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**Adinkra**  
(ah-DEEN-krah)

Each Adinkra symbol has its own meaning.

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**Afro**

The Afro hair style celebrated pride in one's African roots.

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**almanac**

Benjamin Banneker published an almanac annually from 1792 to 1797.

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**Africa**

Thirty-five Amistad survivors returned to Africa in 1841.

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**afro pick**

The afro pick is a modern version of an African comb that dates back to the 14th century.

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**amendment**

The 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution ratified on December 6, 1865, abolished slavery as a legal institution.

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**ancestors**

Your grandparents are some of your ancestors.

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**Andrew Young**

Andrew Young was a trusted aide to Martin Luther King Jr.

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**archeologist**

Archeologist sift through the remains of ancient civilizations.

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**Asante**  
uh-san-tee

Asante dominated Ghana for over 200 years and are still a dominant political force today.

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**ashy**

Use lotion after bathing or you'll be ashy.

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**assassination**

The world lost Martin Luther King Jr. through assassination.

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**Axum**  
ahk-soom

Axum was the capital of an ancient Ethiopian kingdom.

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**banjo**

Slaves from West Africa eventually brought the banjo to the American south where it took hold and spread.

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**Barack Hussein Obama**

Barack Hussein Obama was born in Hawaii.

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**Bahamas**

Between 1811 and 1860 approximately 6000 Africans came into the Bahamas from 26 captured or wrecked vessels.

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**bantu knots**

Jada Pinkett-Smith wore Bantu knots in "The Matrix Reloaded."

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**Barbados**

By 1690 Barbados had 60,000 Africans and 20,000 whites.

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### **bebop**

Bebop is a type of jazz made popular by Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker.

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### **Bena**

The Bena are an ethnic group of Tanzania.

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### **“Big House”**

Only certain slaves were allow to work in the “Big House”.

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### **Black**

Black is a term used to describe people of African descent.

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### **black-eyed peas**

Black-eyed peas were brought to the West Indies from West Africa by slaves, by earliest records in 1674.

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### **Black Moses**

Harriet Tubman was called “Black Moses” because led many slaves to freedom.

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### **blood**

The idea of a blood bank was pioneered by an African American doctor - Dr. Charles Drew.

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### **blues**

W. C. Handy is known as “The Father of the Blues.”

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### **braid**

Find a video on “How to Braid African American Hair.”

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### **brutalization**

Africans in America endured brutalization and dreamed of freedom.

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### **Buffalo Soldiers**

Native American warriors called the African American members of the 10th Cavalry “Buffalo Soldiers” because of their fierce fighting ability and because their hair resembled the wooly hair on buffalo.

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### **cassava**

Cassava was brought from Africa to be consumed by slaves during the Middle Passage.

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### **census**

Slaves were not recorded on the U.S. in 1850, instead they were given a number on the slave schedules.

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### **civil war**

By the end of the war more than 186,000 black soldiers had joined the Union army.

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### **Civil Rights**

The 1960's is know as the Civil Rights era in America.

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### **chains**

Chains were used to secure African men, women, and children in the bottom of ships bound for Europe and the Americas.

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### **civilization**

Africa is the cradle of civilization.

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### **coffee**

About half the world's specialty coffees are produced in the fine coffee belt of Africa.

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### **Colin Powell**

Democrat Barack Obama won the endorsement of former Secretary of State Colin Powell, a Republican.

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### **colony**

In 1641 Massachusetts became the first colony to recognize slavery as a legal institution.

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### **colored**

Colored was used to describe African Americans until the early 1970's.

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### **Congo**

The Congo River is the largest river in Western Central Africa.

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### **congress**

Shirley Chisholm was the first black woman elected to Congress.

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### **conk**

Entertainer Cab Calloway popularized the "conk" hairstyle.

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**cornrows**

This clay sculpture found with cornrows may be as old as 500 B.C.

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**cortisone**

African American chemist Percy Julian pioneered the synthesis of cortisone from soybeans.

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**cotton**

Cotton was “King” during the pre-civil war period.

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**cowboys**

African American cowboys protected the area now known as Yosemite national Forest before it became one of the first wilderness parks in the United States.

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**cowpeas**

Cowpeas is another name for black-eyed peas.

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**creativity**

Creativity is one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

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### **Creoles**

Louisiana's Creoles of Color are of mixed French, Spanish, African American, and Native American ancestry.

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### **Crispus Attucks**

In 1770, Crispus Attucks, a black man, became the first casualty of the American Revolution.

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### **culture**

African slaves were forced to assimilate American culture.

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### **Daufuskie Island**

Daufuskie Island is the 'first key' north of the Savannah River.

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### **deity**

Anansi also known as “Aunt Nancy” is a tricky deity in African mythology.

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### **democrat**

President Obama ran as a democrat in 2008.

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**demonstrations**

College student participated in demonstration during the 1960's.

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**depression**

There is little information about depression in African-American women.

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**descendant**

I am a descendant of a native African.

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**discriminate**

The "Jim Crow" laws allowed businesses to discriminate against African Americans.

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**disfranchisement**

Disfranchisement means a person is not allowed to vote.

