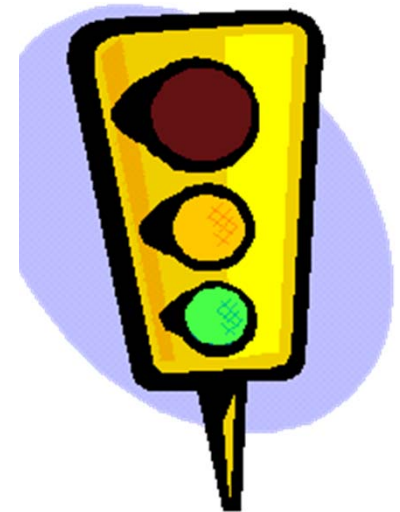
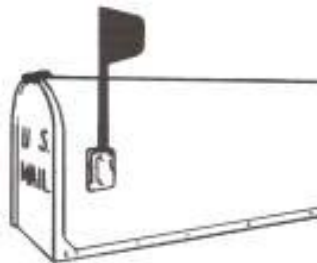


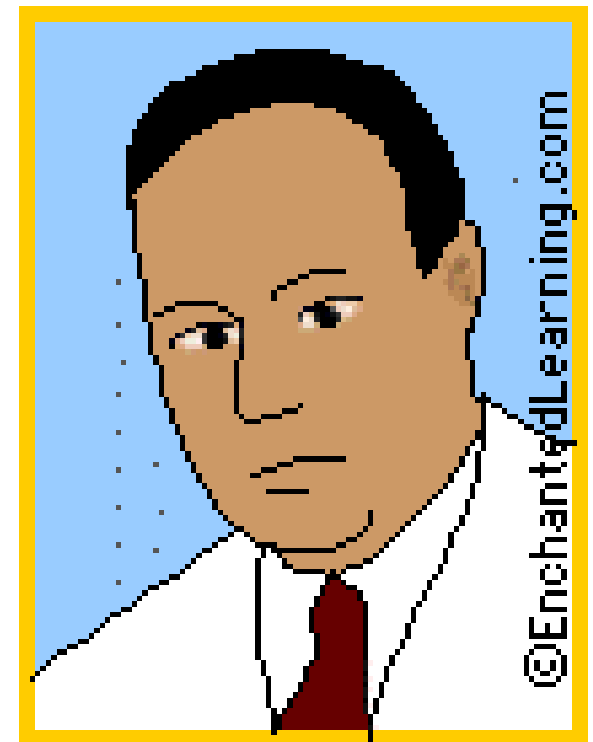
Inventions Created By African Americans



BLOOD BANK

- **Dr. Charles Richard Drew (1904-1950).**

Dr. Drew was an medical doctor and surgeon who started the idea of a blood bank. Drew's project was the model for the Red Cross' system of blood banks, of which he became the first director.



George Washington Carver (1865?-1943)

A scientist, educator, humanitarian, and former slave. Carver developed hundreds of products from *peanuts, Sweet potatoes, pecans, and soybeans*; his discoveries greatly improved the agricultural output and the health of Southern farmers. Before this, the only main crop in the South was cotton.



The Potato Chip



George Crum

Invented in 1853, Crum was a African American. French fries were popular at the restaurant and one day a diner complained that the

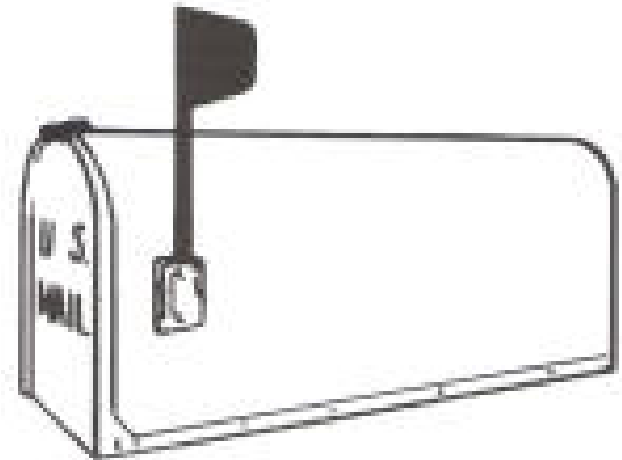
fries were too thick. Crum finally made fries that were too thin to eat with a fork, hoping to annoy the extremely fussy customer. The customer, surprisingly enough, was happy – and potato chips were invented!

Mailbox

Philip B. Downing

The street letter drop mailbox with a hinged door that closed to protect the mail was invented by Philip B.

Downing. Downing, an African-American inventor, patented his new device on October 27, 1891 (Patent # 462,096).



Garrett Morgan

The gas mask was invented by Garrett Morgan, an African-American inventor. Morgan used his gas mask (patent No. 1,090,936, 1914) to rescue miners who were trapped underground in a noxious mine. Soon after, Morgan was asked to produce gas masks for the US Army.

GAS MASK



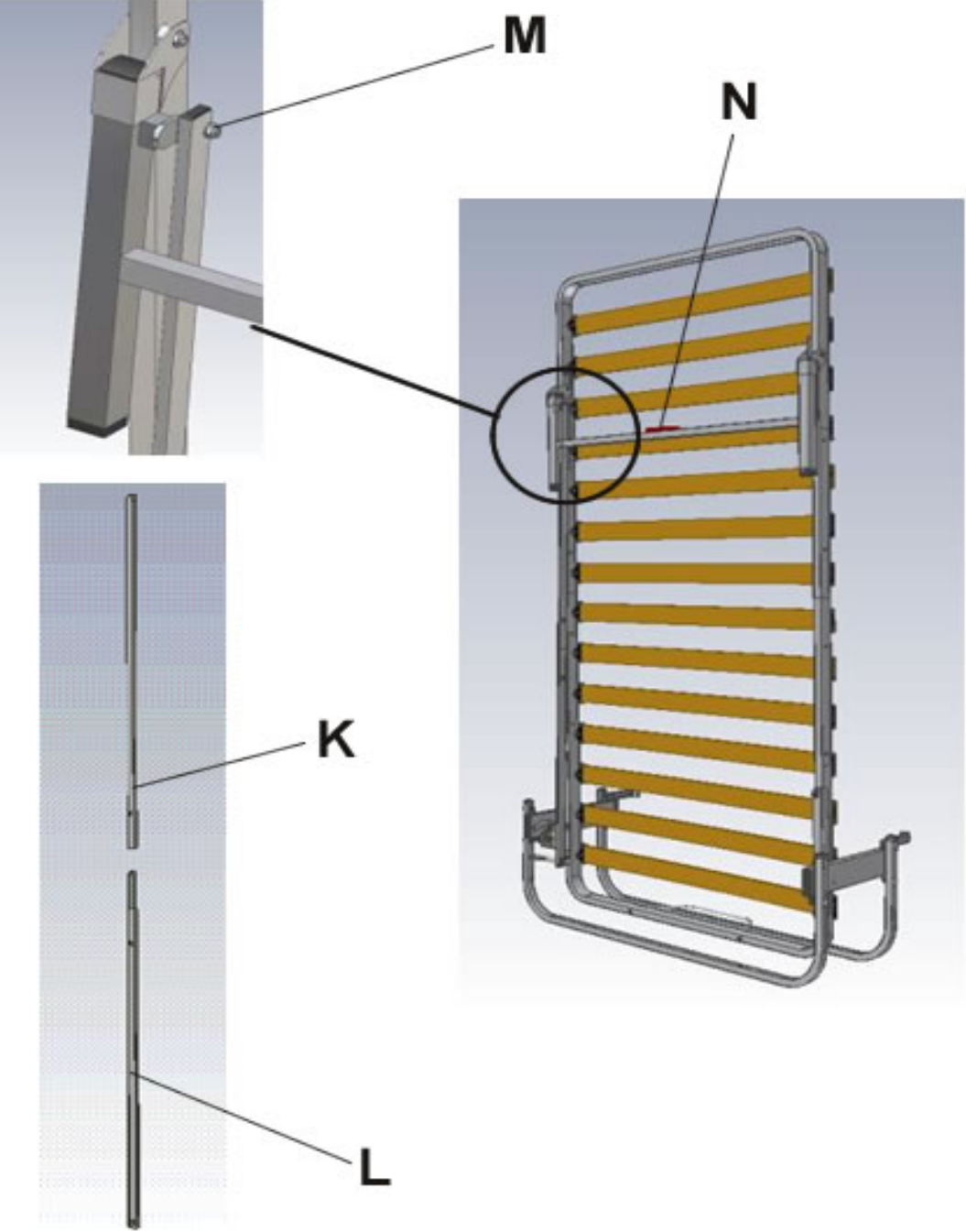
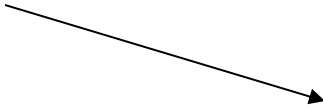
ProKL.org

Folding Cabinet Bed

Sarah E. Goode

Goode invented the folding cabinet bed, a space-saver that folded up against the wall into a cabinet. When folded up, it could be used as a desk, complete with compartments for stationery and writing supplies. Goode owned a furniture store in Chicago, Illinois, and invented the bed for people living in small apartments. Goode's patent was the first one obtained by an African-American woman inventor (patent #322,177, approved on July 14, 1885)

Folding Cabinet Bed





THE INCANDESCENT LIGHT BULB



- Lewis Howard Latimer (1848-1928)

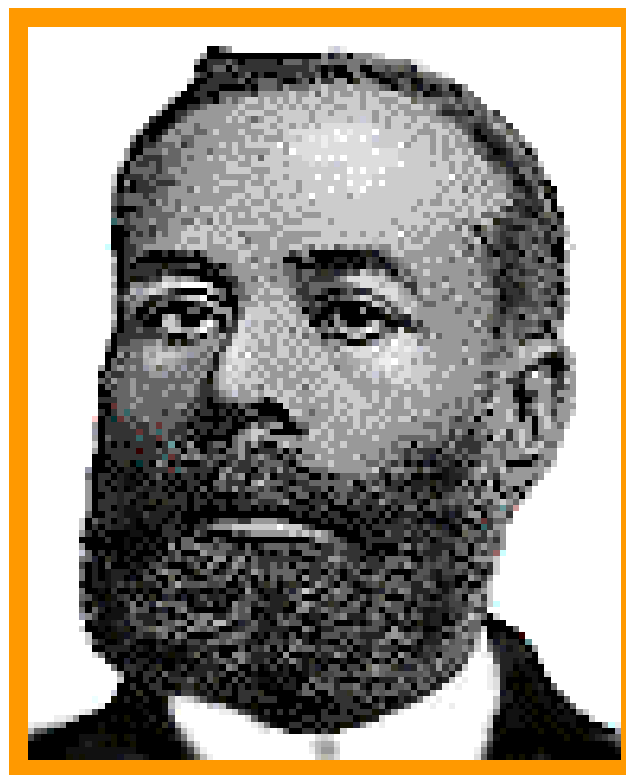
Was an African-American inventor who was a member of Edison's research team, which was called "Edison's Pioneers." Latimer improved the newly-invented incandescent light bulb by inventing a carbon filament (which he patented in 1881).

