

Classroom Videos for Black History Month

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2025

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Grades 2-6 Apartment 11

Sunny's Quest is a series of 37 short videos (7 minutes) that feature first-person stories told by Black children from across the country. Each episode showcases a different child and their unique perspective on their day-to-day hobbies, their talents, and heritage. Each episode features **short inspirational videos** by some of the kids' **Black role models**. These surprise guests will answer the child's questions and inspire them to continue on a path to excellence.

Most importantly, we see that even though the lives of Afro-Canadian children are like other Canadian children, there are enriched by their cultural heritage, traditions and knowledge.

Series Consultant: Afua Cooper is a celebrated poet, spoken word icon, author, scholar, and historian.

Season 1:

APT525 Bishop - Halifax, NS
 APT526 Faith - Ajax, ON
 APT527 Yaphet - Toronto, ON
 APT528 Olivia - Ottawa, ON
 APT529 Tristan - Montreal, QC
 APT530 Anayah - Montreal, QC
 APT531 Soulaiman - Gatineau, QC
 APT532 Kyra - Saint Hubert, QC
 APT533 Kalu - Bridgewater, NS
 APT534 Neve - Pickering, ON
 APT535 Quinn - Vancouver, BC
 APT536 Yaharra - Whitby, ON
 APT537 Hisani - Whitehorse, YK
 APT538 Luane - Toronto, ON
 APT539 Khali - Ottawa, ON
 APT540 Aayana - Calgary, AB
 APT541 Arthur - Sainte-Julie, QC
 APT542 Anaele - Ottawa, ON
 APT543 Marcus - Greely, ON
 APT544 Raechel - Woodbridge, ON

Season 2:

APT616 Lars - Halifax, Nova Scotia
 APT617 Valexia - Montreal, Quebec
 APT618 Malik - Mississauga, Ontario
 APT619 Nyla - Ottawa, Ontario
 APT620 Jobim - Cookstown, Ontario
 APT621 Kara and Zara - Halifax, Nova Scotia
 APT622 Dayvid-Ray - Montreal, Quebec
 APT623 Leah - Ottawa, Ontario
 APT624 Micah - Montreal, Quebec
 APT625 Nicole: Toronto, Ontario
 APT626 Dante - Fergus, Ontario
 APT627 Mahely - Orleans, Ontario
 APT628 Emily - Findlay Creek, Ontario
 APT629 Owen - Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec
 APT630 Lulu - Mississauga, Ontario
 APT631 Vance - Brampton, Ontario
 APT632 Layla - Chatham, Ontario

Journeys to Canada: Black Experiences

2017 18 min Past Perfect Productions

From enslaved people during the eras of New France and British North America, to the community of Africville in Nova Scotia, this program examines a variety of Black experiences from Canada's history.

Viola Desmond: GeoMinute

2021 1:00 min Canadian Geographic Enterprises

On November 8, 1946, Black Halifax business owner Viola Desmond made a stand against racial segregation in Canada by refusing to leave the Whites-only section of a New Glasgow, N.S. movie theatre. She took her appeal to the Nova Scotia Supreme Court and became an iconic figure of Canada's civil rights movement. Seventy-five years later, Desmond's courage continues to be honoured and remembered by her appearance on Canada's \$10 bank note.

La courageuse lutte de Viola Desmond contre la ségrégation raciale: Série GéoMinute

2021 1:00 min Canadian Geographic Enterprises

Le 8 novembre 1946, Viola Desmond, une femme noire propriétaire d'une entreprise à Halifax, a pris position contre la ségrégation raciale au Canada en refusant de quitter la section réservée aux Blancs d'un cinéma de New Glasgow, en Nouvelle-Écosse. Soixante-quinze ans plus tard, le courage de Desmond continue d'être honoré et commémoré par sa présence sur le billet de banque canadien de 10 dollars.

A Canadian Slavery Story

2017 10:17 The Canadiana Project Inc.

On April 10, 1734, Montreal was on fire. The city was devastated and the cause was deemed to be arson. An enslaved woman was charged, tortured, and hung for the crime—a crime she might not have committed. This is the story of Marie-Josèphe-Angélique, from one of the darkest chapters of Canadian history.