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**Duke Ellington**

Duke Ellington, composer and band leader, was a most important figure in the history of jazz.

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### **ebony**

Ebony is a very dense black wood.

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### **education**

Education is the key to success.

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### **Egypt**

Ancient Egypt was a part of Africa.

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### **Emancipation Proclamation**

The Emancipation Proclamation did not free all slaves in the United States.

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### **Equal Rights**

Everyone wants equal rights.

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### **equality**

The Congress of Racial Equality or CORE is a U.S. civil rights organization.

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### **Ethiopia**

Archeologists have found the oldest known human ancestors in Ethiopia.

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### **evaporator**

The son of a slave, Norbert Rillieux patented an evaporator for refining sugar in 1846.

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### **folks**

He called his family his “folks.”

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### **Freedman’s Bureau**

The Freedman’s Bureau was set up during the Civil War to aid freed slaves.

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### **freedom**

Runaway slaves sought freedom in the north.

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### **fufu**

In Ghana, fufu is mostly made from boiled cassava and unripe plantain beaten together.

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**gele**

"Gele" is a West African word for a female headwrap.

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**Ghana**

Ghana has one of the best game reserves in West Africa.

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**gold**

African Americans who were slaves and came to California during the Gold Rush could gain their freedom

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**goober**

The peanut or "goober" was brought from Africa to America.

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**gospel**

Gospel music shares its roots in other African American music styles.

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**greens**

Greens were one of a few select vegetables African-Americans were allowed to grow and harvest for themselves and their families throughout times of slavery.

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**griot**

A griot keeps and tells the history of a village or family.

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**grits**

Grits helped Southerners survive the Great Depression.

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**Gullah**

The Gullah Festival is held each May in South Carolina.

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**gumbo**

Gumbo is an African language word brought over by slaves which entered the English language.

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**Habari Gani**

“Habari Gani” means “what’s the news?” in Swahili.

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**Haiti**

Haiti shares its island with the Dominican Republic.

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### **Harlem**

Harlem is one of the world's most famous and influential neighborhoods.

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### **heritage**

Enslaved Africans created a rich heritage.

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### **hero**

John Henry became a folk hero.

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### **hired hand**

The Hired Hand is an African American folktale.

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### **historical**

Atlanta has many historical Civil Rights landmarks.

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### **hoe**

The caption on the photograph read: Colored field hands hoe cotton from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. for sixty cents a day. near Menifee, Arkansas.

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**hoecake**

Slaves made hoecakes in the fields by using the blades of their hoes as frying pans.

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**Homer**

The Greek poet Homer thought that the Ethiopians had been blessed by the gods.

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**hoppin' john**

Hoppin' John is a dish made of black-eyed peas and rice thought to have been introduced to America by African slaves who worked the rice plantations.

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**Imani**

Imani means Faith the seventh principle of Kwanzaa.

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**import**

Countries should never import human beings.

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**incinerator**

A black engineer invented an improvement to the incinerator to reduce air pollution.

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**injustice**

Blacks in American survived  
injustice.

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**integrate**

Many people fought to integrate the  
schools.

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**jambalaya**

Jambalaya is a tasty dish of meat,  
seafood, rice and spices.

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**Jambo**

Say “Jambo” to say “hello” in  
Swahili.

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**jazz**

African Americans created jazz.

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**Jenny Slew**

Jenny Slew sued her master and won  
her freedom in 1766.

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### **Jubilee**

Jubilee is a historical novel written by Margaret Walker.

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### **Juneteenth**

Many families in Texas celebrate Juneteenth.

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### **justice**

Thurgood Marshall was the first Black Supreme Court Justice.

### **Kente**

Kente is a traditional Ghanaian way of weaving cloth.

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### **Kinara**

Seven candles sit in the Kinara during Kwaanza.

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### **kitchen**

The hair in the back of your head is called the “kitchen.”

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**Kush**

The kingdom of Kush was similar to Egypt.

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**Kushite**

The Kushite kingdom was driven south.

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**Kuumba**  
koo-OOM-bah

The principle of Kuumba states we must leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than when we inherited it.

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**Kwanzaa**

Kwanzaa began in America.

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**libation**

In many African ceremonies, a drink is poured out as a libation.

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**liberal**

John F. Kennedy described himself as liberal.

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### **Liberia**

Liberia is an African country founded by freed slaves from America.

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### **liberty**

There should be liberty for all.

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### **Lincoln**

Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

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### **Liverpool**

Many slave ships were built or repaired in Liverpool, England.

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### **locks**

Bob Marley made locks popular.

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### **lynch**

Mobs threatened to lynch the civil rights workers.

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### **Malcolm X**

Malcolm X gave many important speeches.

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### **Mali**

The real Lion King came from Mali.

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### **mankind**

We want peace and love for all mankind.

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### **marches**

Civil rights workers drew attention to the cause through their marches.

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### **Maya Angelou**

Maya Angelou said, "If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."

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### **Mayflower**

Before the Mayflower is a book by Lerone Bennet.

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### **migration**

The Great Migration describes the movement of African Americans from the south to northern cities between 1940 and 1970.