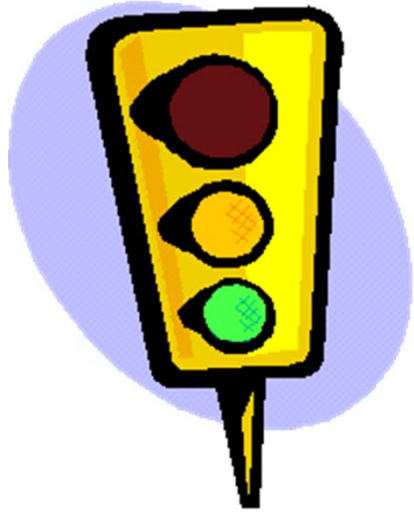


Steam Engine Lubricator

Elijah McCoy (1843 or 1844-1929)

Was a mechanical engineer and inventor. McCoy's high-quality industrial inventions (especially his steam engine lubricator) were the basis for the expression "the real McCoy," meaning the real, authentic, or high-quality thing.





Traffic Signal

Garrett Augustus Morgan (1877-1963)

He was the first person to patent a traffic signal. He also developed the gas mask (and many other inventions). Morgan used his gas mask to rescue miners who were trapped underground in a noxious mine. Soon after, Morgan was asked to produce gas masks for the US Army.

Many Beauty and Hair Care Products

Madame C. J. Walker (1867-1919)

Self-made millionaire, Madame Walker started her cosmetics business in 1905. Her first product was a scalp treatment that used petroleum and a hot comb. Sarah later invented a system for straightening hair. Walker soon added a hair-growing ointment and other cosmetic products to her line.



Masking Tape and Clear Adhesive Tape

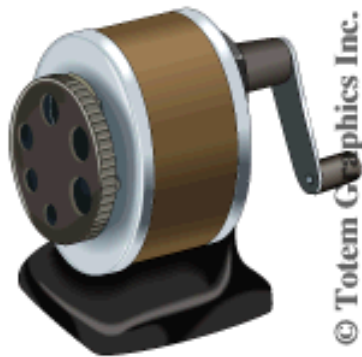
Richard G. Drew (1899-1980)



Drew's first tape invention was a masking tape made for painters in 1923. This early masking tape was a wide paper tape with adhesive on only the edges of the tape - not in the middle. Drew made an improved tape called Scotch (TM) Brand Cellulose Tape in 1930. This tape was a clear, all-purpose adhesive tape that was soon adopted worldwide. The first tape dispenser with a built-in cutting edge was invented in 1932 by John A. Borden, another 3M employee.

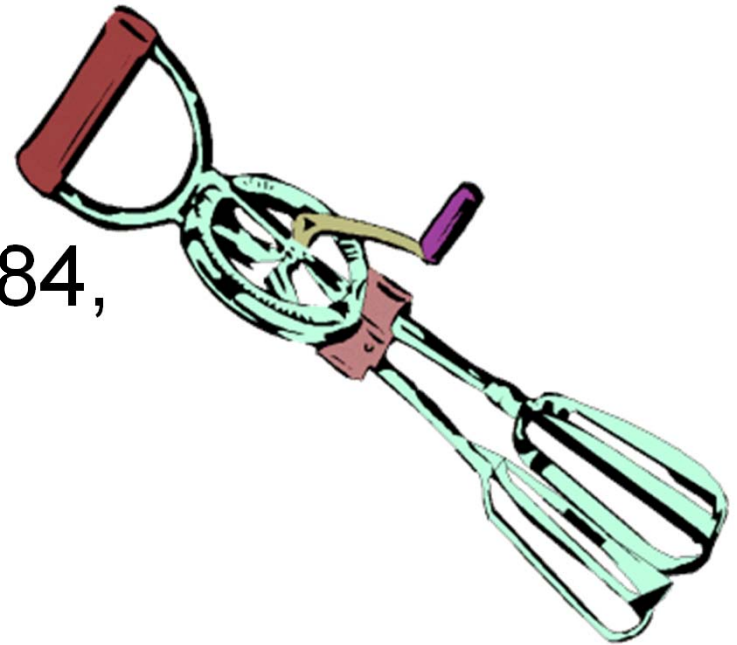
More Inventions

- J.L. Love invented a pencil sharpener (November 23, 1897, patent #594, 114).



© Totem Graphics Inc.

- W. Johnson invented an eggbeater (February 5, 1884, patent #292, 821).



- J. Lee invented a bread-kneading machine (August 7, 1894, patent #524, 042).
- Sarah Boone invented an ironing board for fitted clothing (April 26, 1892, patent #473, 653).



- George Grant invented a golf tee (December 12, 1899, patent #638, 920).



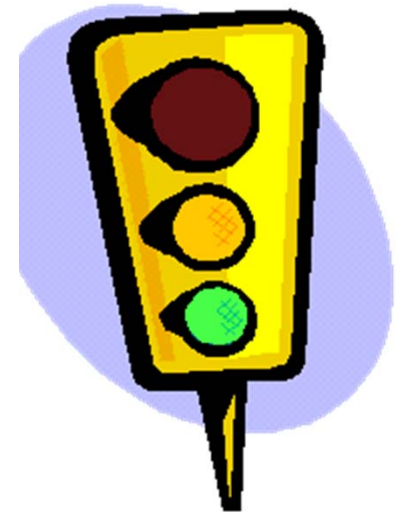
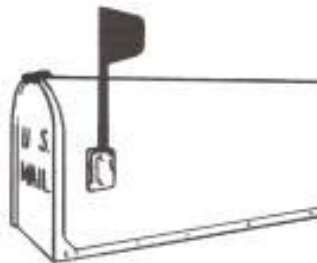
- Thomas W. Steward invented a mop (June 13, 1893, patent #499, 402).



- Julia Hammonds developed a yarn hold (1886, patent #572, 985).

**Submitted by Tasia Eraseren,
Resident Assistant, California
State University Monterey Bay**

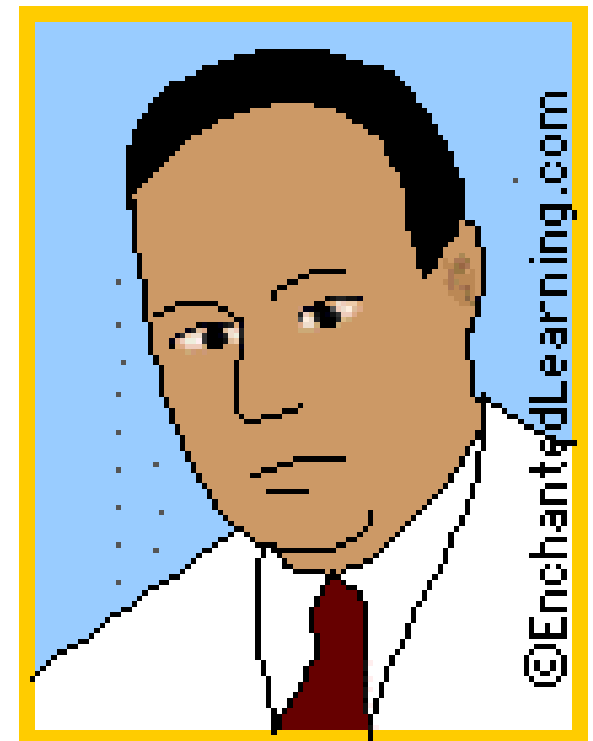
Inventions Created By African Americans



BLOOD BANK

- **Dr. Charles Richard Drew (1904-1950).**

Dr. Drew was an medical doctor and surgeon who started the idea of a blood bank. Drew's project was the model for the Red Cross' system of blood banks, of which he became the first director.



George Washington Carver (1865?-1943)

A scientist, educator, humanitarian, and former slave. Carver developed hundreds of products from *peanuts, Sweet potatoes, pecans, and soybeans*; his discoveries greatly improved the agricultural output and the health of Southern farmers. Before this, the only main crop in the South was cotton.



The Potato Chip



George Crum

Invented in 1853, Crum was a African American. French fries were popular at the restaurant and one day a diner complained that the

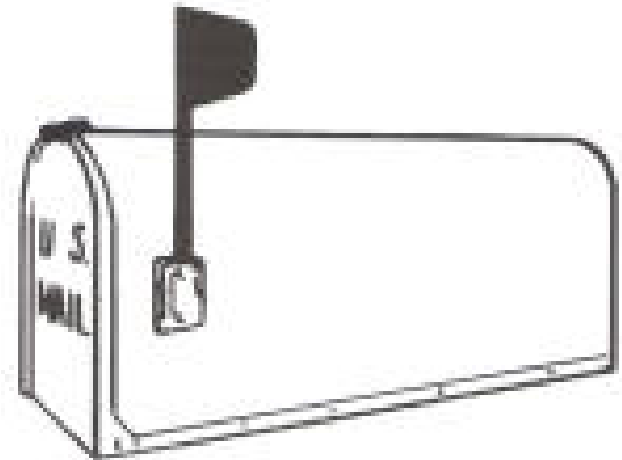
fries were too thick. Crum finally made fries that were too thin to eat with a fork, hoping to annoy the extremely fussy customer. The customer, surprisingly enough, was happy – and potato chips were invented!

Mailbox

Philip B. Downing

The street letter drop mailbox with a hinged door that closed to protect the mail was invented by Philip B.

Downing. Downing, an African-American inventor, patented his new device on October 27, 1891 (Patent # 462,096).



