

3-5

abolitionist

Frederick Douglas was a famous abolitionist.

3-5

accommodations

In Plessy v. Ferguson, Mr. Plessy challenged a Louisiana law that required racially separate seating accommodations on trains.

3-5

activists

Black Power activists approached politics with vitality.

3-5

Adinkra (ah-DEEN-krah)

Each Adinkra symbol has its own meaning.

3-5

advocate

Students examine the life of Civil Rights advocate Martin Luther King.

3-5

affirmative action

President John F. Kennedy mandated that projects financed with federal funds "take affirmative action" to ensure that hiring and employment practices are free of racial bias.

3-5

Africa

Thirty-five Amistad survivors returned to Africa in 1841.

3-5

African Diaspora

African
di-eh-'spOr-ah

The African Diaspora refers to the dispersion of Africans during and after the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

3-5

African-American

African-Americans voted in record numbers.

3-5

Afro

The Afro hairstyle celebrated pride in one's African roots.

3-5

afro pick

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

3-5

Akhenaten

Akhenaten was the predecessor of Tutankamen, and husband of Nefertiti

3-5

almanac

Benjamin Banneker published an almanac annually from 1792 to 1797.

3-5

amendment

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

3-5

Amistad

Amistad survivors sued for their freedom.

3-5

ancestors

Your grandparents are some of your ancestors.

3-5

Andrew Young

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

3-5

Anson Carter

Anson Carter was one of 17 black athletes in the NHL in 2004.

3-5

apartheid

With the enactment of apartheid laws in 1948, racial discrimination was institutionalized in South Africa.

3-5

Asante

uh-san-tee

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

3-5

asiento

In the history of slavery, asiento refers to the permission given by the Spanish government to other countries to sell slaves to the Spanish colonies, between the years 1543 and 1834.

3-5

archeologist

Archeologist sift through the remains of ancient civilizations.

3-5

ashy

Use lotion after bathing or you'll be ashy.

3-5

assassination

The world lost Martin Luther King Jr. through assassination.

3-5

assimilate

African slaves were forced to assimilate American culture.

3-5

Atlanta

In the late 1800s, nearly half of Atlanta's residents were black.

3-5

Axum

ahk-soom

Axum was the capital of an ancient Ethiopian kingdom.

3-5

Bahamas

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

3-5

banjo

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

3-5

bantu knots

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

3-5

Barack Hussein Obama

Barack Hussein Obama was born in Hawaii.

3-5

Barbados

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

3-5

bebop

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

3-5

Bena

The Bena are an ethnic group of Tanzania.

3-5

Big House

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

3-5

Black

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

3-5

Black Moses

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

3-5

black-eyed peas

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

3-5

blood

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

3-5

blues

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

3-5

boycott

During the Montgomery boycott blacks refused to ride segregated buses for 13 months.

3-5

braid

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

3-5

brutalization

Africans in America endured brutalization and dreamed of freedom.

3-5

Carter G. Woodson

Carter G. Woodson was an African American historian and journalist.

3-5

cataracts

Patricia Bath, a black woman, is best known for her invention of the Laserphaco Probe for the treatment of cataracts.

3-5

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.

3-5

cassava

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

3-5

Caucasoid

Caucasoid has been used to denote the general physical type of some or all of the indigenous populations of Europe.

3-5

census

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

3-5

chains

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

3-5

Civil Rights

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

3-5

civil war

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

3-5

civilization

Africa is the cradle of civilization.

3-5

coalition

The March on Washington represented a coalition of several civil rights organizations, all of which generally had different approaches and different agendas.

3-5

coffee

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

3-5

Colin Powell

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

3-5

colony

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

3-5

colored

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

3-5

Congo

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

3-5

congress

Shirley Chisholm was the first black woman elected to Congress.

3-5

conk

Entertainer Cab Calloway popularized the “conk” hairstyle.

3-5

cornrows

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

3-5

cortisone

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

3-5

cotton

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

3-5

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.

3-5

cowpeas

Cowpeas is another name for black-eyed peas.

3-5

cowrie

Cowrie shells were the most popular currency within Africa.

3-5

creativity

Creativity is one of the seven principles of Kwanza.

3-5

Creoles

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

3-5

Crispus Attucks

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

3-5

culture

African slaves were forced to assimilate American culture.

3-5

Daufuskie Island

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

3-5

deity

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

3-5

democrat

President Obama ran as a democrat in 2008.

3-5

demonstrations

College student participated in demonstration during the 1960’s.

3-5

depression

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

3-5

descendant

I am a descendant of a native African.

3-5

discriminate

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

3-5

disfranchisement

Disfranchisement means a person is not allowed to vote.

3-5

Duke Ellington

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

3-5

ebony

Ebony is a very dense black wood.

3-5

education

Education is the key to success.

3-5

Egypt

Ancient Egypt was a part of Africa.