Fire and Fury: The Story of Marie Josephe Angelique

Grades 7-12 2012 16:02 Up in Flames Productions

Fire and Fury looks at the story of Angélique through the eyes of 3 people who knew her. Each sheds a very different light on the woman. Based on a true historical event.

Whitewash

2016 6:20 min Rebels and Misfits Media

"Whitewash" examines slavery in Canada and its omission from the national narrative. The short film brings to light some of the slave families that were brought to Prince Edward Island by Loyalists and looks at how nine generations of descendants have assimilated to the point of leaving very few visible traces of their origin.

Black History in Southwestern Ontario

2022 26:46 min Brandy Y Productions

Canadian journalist Brandy Yanchyk explores Southwestern Ontario where she learns about the Underground Railroad and the history of the Freedom Seekers who came to Canada and helped build a large, vibrant Black community in the country.

Segments include:

- Mariah Davis - from Chatham Kent Black Historical Society
- The Tower of Freedom
- Black Mecca Museum
- Josiah Henson Museum of African- Canadian History (Uncle Tom's Cabin)
- Josiah Henson Cemetery
- Teajai Travis - Descendant of Underground Railroad Travellers
- Amherstberg Freedom Museum
- Buxton National Historic Site & Museum

Canfield Roots Series

2021 Windecker Road Films

Lying nearly forgotten in a grove of trees at the back of a farmer's field is an old cemetery, long abandoned and poorly maintained. The cemetery should hold a special importance to the people of Canfield, a small village in southern Ontario, as the last physical evidence of a significant community of freedom seekers who arrived there on the Underground Railroad in the mid-1800s. Canfield Roots portrays the front-line efforts to preserve history before it's lost and the emotional, human connections over the generations from our ancestors to the present day. The series shares some of the stories of the Black families who made Canfield their home.

Episodes include:

- | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| WRF001 | Black History (Ep 1) |
| WRF002 | BME Church Salem Chapel (Ep 2) |
| WRF003 | Harry Lee Execution (Ep 3) |
| WRF004 | Family Cemetery (Ep 4) |
| WRF005 | Freedom Seekers (Ep 5) |
| WRF006 | Emancipation Day (Ep 6) |

Celebrating Black History Month

2023 21:16 min Wonderscape Entertainment

In this review of Black History Month, learn about Carter G. Woodson who dedicated his life getting Black history, culture and contributions recognized. Also examines the contributions of people like Barack Obama, Maya Angelou, Thurgood Marshall and Ketanji Brown-Jackson.

Cool Black North

2019 86:21 min *Second Time Around Productions*
Cool Black North explores the unique and vibrant Canadian Black Community and its role in our country's contemporary identity. Through a series of intimate profiles, we are witness to a wide spectrum of life experiences, including the arts, entertainment, law, business, science and social activism.

Segments include:

- Jully Black
- Dr. Afua Cooper
- David Woods
- Dr. Jean Augustine
- Nadine Spencer
- Tracy Moore
- Justice Donald McLeod
- Tanya Walker
- Wes Hall
- Reverend Dr. Joyce Ross
- Denham Jolly
- Orin Isaacs
- Dr. Yabome Gilpin-Jackson
- Anne Cools
- Dr. Eugenia Duodu
- Professor Kevin Hewitt
- Leanne Pendergast

Shirley Chisholm - Equal Rights for Women

2021 2:27 min *Makematic*

In 1969 Shirley Chisholm, the first African American Woman elected to Congress spoke to the US House of Representatives to argue in support of a controversial women's rights bill - the Equal Rights Amendment.

How Did One Woman's Beauty Empire Change America?

2023 1:00 min *Makematic*

In the early 20th century, most hair products were designed for Caucasian hair. One Black female entrepreneur, Madam C. J. Walker, developed a range of new products for Black customers. With stylish packaging and branding she transformed the market, becoming the first Black female millionaire in U. S. history.