Garrett Morgan

The gas mask was invented by Garrett Morgan, an African-American inventor. Morgan used his gas mask (patent No. 1,090,936, 1914) to rescue miners who were trapped underground in a noxious mine. Soon after, Morgan was asked to produce gas masks for the US Army.

GAS MASK

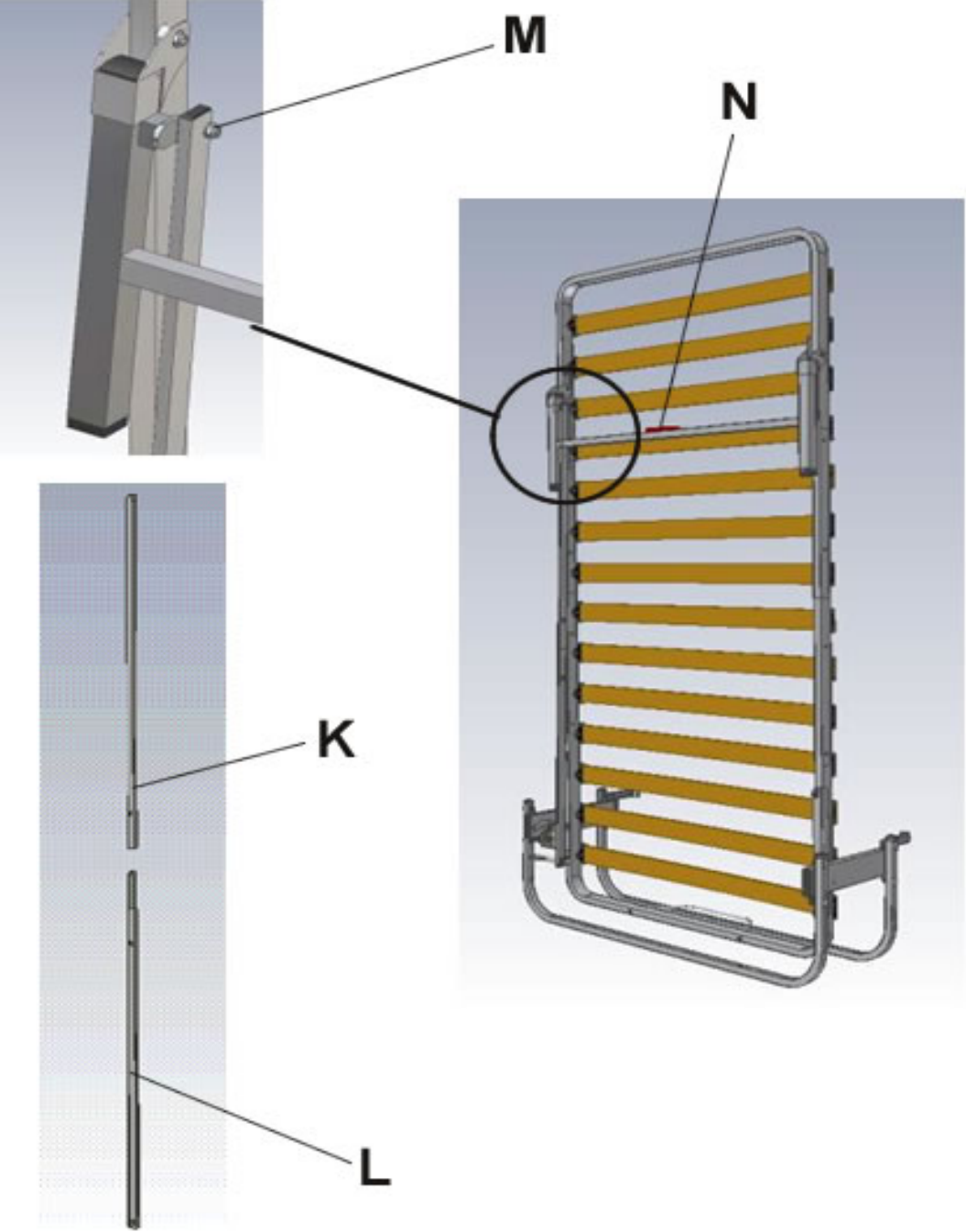
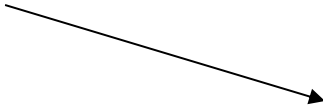


Folding Cabinet Bed

Sarah E. Goode

Goode invented the folding cabinet bed, a space-saver that folded up against the wall into a cabinet. When folded up, it could be used as a desk, complete with compartments for stationery and writing supplies. Goode owned a furniture store in Chicago, Illinois, and invented the bed for people living in small apartments. Goode's patent was the first one obtained by an African-American woman inventor (patent #322,177, approved on July 14, 1885)

Folding Cabinet Bed





THE INCANDESCENT LIGHT BULB



- Lewis Howard Latimer (1848-1928)

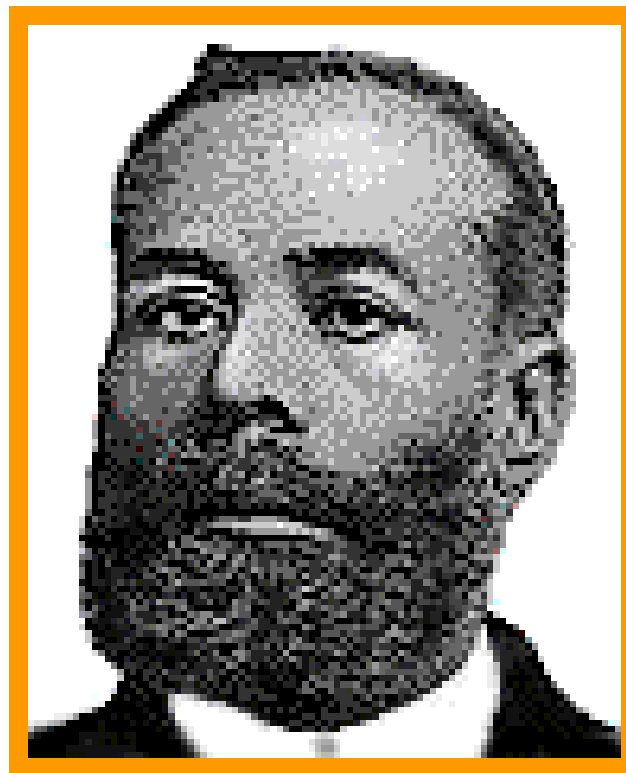
Was an African-American inventor who was a member of Edison's research team, which was called "Edison's Pioneers." Latimer improved the newly-invented incandescent light bulb by inventing a carbon filament (which he patented in 1881).

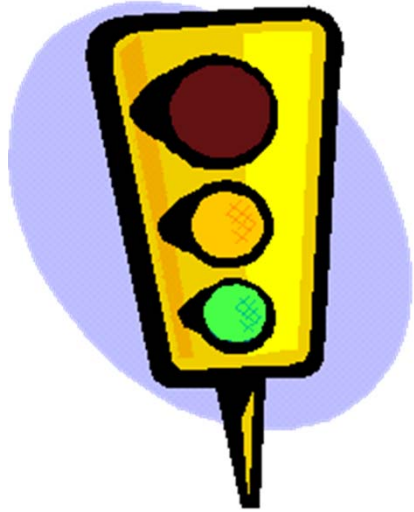


Steam Engine Lubricator

Elijah McCoy (1843 or 1844-1929)

Was a mechanical engineer and inventor. McCoy's high-quality industrial inventions (especially his steam engine lubricator) were the basis for the expression "the real McCoy," meaning the real, authentic, or high-quality thing.





Traffic Signal

Garrett Augustus Morgan (1877-1963)

He was the first person to patent a traffic signal. He also developed the gas mask (and many other inventions). Morgan used his gas mask to rescue miners who were trapped underground in a noxious mine. Soon after, Morgan was asked to produce gas masks for the US Army.

Many Beauty and Hair Care Products

Madame C. J. Walker (1867-1919)

Self-made millionaire, Madame Walker started her cosmetics business in 1905. Her first product was a scalp treatment that used petroleum and a hot comb. Sarah later invented a system for straightening hair. Walker soon added a hair-growing ointment and other cosmetic products to her line.



Masking Tape and Clear Adhesive Tape

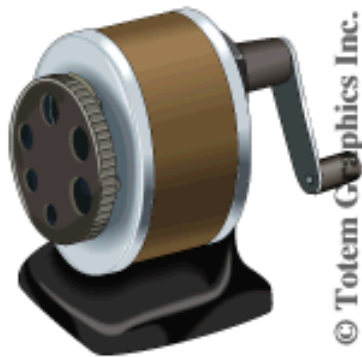
Richard G. Drew (1899-1980)



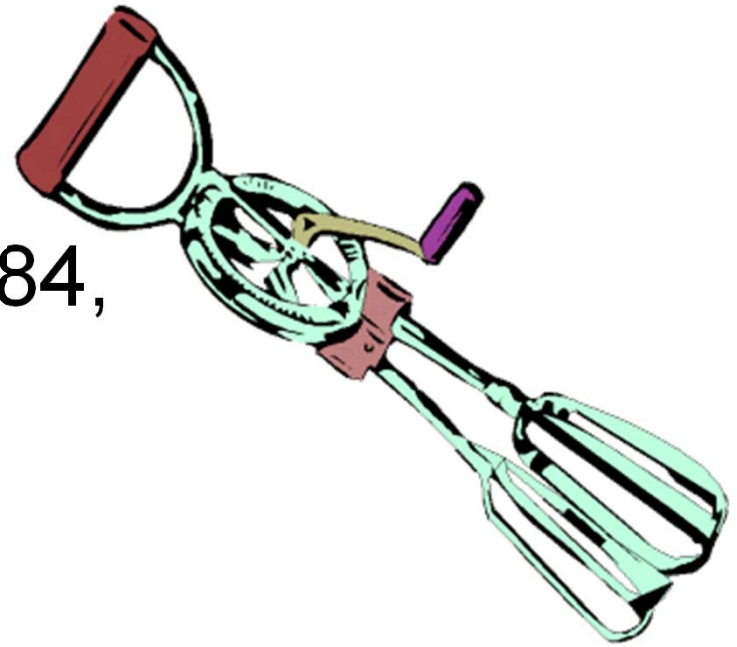
Drew's first tape invention was a masking tape made for painters in 1923. This early masking tape was a wide paper tape with adhesive on only the edges of the tape - not in the middle. Drew made an improved tape called Scotch (TM) Brand Cellulose Tape in 1930. This tape was a clear, all-purpose adhesive tape that was soon adopted worldwide. The first tape dispenser with a built-in cutting edge was invented in 1932 by John A. Borden, another 3M employee.

