



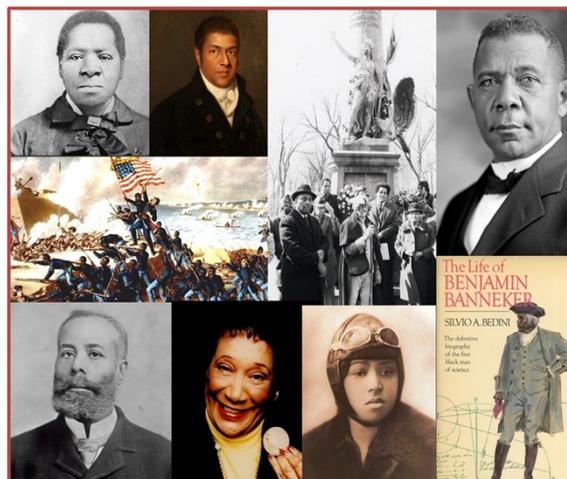
The Woodson Center's 1776 Unites Curriculum

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. When American history is taught with an emphasis on racial grievance – as it has been for decades in some schools and has accelerated at an alarming rate in recent years – the most damaging effect falls upon lower income minority children, who are implicitly told that they are helpless victims with no power or agency to shape their own futures.

To address this situation, the Woodson Center's 1776 Unites initiative has created a free high school-level supplemental curriculum that centers 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.



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 54th Massachusetts at the Battle of Fort Wagner.

The Woodson Center's 1776 Unites curriculum answers the current racial narrative of despair – like the New York Times' 1619 Project – with fact-based stories of struggle, triumph, hope, and resilience. Since our 2020 debut, our lessons have been downloaded over 16,500 times for use in public, private, and charter schools; home schools; community and church-based programs; adult education courses; and much more.

Here is a sampling of some of the 1776 Unites 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 54th 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 leadership 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.