Africville

Grades 6-12 2021 28:49 min *Sound Venture*

In Africville, its troubled past and the turbulent present dynamically coalesce to spotlight a community that has remained strong and resilient in the face of overwhelming racism and injustice.

Also available in French.

Martin Luther King Jr

2023 3:48 *Makematic Limited*

Martin Luther King Jr, an influential activist and Christian minister, led the Civil Rights Movement to fight for the rights of African Americans through the 1950s and 60s. He believed in non-violent protest and his work helped to tear down racial segregation and inspire generations of activists seeking Civil Rights and a more equal society.

From Selma to Montgomery - Marching with Martin Luther King Jr

2016 17:15 min *Wonderscape Entertainment*

Discover what led to the civil rights protests in Selma, Alabama in 1965. What were the events of Bloody Sunday? What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do in its aftermath? How did the official march from Selma to Montgomery on March 21, 1965 unfold? What were the effects of this march?

Martin Luther King, Jr: History Kids

2018 22:53 min *Wonderscape Entertainment*

Learn all about Martin Luther King, Jr. as a pioneering force for racial equality and non-violent protest.

Rosa Parks

2023 4:10 min *Makematic Limited*

This is a timeline of the life of Rosa Parks, a woman who made history with a single act of courage, when she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man in 1955, a time when the U.S. was racially segregated.

Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

2016 27:22 min *Wonderscape Entertainment*

Understand what influenced Rosa's working years, why she was arrested, what the Montgomery Bus Boycott was, what the Supreme Court ruling pertaining to segregation on public buses achieved, what Rosa accomplished in her later years and her lasting legacy. Noteworthy quotes are recounted by Rosa Parks herself.

Brown vs Board of Education: Segregation to Integration and Civil Rights

2016 27:22 min *Wonderscape Entertainment*

Learn about racial segregation and how the landmark case of Brown vs. Board of Education led to integration and civil rights. What is a "sit-in"? What is the NAACP? Who was Martin Luther King, Jr., and what were his contributions to the Civil Rights Movement? Who was Thurgood Marshall and how did he challenge the law of "separate but equal"?

Nelson Mandela

2023 3:52 min Makematic Limited

This is a timeline of the life of Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first Black head of state. A tireless and dedicated activist, committed to bringing Apartheid to an end, made him one of the world's most beloved leaders.

The Negro Baseball League: Shattering Segregation

2021 2:13 min Makematic Limited

Like much of America in the early 19th century, sports were segregated. But with the newly established Negro Baseball League, African American baseball players overcame racial segregation to claim the national pastime as their own.

Harriet Tubman: Civil War Spy

2021 2:19 min Makematic Limited

She's known as a savior of the enslaved – but few know that during the American Civil War, Harriet Tubman was an exceptionally capable Union Army spy.

The Bravery and Mystery of Harriet Tubman

2000 7:27 min Good Earth Productions

The agonizing problem for escaping slaves was knowing who to trust, but there was a network of courageous people - both Black and White - who would guide slaves from safe house to safe house on the journey to freedom. Harriet Tubman brought many slaves through to Buxton, Ontario saving 300 slaves in total.

Harriet Tubman: Conductor of the Underground Railroad

2016 22:18 min Wonderscape Entertainment

Learn all about Harriet Tubman's early life, social impact, role in the Underground Railroad, later life and lasting, national legacy. Her noteworthy quotes are recounted by "Harriet" herself.

Linda Brown: The Schoolgirl who Changed America

2021 2:05 min Makematic Limited

Linda Brown was just 9-years-old when she was thrust into the national spotlight, as she fought - and won - against racial segregation in the American school system.

The Underground Railroad

2021 2:13 min Makematic Limited

A sprawling network of secret routes, pathways and safe houses, the Underground Railroad helped countless enslaved people escape to freedom in the 18th and 19th centuries.

These 3 short videos are based on the bestselling books 'Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls'

Maya Angelou: From Rebel Girls

2023 2:10 min Makematic

This Rebel Girl changed the world with her words. An American writer who dazzled audiences with poems and stories about her life. And helped fight for the rights of Black people. We explore the life of Maya Angelou.