More Inventions

- J.L. Love invented a pencil sharpener (November 23, 1897, patent #594, 114).



- W. Johnson invented an eggbeater (February 5, 1884, patent #292, 821).



- J. Lee invented a bread-kneading machine (August 7, 1894, patent #524, 042).
- Sarah Boone invented an ironing board for fitted clothing (April 26, 1892, patent #473, 653).



- George Grant invented a golf tee (December 12, 1899, patent #638, 920).

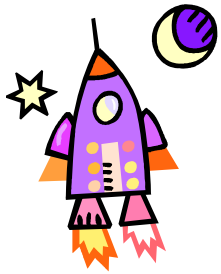


- Thomas W. Steward invented a mop (June 13, 1893, patent #499, 402).



- Julia Hammonds developed a yarn hold (1886, patent #572, 985).

**Submitted by Tasia Eraseren,
Resident Assistant, California
State University Monterey Bay**



Do You Know Your Black History?

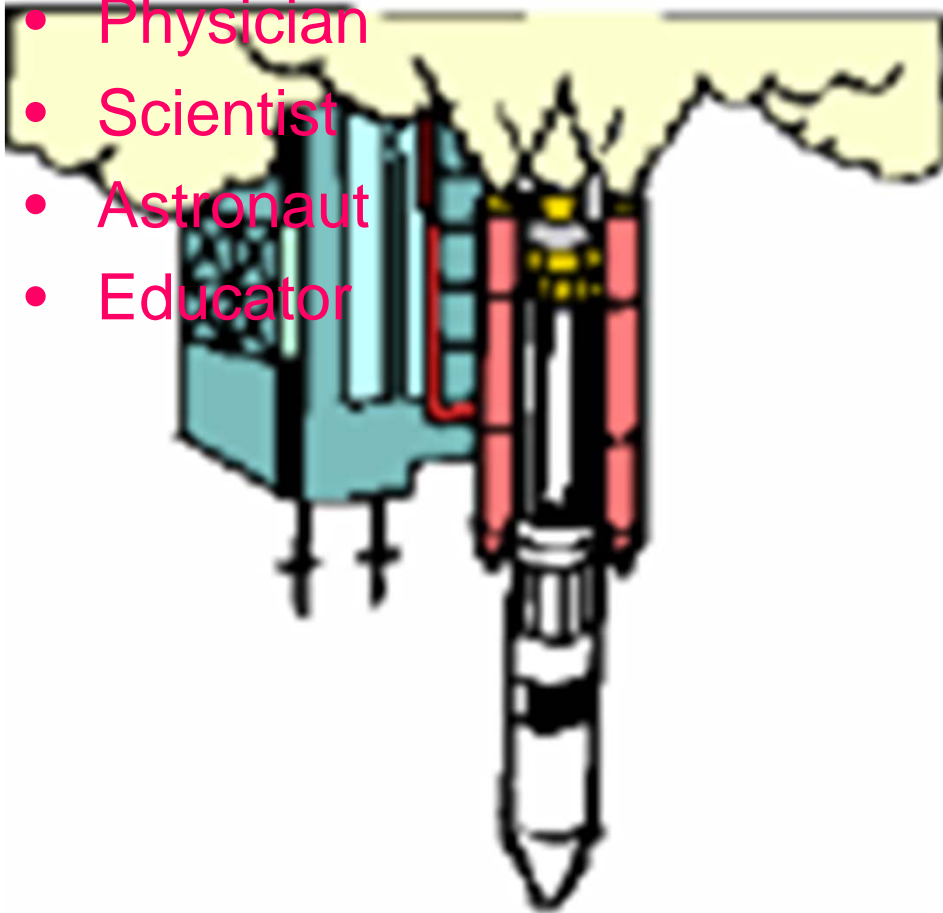
By Dianne Pidgeon

Who Was the First African American Woman Astronaut?



Mae Jemison

- Physician
- Scientist
- Astronaut
- Educator



NASA



Who Discovered Fire Fighting
Chemical Foam That Puts Out
Gasoline Fires and a Treatment for
Glaucoma?

Percy Julian



Born: April 11, 1899

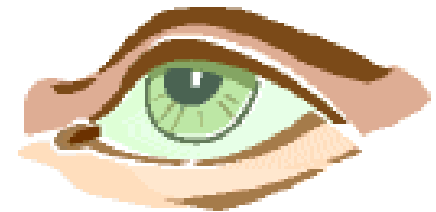
•Montgomery Alabama



New York Public Library
Schaumburg Center for Research in
Black Culture

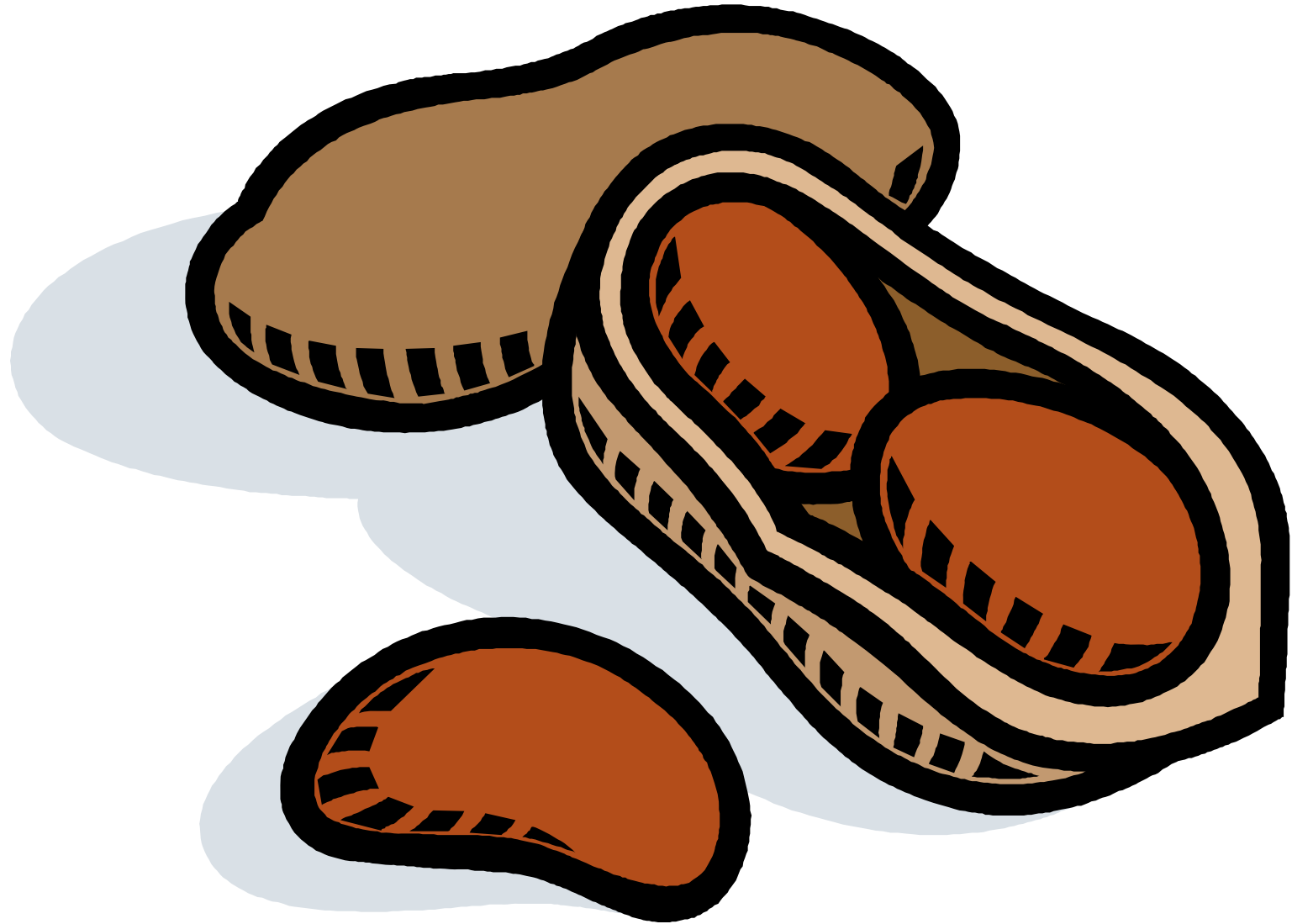
•DePauw University

•Harvard University



Created an inexpensive
drug to treat glaucoma

Who Made 300 Products From Peanuts?



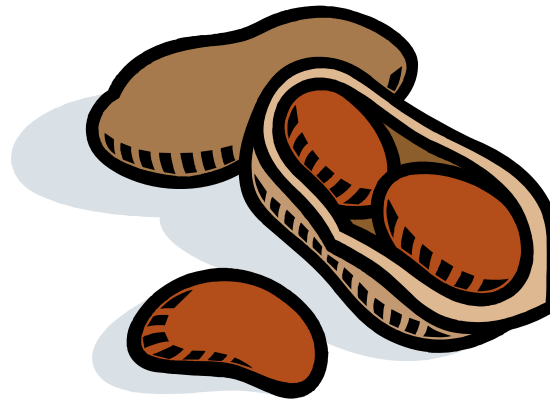
George Washington Carver



Plastics



Soap



300 products from peanuts



Paint



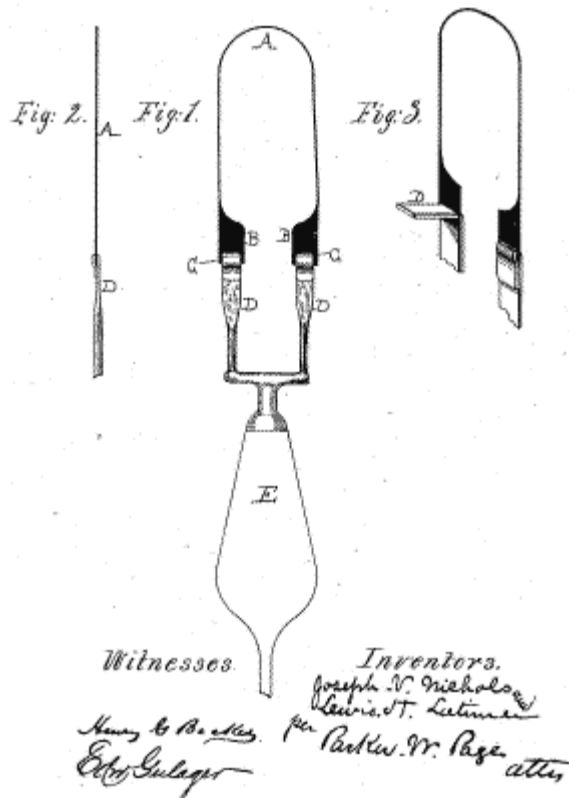
Lotion

Who Invented the Globe
Supporter for Electric Lamps?



