Actress, Journalist, Teacher, Film Director. Pulitzer Prize Nominee.

**The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** – Clergyman, Activist, Civil Rights Icon. Youngest recipient of Nobel Peace Prize.

**Barack Obama** (1961-) – First black President of the United States, United States Senator, Civil Rights Lawyer, Teacher.

*\*This list is a mere sampling! Please feel free to alter as you wish.*