3-5

Emancipation Proclamation

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

3-5

Equal Rights

Everyone wants equal rights.

3-5

equality

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

3-5

Ethiopia

Archeologists have found the oldest known human ancestors in Ethiopia.

3-5

Europeans

Europeans shipped about 12 million black slaves from Africa to the Western Hemisphere.

3-5

evaporator

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

3-5

Exodusters

As Reconstruction came to an end in the 1870s, many Southern blacks feared they would lose their civil liberties. Known as "Exodusters," thousands fled to a number of newly created black towns, such as Nicodemus.

3-5

folks

He called his family his “folks.”

3-5

Freedman’s Bureau

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

3-5

freedom

Runaway slaves sought freedom in the north.

3-5

fufu

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

3-5

fugitive

A federal fugitive slave law is enacted, providing for the return slaves who had escaped and crossed state lines.

3-5

gele

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

3-5

Ghana

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

3-5

gold

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

3-5

goober

The peanut or “goober” was brought from Africa to America.

3-5

gospel

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

3-5

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.

3-5

griot

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

3-5

grits

Grits helped Southerners survive the Great Depression.

3-5

Gullah

The Gullah Festival is held each May in South Carolina.

3-5

gumbo

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

3-5

Habari Gani

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

3-5

Haiti

Haiti shares its island with the Dominican Republic.

3-5

Harambee

Harambee means “pull together.”

3-5

Harlem

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

3-5

Henry Ossawa Tanner

The “Banjo Lesson” is painting by African American artist Henry Ossawa Tanner.

3-5

heritage

Enslaved Africans created a rich heritage.

3-5

hero

John Henry became a folk hero.

3-5

hired hand

The Hired Hand is an African American folktale.

3-5

historical

Atlanta has many historical Civil Rights landmarks.

3-5

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.

3-5

hoecake

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

3-5

Homer

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

3-5

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.

3-5

Imani

Imani means Faith the seventh
principle of Kwanzaa.

3-5

Imhotep

Imhotep was an Egyptian architect,
physician, and statesman.

3-5

import

Countries should never import human beings.

3-5

incinerator

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

3-5

injustice

Blacks in American survived injustice.

3-5

integrate

Many people fought to integrate the schools.

3-5

jambalaya

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

3-5

Jambo

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

3-5

jazz

African Americans created jazz.

3-5

Jenny Slew

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

3-5

Jubilee

Jubilee is a historical novel written by Margaret Walker.

3-5

Juneteenth

Many families in Texas celebrate Juneteenth.

3-5

justice

Thurgood Marshall was the first Black Supreme Court Justice.

Kente

Kente is a traditional Ghanaian way of weaving cloth.

3-5

Kinara

Seven candles sit in the Kinara during Kwaanza.

3-5

kitchen

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

3-5

Ku Klux Klan

The Encyclopedia Britannica defines the Ku Klux Klan as a “terrorist organization in the United States.”

3-5

Kujichagulia

(koo-jee-cha-goo-LEE-ah)

Kujichagulia is the Kwanzaa principle of self-determination: To define and name ourselves, To create and speak for ourselves.

3-5

Kush

The kingdom of Kush was similar to Egypt.

3-5

Kushite

The Kushite kingdom was driven south.

3-5

Kuumba
koo-OOM-bah

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

3-5

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa began in America.

3-5

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a celebration of family, community and culture.

3-5

libation

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

3-5

liberal

John F. Kennedy described himself as liberal.

3-5

Liberia

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

3-5

liberty

There should be liberty for all.

3-5

Lincoln

Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

3-5

Liverpool

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

3-5

locks

Bob Marley made locks popular.

3-5

lynch

Mobs threatened to lynch the civil rights workers.

3-5

Malcolm X

Malcolm X gave many important speeches.

3-5

Mali

The real Lion King came from Mali.

3-5

mankind

We want peace and love for all
mankind.

3-5

marches

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

3-5

Masai

The Masai are a very famous warrior
tribe in Kenya whose lives center
around herding cattle.

3-5

Maya Angelou

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

3-5

Mayflower

Before the Mayflower is a book by
Lerone Bennet.

3-5

Middle Passage

The Middle Passage was the route taken by slave ships across the Atlantic from West Africa to America.

3-5

migration

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

3-5

Missouri Compromise

The Missouri Compromise banned slavery north of the southern boundary of Missouri.

3-5

Montgomery

The march from Selma to Montgomery helped pass the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which guaranteed voting rights for everyone.

3-5

Motherland

Many African Americans call Africa the “Motherland.”

3-5

Muslim

Muslim women are supposed to be in by sunset.

3-5

myth

A traditional story can be a myth.

3-5

nappy

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

3-5

Nat Turner

Nat Turner led a slave rebellion.

3-5

Nefertari

Nefertari was the wife of Ramesses II.

3-5

Nefertiti
NEF-er-Tee-tee

Nefertiti was an Egyptian queen.