Lewis Howard Latimer

J. V. NICHOLS & L. H. LATIMER.
ELECTRIC LAMP.
No. 247,097. Patented Sept. 13, 1881.



Black Scientist A to Z

Inventor and Engineer

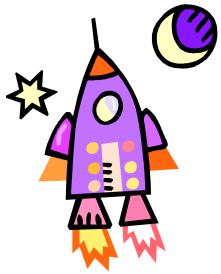
Works Cited List

“Jemison, Mae.” NASA. *African-American History & Culture*.
Fact on File, Inc., 1991. 30 May 2003.
www.factsonfile.com.

“Lewis Howard Latimer.” *What You Need To Know About
Inventors, 2003*. 30 May 2003.
<http://inventors.about.com>

“Microsoft Office Clip Art and Media.” Microsoft Corporation. 30
May 2003. <http://officeMicrosoft.com>.

Sullivan, Ortha Richard. *African American Inventors*. New York:
John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1998.



Do You Know Your Black History?

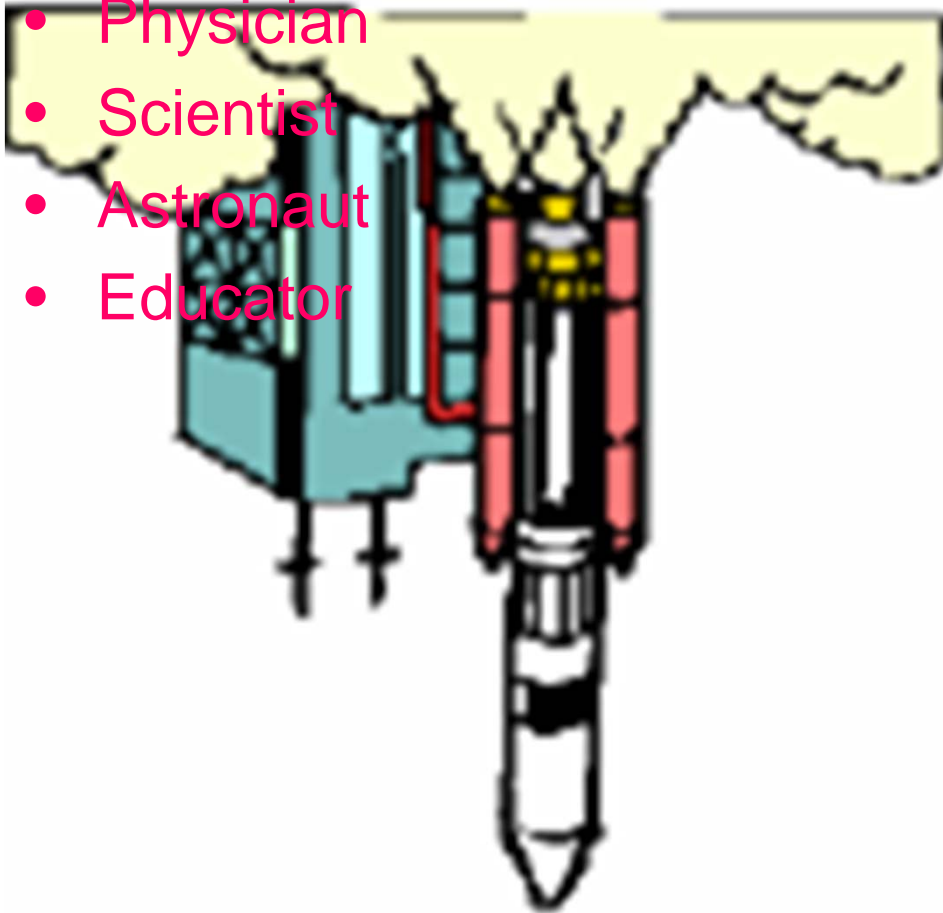
By Dianne Pidgeon

Who Was the First African American Woman Astronaut?



Mae Jemison

- Physician
- Scientist
- Astronaut
- Educator



NASA



Who Discovered Fire Fighting
Chemical Foam That Puts Out
Gasoline Fires and a Treatment for
Glaucoma?

Percy Julian



Born: April 11, 1899

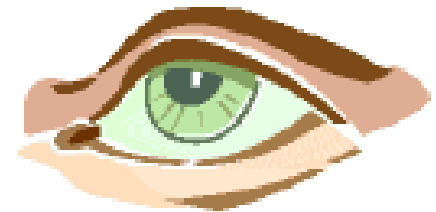
•Montgomery Alabama



New York Public Library
Schaumburg Center for Research in
Black Culture

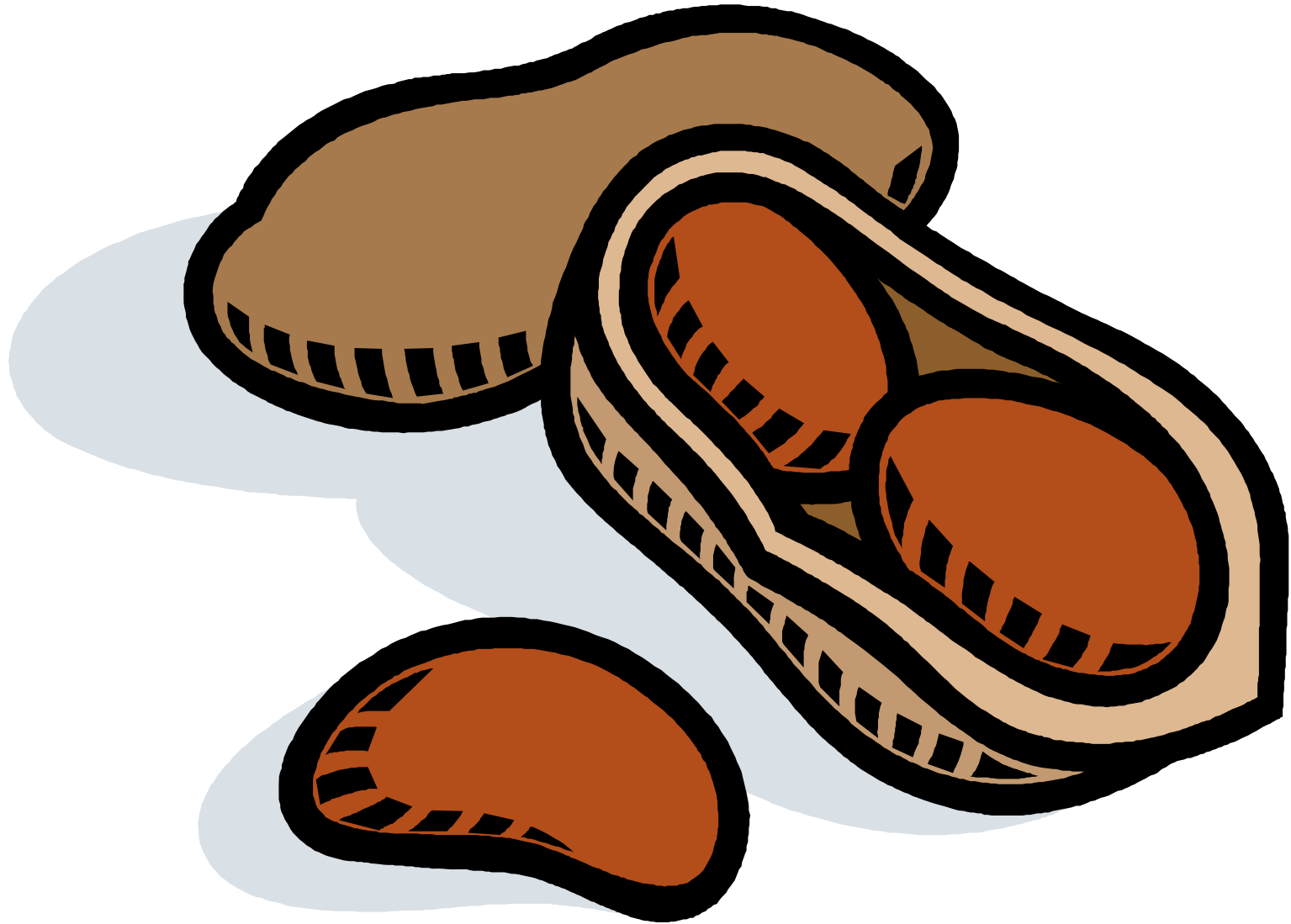
•DePauw University

•Harvard University

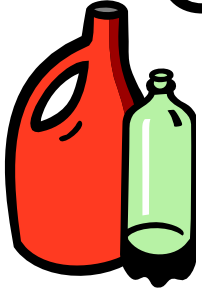


Created an inexpensive
drug to treat glaucoma

Who Made 300 Products From Peanuts?



