

# black womens history trivia questions and answers

Black women's history trivia questions and answers provide an engaging way to learn about the significant contributions and experiences of Black women throughout history. From the civil rights movement to the fields of science, literature, and politics, Black women have played pivotal roles in shaping society. This article explores a variety of trivia questions and answers that highlight the achievements, struggles, and legacies of Black women, making it an excellent resource for educational purposes, trivia nights, or personal enrichment.

## Historical Contributions

### Pioneers in Civil Rights

1. Question: Who was the first African American woman to refuse to give up her bus seat in Montgomery, Alabama, a pivotal act in the civil rights movement?

- Answer: Rosa Parks. Her act of defiance on December 1, 1955, became a symbol of the struggle against racial segregation.

2. Question: Which Black woman co-founded the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)?

- Answer: Ida B. Wells. She was a prominent journalist and activist who fought against lynching and was a key figure in the early civil rights movement.

3. Question: Who was the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in the United States, and in what year did she achieve this?

- Answer: Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander, who received her degree in 1921 from the University of Pennsylvania.

### Trailblazers in Politics

4. Question: Who was the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress?

- Answer: Shirley Chisholm, who served from 1969 to 1983 and was known for her outspoken views on civil rights and social justice.

5. Question: Which Black woman became the first African American to serve as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations?

- Answer: Andrew Young appointed Patricia Roberts Harris as the first African American woman to hold a cabinet position and later served as the ambassador

to Luxembourg.

6. Question: Who was the first Black woman to run for President of the United States?

- Answer: Shirley Chisholm, who ran for the Democratic nomination in 1972.

## **Achievements in Arts and Literature**

### **Influential Writers and Poets**

7. Question: Which Black woman authored the famous poem "Still I Rise"?

- Answer: Maya Angelou. This poem is celebrated for its themes of resilience and strength in the face of adversity.

8. Question: Who was the first African American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction?

- Answer: Alice Walker, awarded in 1983 for her novel "The Color Purple."

9. Question: Which author wrote the acclaimed novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God"?

- Answer: Zora Neale Hurston. This novel is a classic of African American literature and explores themes of race, gender, and identity.

### **Impact in Music and Performing Arts**

10. Question: Who was the first Black woman to win an Academy Award for Best Actress?

- Answer: Hattie McDaniel, who won the award in 1940 for her role in "Gone with the Wind."

11. Question: Which singer is often referred to as the "Queen of Soul"?

- Answer: Aretha Franklin, known for her powerful voice and significant influence on music and culture.

12. Question: Who was the first Black woman to have a number one hit on the Billboard Hot 100 chart?

- Answer: Billie Holiday, whose song "Strange Fruit" gained massive acclaim and brought attention to racial issues.

### **Innovators and Scientists**

## Groundbreaking Achievements in Science

13. Question: Who was the first African American woman to earn a medical degree in the United States?

- Answer: Elizabeth Blackwell, who graduated from Geneva Medical College in 1849.

14. Question: Which Black woman scientist played a crucial role in developing the first oral contraceptive and was a pioneer in the field of reproductive health?

- Answer: Dr. Marie Maynard Daly, the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry in the United States.

15. Question: Who was the NASA mathematician known for her contributions to the early space program?

- Answer: Katherine Johnson, whose calculations were critical to the success of the first U.S. manned spaceflights.

## Influential Activists and Leaders

16. Question: Who was the co-founder of the Black Panther Party and served as its Minister of Culture?

- Answer: Angela Davis, an activist, scholar, and author known for her work on civil rights and prison reform.

17. Question: Which Black woman is known for her role as a prominent civil rights activist and the founder of the National Council of Negro Women?

- Answer: Dorothy Height, who dedicated her life to advocating for the rights of women and minorities.

18. Question: Who was the prominent abolitionist and suffragist known for her famous speech "Ain't I a Woman?"?

- Answer: Sojourner Truth, whose powerful oratory and advocacy for both abolition and women's rights made her a significant figure in American history.

## Legacy and Modern Day Influence

### Contemporary Leaders and Innovators

19. Question: Who became the first African American woman to serve as the vice president of the United States?

- Answer: Kamala Harris, who took office in January 2021.

20. Question: Which Black woman entrepreneur is known for founding the beauty brand FUBU and becoming a billionaire?

- Answer: Daymond John, although he is a prominent businessman, the question focuses on female entrepreneurs; therefore, we should refer to Madam C.J. Walker, who was the first female self-made millionaire in America through her line of beauty and haircare products.

21. Question: Who is the first Black woman to win the Grammy Award for Best New Artist?

- Answer: LeToya Luckett, a member of Destiny's Child who won the award as a solo artist.

## **Influence on Culture and Society**

22. Question: Which Black woman is known for her role as a leading figure in the Black Lives Matter movement?

- Answer: Alicia Garza, co-founder of the movement, which advocates for racial justice and equality.

23. Question: Who is the author and speaker known for her work on feminism and intersectionality, particularly in the context of race?

- Answer: Kimberlé Crenshaw, who coined the term "intersectionality" to describe how various forms of inequality and discrimination overlap.

24. Question: Which woman was instrumental in the creation of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.?

- Answer: Lonnie Bunch III, the first director of the museum, though not a woman, the museum's efforts were supported by many prominent Black women leaders, including Michelle Obama, who played a role in its establishment.

## **Conclusion**

Black women's history trivia questions and answers serve as an important tool for educating people about the remarkable achievements and contributions of Black women throughout history. From their roles in civil rights to their influence in the arts and sciences, Black women have made indelible marks on society. As we continue to celebrate their legacies, engaging in trivia can deepen our understanding and appreciation of their histories and struggles. Whether for educational purposes, personal growth, or simply for fun, these trivia questions provide insights into the powerful stories of Black women who have shaped our world.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

## **Who was the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in the United States?**

Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander received her Ph.D. in 1921 from the University of Pennsylvania.

## **Which African American woman became the first female self-made millionaire in the U.S.?**

Madam C.J. Walker is recognized as the first female self-made millionaire in the U.S. due to her successful line of beauty products.

## **What influential African American woman was a key figure in the Civil Rights Movement and co-founder of the SNCC?**

Ella Baker was a prominent civil rights activist and co-founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

## **Who was the first African American woman to win an Academy Award?**

Hattie McDaniel won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in 1940 for her role in 'Gone with the Wind.'

## **Which African American woman was known as the 'Mother of Black History' for her contributions to the field?**

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, while not a woman, inspired the work of many, including Dr. Maulana Karenga. However, Dr. Angela Davis is often cited as a significant figure in the promotion of Black history and culture.

## **Who was the first African American woman to serve in the U.S. Congress?**

Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman elected to the U.S. Congress in 1968.

## **Which African American woman was a famous poet and civil rights activist, known for her work in the Harlem Renaissance?**

Langston Hughes is often associated with the Harlem Renaissance, but Zora Neale Hurston was a notable African American woman author and anthropologist

during that time.

## **Who was the first African American woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean?**

Bessie Coleman was the first African American woman to earn a pilot's license, and she was known for her daredevil performances, but it was Amelia Earhart who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.

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