

Black History Essay Questions

Following are brief biographies of fifteen influential African Americans. With each biography are questions that you can answer in essay form. The first pages give you only the biography and the questions. The later pages are notebooking pages with the biography, questions, pictures, and lined pages for your answers.

Harriet Tubman

Born a slave, Harriet Tubman decided when she was almost 30 years old, to try to escape to freedom by the Underground Railroad. After finding her freedom in the North, she returned many times to help other slaves find freedom. She also served as a spy for the North during the Civil War. After the war, she opened a home for the sick, poor, and homeless in Auburn, N.Y., where she died at the age of 93. In what ways were Harriet Tubman's dream of wanting to be free the same as Patrick Henry's feelings when he said "Give me liberty, or give me death."?

Booker T. Washington

Booker T. Washington was born in 1856. Born a slave, Booker wanted to learn, but it was illegal to teach slaves to read and write. When his mother moved to West Virginia after the Civil War, Booker had to work to help the family survive. He was able to attend school for part of the day if he worked the rest. He eventually traveled to a college by working to pay his way as he went. He was able to attend, worked to pay his tuition, and graduated with high grades. He worked as a teacher and was later recommended to run Tuskegee University. Tuskegee University became a leading school in the country and helped students learn that, with hard work, the students could be financially independent and, Mr. Washington believed, would earn acceptance and respect from the community. Is it always possible to change the views others hold about you? What do you think the answer is if you work hard and it still does not change the views of others? How long should you keep trying to change their views, or is there a time when you should decide that another action is advisable?

Samuel Morris

Samuel Morris was a young prince in Liberia, Africa. He became a prisoner of a warring tribe, but escaped with God's help. He went to Monrovia, where missionaries helped him learn about Jesus. He had so many questions that he was told to get the answers, he would have to travel to the United States to study there. He managed to get to the United States and attend Taylor University, where he died at the age of twenty because of the many beatings he had received when still a prisoner in Africa. How did Samuel's desire to learn more about Jesus compare to Nicodemus coming to Jesus to learn more about the Kingdom of God?

A series of 25 horizontal lines for writing.