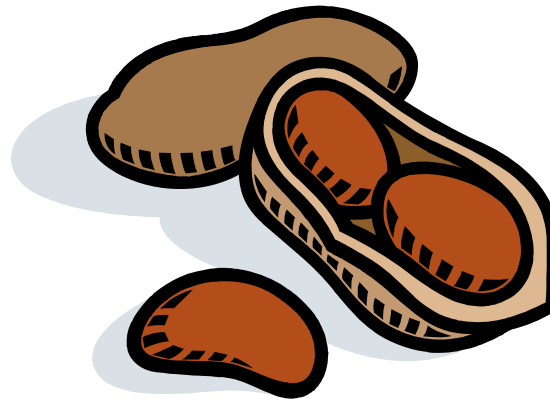
George Washington Carver



Plastics



Soap



300 products from peanuts



Paint



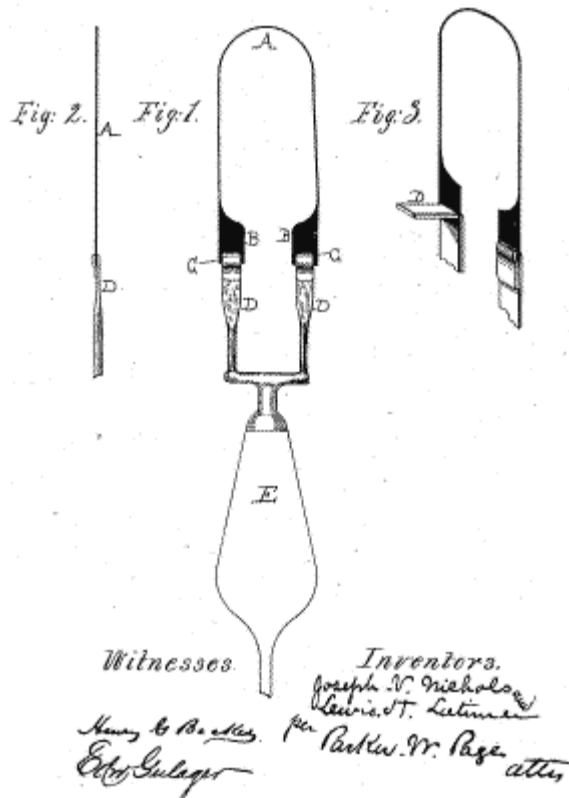
Lotion

Who Invented the Globe
Supporter for Electric Lamps?



Lewis Howard Latimer

J. V. NICHOLS & L. H. LATIMER.
ELECTRIC LAMP.
No. 247,097. Patented Sept. 13, 1881.



Black Scientist A to Z

Inventor and Engineer

Works Cited List

“Jemison, Mae.” NASA. *African-American History & Culture*.
Fact on File, Inc., 1991. 30 May 2003.
www.factsonfile.com.

“Lewis Howard Latimer.” *What You Need To Know About
Inventors, 2003*. 30 May 2003.
<http://inventors.about.com>

“Microsoft Office Clip Art and Media.” Microsoft Corporation. 30
May 2003. <http://officeMicrosoft.com>.

Sullivan, Ortha Richard. *African American Inventors*. New York:
John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1998.

Scientists, Athletes, and Entertainers

Scientists, Athletes, and Entertainers

- Scientists
- Athletes
- Entertainers

Scientists

- African American scientists—chemists, biologists, inventors, engineers, and mathematicians, to name a few—have long been contributing to the advancement of science. The following profiles provide information on some African Americans who have had a tremendous impact on the scientific world.

Scientists

- George Washington Carver
- Elijah McCoy
- Garrett Augustus Morgan
- Madame C.J. Walker
- Katherine G. Johnson
- Lewis Howard Latimer
- Granville T. Woods

George Washington Carver

1865–1943

- George Washington Carver was a great agricultural scientist and teacher.



George Washington Carver

- After Carver received both a Bachelor and Master degree in science, he joined the staff of [Tuskegee Institute](#).
- Carver researched agricultural goods to create useful products. For example, he developed 325 different products from peanuts, 75 different products from pecans, and 108 applications for sweet potatoes.

George Washington Carver

- Carver also developed products for industrial applications using agricultural goods. These included a rubber substitute and over 500 dyes and pigments derived from 28 different plants.
- For his lifelong achievements, Carver received the [Spingarn Medal](#) in 1923 from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Elijah McCoy

1844–1929

Elijah McCoy was born in Canada to parents who had escaped from slavery in Kentucky. He studied mechanical engineering in Scotland.

As an engineer for the Michigan Central Railroad, he worked as a fireman and oilman in charge of lubricating axles and bearings.



Railroad engineer oiling up before the start.
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Detroit
Publishing Company Collection, [reproduction number, e.g.,
LC-D4-10865]

Elijah McCoy

- Trains had to make frequent stops so oilmen could tend to them to keep them operating well. In 1872, McCoy invented an automatic oil cup that continually oiled moving parts, increasing the speed and efficiency of trains.
- Versions of the oil cup were used in steam engines, naval vessels, oil-drilling rigs, mining equipment, and factories.

Elijah McCoy

- McCoy's oil cup was so popular that many copied its design. In fact, this may be the source of the phrase "[The Real McCoy](#)," as engineers asked if their machines included the original McCoy design.

Garrett Augustus Morgan

1877–1963

By the 1920s, the streets were filled with both traffic and pedestrians. In 1923, Garrett Augustus Morgan invented the first traffic light in an effort to curb the problem of overcrowded, chaotic streets.



Crowded street, Detroit, Michigan
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Detroit Publishing
Company Collection, [reproduction number, e.g., LC-D4-10865]

Garrett Augustus Morgan

- Morgan's invention used signs instead of lights to guide traffic and pedestrians. The machine worked by raising one sign while lowering the other so that pedestrians and vehicle operators knew when to proceed.
- Morgan sold his invention to the General Electric Company for \$40,000. He acquired patents in both England and Canada for similar devices.

Garrett Augustus Morgan

- Morgan invented other devices for public safety, including a firefighter's helmet.
- He also invented a gas mask in 1912, which was used in World War I to protect soldiers from gas attacks.
- In 1916, Morgan used the mask himself to rescue men trapped by a gas explosion in a tunnel near Lake Erie. Morgan received a gold medal from the city of Cleveland, Ohio, for his heroism.

Madame C.J. Walker

1867–1919

Some inventors create products so popular that they make the inventor very wealthy. Such was the case with Sarah Breedlove Walker, one of the first American women of any race to become a millionaire through her own business venture.

Known as Madame Walker, she began a cosmetics business in 1905. She developed her own shampoo and hair softener and used heated combs to give hair a shining smoothness.

Madame C.J. Walker

- Madame Walker came from very poor circumstances. She was born in a cabin of a cotton field plantation in Louisiana and worked for 18 years as a laundress.
- At first, Madame Walker peddled her business door to door. She was so successful that she hired other salespeople. Eventually she marketed

Madame C.J. Walker

- In 1919, Madame Walker claimed to have some 20,000 agents working for her and selling her product.
- She gave generously to many charities and organizations, including the NAACP and the YMCA.

Katherine G. Johnson

- A native West Virginian, Johnson attended West Virginia State College. Her efforts over the years earned her the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Award in 1999.
- Johnson worked as an Aerospace Technologist for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Katherine G. Johnson

- Johnson's scientific efforts have added greatly to space travel. Her work for NASA included tracking manned and unmanned orbital missions. She also analyzed data gathered by the Apollo moon missions.
- Johnson pioneered work in the field of navigational problems. She has also investigated the challenges posed by interplanetary trajectories and orbits of spacecraft.

Lewis Howard Latimer

- Many of the items we use today are ^{1848–1928} results of Lewis Howard Latimer's inventive efforts.
- For example, in 1874 he patented a toilet system for railroad cars.
- He also prepared the mechanical drawings for Alexander Graham Bell's telephone design.

Lewis Howard Latimer

- In 1881, using Edison's light bulb design, Latimer developed a carbon filament for light bulbs.
- In 1882, Latimer patented an improved method of making carbon filaments and created the threaded socket, which is still found in the light bulbs used today.
- Because of this work, he supervised the installation of public electric lights throughout New York. Philadelphia.

Lewis Howard Latimer

- Latimer also invented the forerunner to our modern air conditioner.
- Perhaps his most distinguished accomplishment was being the sole African American member of the [Edison Pioneers](#), Thomas Edison's elite research team. During his time with the team, he continued his distinguished career.

Lewis Howard Latimer

- While working for Thomas Edison, Latimer wrote *Incandescent Electric Lighting*, the first engineering handbook on lighting systems.
- His work helped to make possible the widespread use of electric lights.

Granville T. Woods

- Some inventors come from humble ^{1856–1910} circumstances and have little formal education. Granville Woods attended school only until age 10.

Granville T. Woods

- Before becoming an inventor, Woods held many jobs that helped to hone his creativity. He was a fireman, a railroad engineer, and a chief engineer aboard a steamboat. His other experiences included working in a mill and in a machine shop.
- Among his many inventions are fifteen appliances for electric railways. One was an improved steam boiler furnace developed in 1884.

Granville T. Woods

- His designs were very popular. He sold many of his ideas to General Electric, Westinghouse, and American Bell Telephone Company.

Granville T. Woods

- In 1888, he developed an overhead electric conducting line for railroads. This helped develop the modern overhead railroad system found in many cities today. Woods also invented the Synchronous Multiplex Railway Telegraph. This device allowed trains to communicate with each other while in transit, which prevented accidents and collisions.

Athletes

- African Americans have made great accomplishments and had great successes in sports during the twentieth century. Some have had to overcome great obstacles, such as racism or physical limitations.

Athletes

- [Jesse Owens](#)
- [Joe Louis](#)
- [Jackie Robinson](#)
- [Wilma Rudolph](#)
- [Hank Aaron](#)
- [Muhammad Ali](#)
- [Walter Payton](#)
- [Jackie Joyner-Kersey](#)
- [Michael Jordan](#)
- [Tiger Woods](#)
- [Serena and Venus Williams](#)

Jesse Owens

- Jesse Owens was one of the greatest African American pioneers in sports. Owens worked three jobs to pay for his college tuition while running on the track and field team at the Ohio State University in the early 1930s.
- While traveling with the team, he was often refused service at restaurants. Rather than becoming frustrated by this treatment Owens used these incidents

Jesse Owens

- One particular event shows his amazing endurance. Shortly before the Big Ten Championship games in 1935, Owens injured his back. He participated despite the injury, and in less than one hour he had set new world records in four different running events.

Jesse Owens

- Owens's crowning achievement occurred during the 1936 Olympic Games held in Nazi Germany. Hitler hosted the games, hoping to promote the superiority of the Aryan race. He was sorely disappointed.
- Owens won four gold medals in the 100- and 200- meter dashes, the long jump (setting a world record in the process), and the 400- meter relay.