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### **Motherland**

Many African Americans call Africa the “Motherland.”

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### **Muslim**

Muslim women are supposed to be in by sunset.

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### **myth**

A traditional story can be a myth.

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### **nappy**

He wore a shirt that read “Happy to be nappy.”

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### **Nat Turner**

Nat Turner led a slave rebellion.

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**Nefertiti**  
NEF-er-Tee-tee

Nefertiti was an Egyptian queen.

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**Negro**

Negro is the Spanish word for black.

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**Neolithic**

During the Neolithic period people used stone tools.

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**Nia**

Nia is observed during the fifth day of Kwanzaa.

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**Niger River**  
NYE-jər River

The Niger River is the principal river of western Africa,

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**Nobel Peace Prize**

President Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize.

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**nonviolent**

Martin Luther King believed in change through nonviolent means.

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**north**

Slaves tried to escape to the north.

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**Nubia**

A series of powerful Christian kingdoms in Nubia resisted Arab conquest.

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**okra**

Okra is still cultivated in Ethiopia today.

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**overcome**

The protesters sang “We Shall Overcome.”

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**Pan-Africanism**

Pan-Africanism seeks to unite all people of the African Diaspora.

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**patchwork**

A "Quilt Code" was used American patchwork quilts to send messages to the Underground Railroad.

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**patriot**

Colin Powell is an example of an American patriot.

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**peanut**

George Washington Carver discovered 300 uses of the peanut, including peanut butter.

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**Phyllis Wheatly**

Phyllis Wheatly was the first black publish poet in America in 1773.

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**plantation**

Not all slaves lived on a big plantation.

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**plait**

She had a pretty bow on each plait.

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**poet**

Poet Gwendolyn Brooks was the first African American to receive a Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.

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**Poll Tax**

To keep blacks from voting, many southern states enacted a poll tax which was abolished with the 24th amendment.

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**poverty**

Many Black Americans benefited from the War on Poverty.

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**prejudice**

Work everyday to fight prejudice.

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**purpose**

The Kwanzaa principle Nia means purpose.

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**Quakers**

Quakers wanted to free the slaves.

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**quilt**

A quilt still keeps you warm.

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**racism**

The truth is, racism is not just a thing of the past

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**Ragtime**

In the 1800's Ragtime was a popular form of music.

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**rainforest**

We must protect the African rainforest.

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**Reconstruction**

The years after the Civil War were called Reconstruction.

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**religion**

Religion has played an important part in the lives of African American.

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**renaissance**

Langston Hughes wrote during the Harlem Renaissance.

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**reparations**

African Americans should be paid \$100,000 each as reparations for slavery.

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**Republican**

Abraham Lincoln was a Republican.

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**rice**

African slaves knew how to plant, harvest, and process rice.

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**roots**

You should know your roots or family history.

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**runaway**

Runaway slaves in Virginia were whipped and put into a tobacco smokehouse.

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### **Sankofa**

Sankofa means you must know where you have been to see where you are going.

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### **senate**

An African-American candidate cannot rely on the black vote alone to be elected to the Senate.

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### **sesame**

Sesame first arrived in South Carolina from Africa in 1730.

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### **sharecropping**

Sharecropping was a harsh life.

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### **slave**

Most African Americans have an ancestor who was a slave.

### **Slave quarters**

Fanny Kemble described the slave quarters as “filthy and wretched in the extreme.”

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**sorghum**

Grain sorghum came to America from West Africa with slave traders.

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**south**

More slaves were held in the south.

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**spiritual**

“Wade in the Water” is a Negro Spiritual.

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**straightened**

You can use a hot comb to straightened hair.

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**struggles**

African Americans have overcome many struggles.

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**tenderheaded**

She’s so tenderheaded, I don’t like combing her hair.

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**Timbuktu**

There was a great library in  
Timbuktu.

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**turban**

A turban is a headdress that may  
have meaning.

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**Tuskegee Institute**

We know some great graduates of  
Tuskegee Institute.

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**twists**

Double strand twists are beautiful.

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**Uhura**  
oo-who-rah

Nichelle Nichols played Uhura on  
Star Trek.

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**uhuru**  
oo-who-roo

Uhuru is the Swahili word for  
'freedom'.

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**Ujamaa**  
oo-JAH-mah

The principle of Ujamaa means to come together to build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses.

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**Umoja**  
oo-MOE-jah

The principle of Umoja means to strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

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**value**

Education has great value.

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**Ujima**  
oo-JEE-mah

The principle of Ujima means to come together to build and maintain our communities.

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**unity**

Let's pull together in unity.

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**Vaseline**

We used Vaseline on our skin in winter.

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**veteran**

My father was a World War II  
veteran.

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**victim**

Even a victim can overcome.

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**victory**

We celebrated Obama's victory.

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**Washington**

Martin Luther King spoke at the  
March on Washington.

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**watermelon**

Watermelon is thought to have  
originated in the Kalahari Desert of  
Africa.

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**wrap**

African women use colorful fabric to  
wrap their heads.

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**yams**

Yams have been cultivated since 50,000 BC in Africa and Asia.

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**Zaire**

“The rumble in the jungle” was held in Zaire.