3-5

Negro

Negro is the Spanish word for black.

3-5

Neolithic

During the Neolithic period people used stone tools.

3-5

Nia

Nia is observed during the fifth day of Kwanzaa.

3-5

Niger River NYE-jør River

The Niger River is the principal river of western Africa,

3-5

Nobel Peace Prize

President Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize.

3-5

nonviolent

Martin Luther King believed in change through nonviolent means.

3-5

north

Slaves tried to escape to the north.

3-5

Nubia

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

3-5

okra

Okra is still cultivated in Ethiopia today.

3-5

overcome

The protesters sang “We Shall Overcome.”

3-5

overseer

Uncle Tom dies under the lash of the henchman of a cruel overseer, Simon Legree.

3-5

Pan-Africanism

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

3-5

patchwork

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

3-5

patriot

Colin Powell is an example of an American patriot.

3-5

peanut

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

3-5

Phyllis Wheatly

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

3-5

plait

She had a pretty bow on each plait.

3-5

plantation

Not all slaves lived on a big plantation.

3-5

poet

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

3-5

Poll Tax

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

3-5

popular sovereignty

In the Utah and New Mexico territories left the question of slavery to be decided by popular sovereignty, that is by the settlers themselves.

3-5

poverty

Many Black Americans benefited from the War on Poverty.

3-5

prejudice

Work everyday to fight prejudice.

3-5

purpose

The Kwaanza principle Nia means purpose.

3-5

Quakers

Quakers wanted to free the slaves.

3-5

quilt

A quilt still keeps you warm.

3-5

racism

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

3-5

Ragtime

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

3-5

rainforest

We must protect the African rainforest.

3-5

Reconstruction

The years after the Civil War were called Reconstruction.

3-5

religion

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

3-5

renaissance

Langston Hughes wrote during the Harlem Renaissance.

3-5

reparations

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

3-5

Republican

Abraham Lincoln was a Republican.

3-5

revolt

The first major slave revolt in the south was led by a twenty-four year old slave named Gabriel Prosser.

3-5

rice

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

3-5

roots

You should know your roots or family history.

3-5

runaway

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

3-5

Sankofa

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

3-5

Schomburg Center

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the New York Public Library offers a vast array of historical photographs.

3-5

senate

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

3-5

sesame

Sesame first arrived in South Carolina from Africa in 1730.

3-5

Shaka-Zulu

Shaka-Zulu built the first Zulu nation.

3-5

sharecropping

Sharecropping was a harsh life.

3-5

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.”

3-5

Sojourner Truth

A 12 foot tall bronze statue of Sojourner Truth stands in Battle Creek, Michigan.

3-5

sorghum

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

3-5

south

More slaves were held in the south.

3-5

spiritual

“Wade in the Water” is a Negro Spiritual.

3-5

stereotype

African American women are forced to combat the dual stereotypes of race and gender.

3-5

straightened

You can use a hot comb to straightened hair.

3-5

struggles

African Americans have overcome many struggles.

3-5

suffrage

African American men were given suffrage or the right to vote in 1870.

3-5

syncopation

Syncopation is common in ragtime and jazz

3-5

tenderheaded

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

3-5

Timbuktu

There was a great library in Timbuktu.

3-5

traffic light

The traffic light was invented by William Potts, an African American in 1920.

3-5

turban

A turban is a headdress that may have meaning.

3-5

Tuskegee Institute

We know some great graduates of Tuskegee Institute.

3-5

twists

Double strand twists are beautiful.

3-5

Uhura

oo-who-rah

Nichelle Nichols played Uhura on Star Trek.

3-5

uhuru

oo-who-roo

Uhuru is the Swahili word for 'freedom'.

3-5

Ujamaa

oo-JAH-mah

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

3-5

Ujima

oo-JEE-mah

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

3-5

Umoja

oo-MOE-jah

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

3-5

unconstitutional

“Separate But Equal” is unconstitutional under the law.

3-5

unity

Let's pull together in unity.

3-5

value

Education has great value.

3-5

Vaseline

We used Vaseline on our skin in winter.

3-5

veteran

My father was a World War II veteran.

3-5

victim

Even a victim can overcome.

3-5

victory

We celebrated Obama's victory.

3-5

Virginia

African were first brought to Virginia as indentured servants in the 1600's.

3-5

Washington

Martin Luther King spoke at the March on Washington.

3-5

watermelon

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

3-5

Watu Wazuri

“Watu Wazuri” means “beautiful people” in Swahili.

3-5

Whitney Young

Whitney Young influenced the policies of President Lyndon Johnson.

3-5

wrap

African women use colorful fabric to wrap their heads.

3-5

yams

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

3-5

Zaire
zah-ear

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

3-5

Zambia

Zambia is the home of the Victoria Falls and many other magnificent waterfalls.

3-5

Zulu

The Zulu are the largest South African ethnic group of an estimated 10–11 million people.