Jesse Owens

- Three American presidents lauded Owens's personal and professional achievements. President Gerald R. Ford awarded Owens the country's highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom, in ceremonies at the White House in 1976. In February 1979, President Jimmy Carter presented him with the Living Legend Award. In 1990, President George H. Bush honored Jesse Owens with the Congressional Gold Medal presented to

Jesse Owens

- Upon learning of Owens's death on March 31, 1980, President Carter paid one last tribute to him with these words:

"Perhaps no athlete better symbolized the human struggle against tyranny, poverty, and racial bigotry. His personal triumphs as a world-class athlete and record holder were the prelude to a career devoted to helping others. His work with young athletes, as an unofficial ambassador overseas, and a spokesman for freedom are a rich legacy to his fellow Americans."

Joe Louis

- At a time when African Americans were prohibited from participating in many sports, Joe Louis mirrored Owens's success.
- Louis became a professional boxer in 1934, winning his first professional fight by a knockout. He went on to win the next 26 fights.

Joe Louis

- In 1936, Louis fought Max Schmeling, a German boxer. This fight came to symbolize the strength of Nazi Germany against the democratic United States. When he lost the bout, Louis gave the Nazis reason to feel superior.

Joe Louis

- Louis did not give up fighting. In 1937, he won the heavyweight championship. In 1938, he had a rematch against Schmeling.
- Even more so than their previous match, this contest pitted the ideals of Germany against the United States.
- Just as Owens had done in the Olympics, Louis humiliated both Hitler and Germany by knocking out Schmeling in only one

Joe Louis

- Louis became a national legend and an instant hero to people of all races in the United States. His victory helped him to bridge the racial gap.
- Louis held the heavyweight title from 1937 to 1949, the longest reign of any heavyweight boxer. During this period, he successfully defended the title against 25 challengers.

Jackie Robinson

- While Louis and Owens became national celebrities, none had a greater impact on opportunities for African American athletes than Jackie Robinson.

Jackie Robinson

- Robinson competed in a professional sport that hadn't allowed African American entry in decades: baseball.
- He excelled at many sports, including basketball, football, and track.
- In 1945, after serving in the army, Robinson signed on to play minor league baseball.

Jackie Robinson

- Robinson began playing in the Negro American League, but scouts soon took notice of his talent.
- He was recruited to the minor leagues by the Royals in Montréal.

Jackie Robinson

- In 1947, after only one season in league, he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers to become the first African American to play modern major league baseball.
- Remarkably, that was a year before the military was desegregated. The Supreme Court of the United States would not desegregate schools until 1954.

Jackie Robinson

- Robinson learned great self-control in the early years of his game. He endured death threats, hate letters, and unsportsmanlike actions by opposing teams.
- His talent and self-control earned the respect of his team and eventually the nation.

Jackie Robinson

- Robinson's career batting average was an exceptional .311. He excelled at driving other runners home and at stealing bases.
- In 1962, during his first year of eligibility, Robinson was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Wilma Rudolph

- While male African Americans made headway in sports during the 1930s and 1940s, there were fewer opportunities for women.
- Most popular sports at the time were established for male players. However, track and field was one area in which African American women were able to participate—and excel.

Wilma Rudolph

- One of the most notable stars of the sport was Wilma Rudolph. Born prematurely in 1940, by age four she had contracted polio. She lost the use of her left leg and had to wear a leg brace to walk.
- Rudolph suffered through years of illnesses, such as the measles and whooping cough. Eventually, she grew strong enough to discard her leg brace. She soon aspired to play basketball.

Wilma Rudolph

- She became a star player on her high school team and once scored 49 points in one game. But it was her speed that gained her international fame.
- During the 1960 Olympics, she won the bronze medal in the relay race at age 16.

Wilma Rudolph

- That year, Rudolph ran so fast that she became the first American woman to win 3 gold medals in one Olympics: the 100- and 200- meter dashes and the 400-meter relay, for which she ran in the anchor position. She set a world record for the 200-meter dash.
- As the team traveled throughout the world to compete in other events, Rudolph became increasingly popular.

Wilma Rudolph

- Rudolph received numerous honors, including many for which she was the first female recipient. Her celebrity status helped to break gender barriers in many previously all-male track and field events.

Hank Aaron

- Robinson may have paved the way for African Americans to play professional baseball, but he could not completely eliminate racial tensions. Many players had to face difficult times.

Hank Aaron

- Fortunately for Hank Aaron, he was able to face opposition and overcome it. He left high school in 1952 to join the Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro American League.
- Aaron played for them briefly until being sold to the Braves. In 1953, he was one of the first African American players in the South Atlantic League. He led the league in batting, runs, hits,

Hank Aaron

- Although Aaron was a spectacular player in many areas of the sport, he is best known for his ability to hit the ball.
- He won two National League batting titles with high averages and assisted his team in winning several pennants.

Hank Aaron

- In the summer of 1973, Aaron faced the greatest racial tension and experienced his most enduring achievement: he was about to beat Babe Ruth's all-time home run record.
- Many people were excited by the chance to see a new record set. Others, however, did not approve, and they wrote him threatening letters.

Hank Aaron

- Even so, Hank Aaron rose to the occasion. On April 8, 1974, he hit his 715th homerun to beat Babe Ruth's record.
- When he retired, he had 755 homeruns to his name, a record that still stands for the major leagues.

Muhammad Ali

- Boxing, perhaps the most grueling of sports, demands great things of its participants. No other athlete met these challenges the way Muhammad Ali did.

Muhammad Ali

- Born Cassius Clay in 1942, Ali began boxing at age 12, after having his bicycle stolen. The police officer to whom he reported the theft invited him to train as a boxer. It was a decision that forever changed his future.
- While still in high school, Ali won 100 out of 108 amateur matches and six Kentucky and two national Golden Glove championships. In 1960, he won

Muhammad Ali

- During his Olympic bid, Ali developed his famous ring chatter. He would talk to his opponents during the fight to distract and frustrate them.
- After the Olympics, Ali turned to professional boxing. By the time he competed for the heavyweight championship in 1964, Ali had captured the attention of the nation.

Muhammad Ali

- However, he was not expected to win the fight against the powerful Sonny Liston. Ali was not the favorite: 43 of 46 sports writers predicted he would lose.
- Ali stunned them all when he defeated Liston in the seventh round to become the undisputed heavyweight champion.

Muhammad Ali

- Ali surprised the world again soon after the fight by announcing he had converted to Islam and had changed his name to Muhammad Ali.
- In 1967, he was stripped of his title and boxing license because he had refused to obey the draft to serve in Vietnam. Although Ali declared he was a conscientious objector, his refusal created a great stir. Many were angry with him. He served 2 years in prison.

Muhammad Ali

- In 1967, he was stripped of his title and boxing license because he had refused to obey the draft to serve in Vietnam. Although Ali declared he was a conscientious objector, his refusal created a great stir. Many were angry with him. He served 3 years in prison until his conviction was overturned.

Muhammad Ali

- Ali soon returned to the ring and reclaimed the heavyweight title. He later lost the title to Leon Spinks. After he defeated Spinks in a rematch, he became the first boxer to hold the title three times.

Muhammad Ali

- After Ali retired, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. He did not let the disease stop him. Instead, he became a self-appointed diplomat and political activist. He also worked to help the less fortunate.

Muhammad Ali

- In 1996, Ali was honored by being chosen to light the torch during the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Walter Payton

- Football has had many stars and many amazing players. Some have great speed, others possess great tackling ability, still others excel at throwing the ball and directing the field of play.

Walter Payton

- One of the most explosive players in football was Walter Payton. He set numerous records and had amazing accomplishments.
- He held the NFL's all-time rushing record for almost two decades, and he extended the record to an amazing 16,726 yards.
- Payton once ran for 275 yards in one game, a record that lasted 23 years. He missed only 1 game in 13 years of play.

Walter Payton

- While in college, Payton scored 464 total points, an NCAA Division II record that lasted 24 years. He rushed, he kicked extra points, and he kicked field goals. His versatility made him a dangerous player.

Walter Payton

- Payton played with every ounce of energy in his body. For all his amazing feats, Payton didn't want people to remember him for his records or his amazing achievements.
- Not even his Super Bowl victory was as important to him. Instead, he wanted to be remembered for his constant effort and his willingness always to give the sport his all.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey

- Some athletes are great because they perform amazing feats. Like Muhammad Ali, some athletes prove their greatness by repeating their incredible feats over and over again. Jackie Joyner-Kersey did just that.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey

- In 1984, she won the silver medal and in 1988 and 1992 she won the gold medal for the heptathlon at the Olympics.
- She also won two bronze medals, one in 1992 and one in 1996. All told, she became the most decorated woman in U.S. Olympic track and field history with 6 medals.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey

- Jackie's success in the event is staggering, considering what the heptathlon involves.
- The heptathlon features seven different events that measure speed, strength, and stamina. These events include 100-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put, 200-meter dash, long jump, javelin throw, and 800-meter race.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey

- Many athletes have risen to prominence from challenging backgrounds. Jackie was no exception. When she was 11 years old, she saw a man gunned down outside her house. Her mother died when she was 18.
- Still, her parents taught her to respect herself. She worked hard at her given talents, particularly basketball, volleyball, track and field, and her studies. After graduating in the top 10 percent of her

Jackie Joyner-Kersey

- Still, her parents taught her to respect herself. She worked hard at her given talents, particularly basketball, volleyball, track and field, and her studies. After graduating in the top 10 percent of her high-school class, she received a scholarship to UCLA and earned a B.A. in history.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey

- Jackie's accomplishments include setting the current world record for long jump at 24 feet, 7 inches. She holds the world record for most points earned for the heptathlon (7,291) and the next five highest scores. She competed on 4 Olympic teams and barely missed the cutoff for the 2000 team.

Michael Jordan

- While there have been many exceptional African American basketball players, none is more recognizable than Michael Jordan.

Michael Jordan

- Surprisingly, Jordan's first years playing basketball were not so remarkable. As a sophomore in high school, he didn't make the varsity basketball team.
- That failure inspired him to achieve, however. Any time he thought of giving up, he would remember seeing his name missing from the varsity roster list.

