YOU MIGHT HAVE LEARNED ABOUT...
He was a Baptist minister and key leader in the Civil Rights Movement, leading many non-violent protests to fight for equality for all races. He is also one of history's greatest public speakers, best known for his "I Have a Dream" speech.
Rosa Parks

She was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on the bus to a white person, leading to a movement that would end segregation in the United States. She is known as the "Mother of the Modern-Day Civil Rights Movement."
HARRIET TUBMAN

She escaped from slavery, then risked her life as a conductor in the Underground Railroad to help others. She made 19 trips to lead other enslaved people to freedom in the North. During the Civil War, she was a spy for the Union.
President Obama was the first African American president. During his two terms, some things he worked on were healthcare reform and foreign relationships. Meanwhile, First Lady Michelle Obama supported better education and nutrition in public schools.
BUT HAVE YOU HEARD OF...
Before Rosa Parks, 15-year-old Colvin was also arrested for refusing to give up her seat on the bus. One year later, her lawyer filed a lawsuit, *Browder v. Gayle*, which ended segregation on public transportation in Montgomery, Alabama.
LEWIS HOWARD LATIMER

He was an inventor and scientist. He helped Alexander Graham Bell patent the telephone then became a member of Thomas Edison's research team, "The Edison Pioneers," where he improved the lightbulb and wrote a book on how it works.
MATTHEW HENSON

He was an explorer who traveled with Robert Peary. Along with four Inuit, they claimed to be the first group to reach the North Pole. Peary got the credit because he was white, even though Henson might have actually been the first to reach the North Pole.
He was born on September 14, 1958. Herrington was the first Native American (Chickasaw Nation) naval aviator, astronaut, and engineer to go to outer space in 2002. He brought 6 eagle feathers with him on his space trip to remember his heritage.
BESSIE COLEMAN

She was the first African American woman to become a pilot. Flight schools in the U.S. would not accept her, so she earned her license in France. She performed in many air shows to raise money for her dream of starting an African American flight school.
HENRIETTA LACKS

Her cancerous cells were the source of the immortal HeLa cell line, which is used in medical research to help find treatments for many diseases. However, she and her family did not know that her cells were taken from her.
She is a Cuban who was born in Guatemala. The 1992 Hurricane Andrew inspired her to study biology and climate change. Hammer became a climate scientist and activist who teaches Latinx communities about how climate change affects them.
Chien Shiung Wu

She was born on May 31, 1912, and helped nuclear physics in many ways. One way was by confirming a theory about radioactive atoms. Wu's work helped science even in areas such as medicine, where she worked on sickle cell disease. She was the 7th woman to be elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

Created by Michelle Garcia 01/08/2021
He was born in Guadalajara, Mexico on February 17, 1917. Camarena became an electrical engineer who invented color television. His invention was used in 1979 to take pictures of Jupiter during NASA's Voyager mission.
She was an entrepreneur who invented a line of African American hair care products and cosmetics, successfully becoming the first female self-made millionaire. As a social activist, she donated millions of dollars to racial justice and equality.
For more information on any of these American Heroes...

SCAN ME!

Produced by the
Center for Learning in Action at Williams College