



## The Woodson Center's 1776 Unites Curriculum

A peaceful, prosperous American future is built on a shared understanding of our past that is accurate and sometimes painfully truthful, but also celebratory and aspirational. Rather than viewing American history through a lens that emphasizes racial grievance that adversely affects and victimizes lower-income minority children, the Woodson Center's 1776 Unites initiative offers free high school and K-8 level supplemental lessons that center around compelling stories of black Americans' incredible achievements against the odds, as well as character-based lessons that enable students to take charge of their futures and find their place in the American story.

In the Woodson Center's 1776 Unites lessons you'll find:

- Downloadable lessons that examine figures from black history who achieved against the odds, often in the worst of circumstances.
- Educator-designed presentation decks, discussion activities, assessments, learning standards, and other supporting material.
- New lessons posted each month that can be used to supplement history, English, and social/emotion learning curriculum topics.
- All lessons are free with registration via our website.

The Woodson Center's 1776 Unites curriculum features fact-based stories of struggle, triumph, hope, and resilience. Since our 2020 debut, our lessons have been downloaded over 45,000 times for use in public, private, and charter schools; home schools; community and church-based programs; adult education courses; and much more.



*Clockwise from the top: Biddy Mason, Paul Cuffe, activists at Boston's Crispus Attucks memorial in the 1970s, Booker T. Washington, cover of The Life of Benjamin Banneker (first edition), Bessie Coleman, Alice Coachman, Elijah McCoy, the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts at the Battle of Fort Wagner.*

Here is a sampling of some of our over 20 (and counting!) lessons:

- ♦ The Woodson Principles: Transcendent principles for personal and community renewal, drawn from the life and work of our founder, community development leader Robert L. Woodson, Sr.
- ♦ Elijah McCoy: Prolific inventor who held 57 patents and helped revolutionize rail travel.
- ♦ Biddy Mason: Philanthropist and real estate mogul who was born enslaved but died a millionaire.
- ♦ Benjamin Banneker: Self-taught polymath, abolitionist, and creator of a popular series of almanacs.
- ♦ Alice Coachman: Born into rural poverty, she became the first Black woman to win Olympic gold.
- ♦ The 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts: Black regiment who fought crucial battles throughout the Civil War.
- ♦ Crispus Attucks: First man to fall in the American Revolution, he later became a figure of legend.
- ♦ The Rosenwald Schools: Brainchild of Tuskegee Institute founder Booker T. Washington and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, this project built over 5,000 school buildings in the rural South.
- ♦ Paul Cuffe: Mariner and entrepreneur, he used his wealth to shape the early abolitionist movement.
- ♦ Tulsa's Black Wall Street: Famous hub of Black entrepreneurship, destroyed in a horrific 1921 race massacre. In the aftermath, survivors fought back against hostile city leaders to rebuild their home.
- ♦ The 1936 Berlin Olympics: On the eve of WWII, Black American athletes like Jesse Owens and Ralph Metcalfe put the lie to Nazi ideas of racial superiority on Hitler's home turf.
- ♦ Bessie Coleman: World-renowned aviatrix, daredevil, and first woman to hold a pilot's license.
- ♦ Katherine Johnson: NASA mathematician and "hidden figure" who helped put America in space.
- ♦ Covert, Michigan: In an era when racist violence tore America apart, one small town came together.