Michael Jordan

- In 1982, as a freshman at North Carolina University, he sunk a 17-foot shot with 15 seconds left to gain the lead in the NCAA tournament.
- He would become famous for making such clutch shots time and time again.

Michael Jordan

- During his professional career (beginning in 1985), doubts about his abilities surfaced. For years he would win scoring contests but could not lead his team, the Chicago Bulls, to win the national championship.

Michael Jordan

- That changed during the 1990s when the Bulls won the championship in 1991, 1992, and 1993. Then Jordan surprised the world by retiring from basketball to play professional baseball.

Michael Jordan

- Jordan rejoined the Bulls in 1995 and led them to victory again, winning the NBA championship in 1996, 1997, and 1998. He surprised America again by retiring.
- .

Michael Jordan

- As a man of surprises, Jordan had at least one more up his sleeve. After becoming president of basketball operations for the Washington Wizards, he decided his team needed his skills on the court more than in the office. He came out of retirement a second time to play the sport he loves.

- As a man of surprises, Jordan had at least one more up his sleeve. After becoming president of basketball operations for the Washington Wizards, he decided his team needed his skills on the court more than in the office. He came out of retirement a second time to play the sport he loves.

Tiger Woods

- Throughout its history, the field of golf has been dominated by Caucasians. That is, until the last few years. Almost since his professional debut in 1996, there has been one name synonymous with excellence in golf: Tiger Woods.

Tiger Woods

- Woods's accomplishments have been impressive. Even before he turned pro, he had won six amateur national titles and a host of other tournaments, including the NCAA title.
- He won twice in 1996, the year he turned professional. By winning the Masters tournament in 1997, he became the first African American to win a major event.

Tiger Woods

- In 1998, however, he won only 3 tournaments. Some thought he was a one-year sensation. Woods proved them wrong.
- In 1999, he won 8 times on the PGA tour (the first time anyone had done that since 1974), including the PGA Championship. He beat the previous record for single-year earnings by almost \$.3 million

Tiger Woods

- In 2000, Woods became the second golfer in history to win three professional major golf tournaments in one year. He became the youngest golfer—at age 24—to complete a career Grand Slam, winning all four major golf tournaments.
- Woods won five times on the PGA tour in both 2001 and 2002. He won 8 times overall in 2001 and 7 times overall in 2002.

Tiger Woods

- He won the *Sports Illustrated* Sportsman of the Year award in both 1996 and 2000, the first person to receive this award twice.
- With many tournaments to play in 2003 and subsequent years, Woods may set even more records. The unassuming and humble Woods has become a model for all athletes.

Serena and Venus Williams

- Even as Tiger Woods dominates the golf course, the Williams sisters currently are crushing the competition in women's tennis.
- Consider this: the last four U.S. Open tournaments and the last three Wimbledon tournaments have been won by one of the sisters. In 2002 rankings, they claimed the number 1 and 2 positions, a first for sisters.

Serena and Venus Williams

- Venus, the elder by a little over a year, began playing professional tennis in 1994.
- She steadily climbed through the ranks, playing well in tournaments and increasing the power and speed of her serve. In a 1996 tournament, her serve was clocked at 108 mph, the ninth fastest that year. In 1998, she was clocked at a world record 127 mph.

Serena and Venus Williams

- In addition to winning both Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in 2000 and 2001, Venus has won numerous matches, including tournaments in Germany and France and the Gold medal at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

Serena and Venus Williams

- Serena's professional career began a bit later. Like her sister, she steadily climbed in the ranks, consistently winning or performing well in many tournaments. She has won Faber Grand Prix and the Princess Cup.
- When she won the U.S. Open in 1999, she was the lowest seed (7) to win in the Open era since 1968 and the second African American woman to win

Serena and Venus Williams

- When she won the U.S. Open in 1999, she was the lowest seed (7) to win in the Open era since 1968 and the second African American woman to win a Grand Slam singles title.

Serena and Venus Williams

- Serena became the seventh woman to win three consecutive Grand Slam titles by winning the French Open, Wimbledon, and the U.S. Open in 2002.
- One or both of the sisters have defeated most of the major players in tennis, including Davenport, Graf, Hingis, Martinez, and Seles.

Serena and Venus Williams

- These formidable players also are successful in playing doubles tennis together. They won the gold medal in the 2000 Olympics.
- Other doubles victories include the 2001 Australian Open, the 2000 Wimbledon, and the 1999 U.S. Open.

Entertainers

- Just as African Americans have contributed to society in science and sports, they have impacted the world of entertainment as well. The African American comedians and actors that entertain us today can thank performers such as Nat King Cole, Hattie McDaniel, Cicely Tyson, Flip Wilson, Richard Pryor, Sammy Davis, Jr., and many others who were pioneers in television, film, and entertainment

Entertainers

- American comedians and actors that entertain us today can thank performers such as Nat King Cole, Hattie McDaniel, Cicely Tyson, Flip Wilson, Richard Pryor, Sammy Davis, Jr., and many others who were pioneers in television, film, and entertainment.

Film

- Hattie McDaniel, an African American actress and singer, is most remembered for her supporting role of Mammy in the 1939 film *Gone with the Wind*. This role earned her the honor of becoming the first African American to win an Academy Award.

Film

- In 1963, African American actor Sydney Poitier was awarded the Oscar for Best Actor for his role in *Lilies of the Field*.
- Unfortunately, it would be more than 30 years before the next African American actor would take home the Oscar.

Film

- In 2002, for the first time in the Academy's 74-year history, two African American performers were awarded Oscars for best actor and best actress: Denzel Washington for his role in the film *Training Day* and actress Halle Berry for her role in *Monster's Ball*. Berry's moving acceptance speech brought to light the disparity in the industry:

Film

- “This moment is so much bigger than me. It's for every nameless, faceless woman of color that now has a chance because this door tonight has been opened.”

Comedians/Variety Shows

- In 1956, Nat King Cole became the first African American to host a variety show.
- It wasn't until the 1970s, however, that an African American host would earn high ratings.
- In 1971, *The Flip Wilson Show* not only won its time slot, but the show also won two Emmys for Best Variety Show and for Best Writing In A Variety Show.

Comedians/Variety Shows

- Another African American comedian and actor was breaking color barriers in the 1970s, as well. John Elroy Sanford starred in the television sitcom *Sanford and Son* from 1972 to 1977, earning three consecutive Emmy Award nominations in 1971, 1972, and 1973.

Comedians/Variety Shows

- Long before *The Flip Wilson Show* and *Sanford and Son* were making audiences laugh, Sammy Davis, Jr., was tap dancing his way into mainstream entertainment.
- Davis debuted in the 1932 short film *Rufus for President*. His career would span more than half a century. Perhaps his most remembered performances are those with the famous “Rat Pack.”

Living Legends—Bill Cosby

- Bill Cosby is perhaps one of the most recognizable and successful African American entertainers. Like many, Cosby comes from humble beginnings.
- Cosby's high IQ placed him in classes for gifted students, but by the tenth grade his love for sports sidelined his academic promise.

Living Legends—Bill Cosby

- In 1956, he dropped out of high school and joined the Navy.
- After serving 4 years in the Navy—where he also earned his GED—Cosby won a track and field scholarship to Temple University.
- During his sophomore year, Cosby discovered his true calling: telling jokes.

Living Legends—Bill Cosby

- Cosby's big break came in 1965, when producer Sheldon Leonard cast him as the lead role in the NBC drama *I Spy*.
- He became the first African American to play a leading role in a drama, winning three Emmys.
- This role set the tone for Cosby's career: playing successful, educated African Americans in a medium overrun with negative stereotypes.

Living Legends—Bill Cosby

- Cosby's other successes—also centered on learning—include *Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids* and *The Electric Company*.
- Despite his success in television, Cosby sought higher education, attending the University of Massachusetts in the 1970s.
- In 1977, he earned a Ph.D. in education.

Living Legends—Bill Cosby

- *The Cosby Show*, a sitcom portraying African Americans in a positive light, debuted in 1984.
- The show remained in the top 20 until its final episode in 1992. Upon the show's syndication that same year, Cosby had made more than \$300 million dollars.

Living Legends—Bill Cosby

- Cosby's success and capitalist instinct made him a very wealthy man. His became one of the most recognizable faces in America, as he became a spokesperson for the Coca-Cola Company, Jell-O, Kodak, Del Monte, and the Ford Motor Company.
- He and his wife, Camille, are active

Living Legends—Bill Cosby

- He and his wife, Camille, are active philanthropists.
- In 1994, Cosby was inducted into the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame.

Living Legends—Oprah Winfrey

- Oprah Winfrey survived a rough childhood filled with poverty and abuse to become one of the most successful, wealthiest African American women.
- Winfrey attended Tennessee State University, where she studied and worked in radio and television broadcasting.

Living Legends—Oprah Winfrey

- In 1976, she moved to Baltimore, Maryland, to host the television talk show *People Are Talking*. After propelling the show to success, Winfrey moved onto bigger things after eight years.
- Winfrey's second show, *A.M. Chicago*, found similar, if not quicker success, surpassing Phil Donahue in the ratings within months.

Living Legends—Oprah Winfrey

- In 1986, the *Oprah Winfrey Show* launched. The show aired on 120 channels and was watched by more than 10 million people.
- Winfrey made more than \$30 million during the show's successful first year.
- She purchased the show from ABC for her own production company, Harpo Productions.

Living Legends—Oprah Winfrey

- Despite her competitors' focusing on shock factor and questionable content, Winfrey vowed to keep her show clean. She was rewarded with increased ratings.
- Winfrey's other accomplishments include a nomination for Best Supporting Actress for her role in the 1985 Steven Spielberg film *The Color Purple*.

Living Legends—Oprah Winfrey

- In 1999, Winfrey co-founded Oxygen Media, a network for women.
- In April 2000, *O: The Oprah Magazine* hit supermarket shelves.
- In 1994, President Bill Clinton signed into law a bill that Winfrey, an active children's rights activist, proposed to Congress.
- In September 2000, Winfrey became the first recipient of the Academy of

Living Legends—Oprah Winfrey

- In September 2000, Winfrey became the first recipient of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' Bob Hope Humanitarian Award.