Ruby Bridges: Rebel Girls

2023 2:42 min Makematic

This Rebel Girl simply wanted to go to school. And by doing so taught America a lesson, paving the way for Civil Rights. We explore who Ruby Bridges is.

Nina Simone: Rebel Girls

2023 2:33 min Makematic

Nina Simone, an icon of American music, was a musician who used her talent to inspire others, writing songs of freedom and protest.

Colour Me

2011 48:37 min Taza Media Inc.

Motivational speaker Anthony McLean is forced to re-examine his own identity while challenging Black youths to discard traditional stereotypes. What does it mean to be Black?

Soul on Ice: Past, Present, and Future

2015 86 min Damon Kwame Mason

WINNER - Audience Choice: Documentary Feature - Edmonton International Film Festival

Soul On Ice: Past, Present, and Future presents and retells the virtually unknown contributions of black athletes in ice hockey.

The Incredible Story of Althea Gibson

2015 5:12 min CTV

Althea Gibson was the first African-American tennis player to compete at the U.S. National Championships in 1950, and the first Black player to compete at Wimbledon in 1951.

1619: The Legacy of Slavery in America

2021 3:04 min Makematic Limited

1619 was a significant year in the history of America for better and for worse. In Jamestown, Virginia the first slaves were imported and sold. Meet Nikole Hannah-Jones; author of New York Times' "1619 Project" who will examine the impact of that year on American History, culture and development.

Charles Burnett and the L.A. Rebellion

2019 51:25 min Tamara Films

A subtle and powerful storyteller, Burnett describes the lives and dreams of Afro-American families, mixing culture and politics in his own unique way. Based on his precious testimony and those from figures of cinema or specialists, the film is a portrait of Charles Burnett, which follows him in his hometown of Los Angeles, but also tells the story of fifty years of American history scarred by the fight for civil rights.

Also Available with French subtitles

Pride and Prejudice (W5)

2022 22:09 min CTV

Sandie Rinaldo speaks to the son and grandson of George Dixon, who served with pride during World War I in the "Black Battalion", the largest Black military unit in Canadian history.

Black Heart, White Men

2010 1:02:44 min Ekletik Productions

Black Heart, White Men relives the story of the colonization of Central Africa from 1480 to the present day, outlining the ties that continue to link the region to the West by exploring key historical stages.

Also available in French: Coeur noir, hommes blancs

The History of Black Music - From Gospel to Jazz to Hip Hop

2023 28:28 min Wonderscape Entertainment

Listen to and learn about the evolution of Black music, starting from Spirituals and Gospel, then moving through Ragtime, Jazz, Rhythm and Blues, Doo-wop, Rock 'n Roll, Motown, Disco, Funk, and finally Hip Hop.

Tabala in the Wind

1997 48 min Mushkeg Media

TABALA sounds the beat of the drums for Quebec's hottest African artists. In this documentary fable, filled with song and dance, an eclectic group of performers tell their stories.

Also available in French

The Blind Stigma: Mental Health within the Black Community

2015 59:05 min Stacy-Ann Buchanan

The Blind Stigma powerfully removes the veil of shame that clouds the topic of mental illness in the Black community, challenges that misconception, gives a voice to Black Canadians living with mental illness and leaves the audience more informed and empowered.

Mr. Jane and Finch

2019 45:22min OYA Media Group

**Best Writing in A Documentary: Canadian Screen Awards
Donald Brittain Award for Best Social/Political Documentary: Canadian Screen Awards**

Winston LaRose, beloved activist/amateur documented an insider perspective of Black community activism in Canada. The film also displays the undeniable strength of community, grassroots organizations, and the power and impact one person can have to change the world around them.

Notable Firsts in Black History

2023 26:57 min Wonderscape Entertainment

Learn all about notable firsts in Black American history. Who was the "Mother of Black Literature"? Who was the first Black senator? What were the first Black universities and colleges established in the United States? Who was the first Black person to win an Academy Award? Who was the first Black Major League baseball player?

The Issue of Mr. O'Dell

2018 35 min Rami Katz

Winner: President's Award, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival '18

Winner: Best International Short, Baltimore International Black Film Festival '18

A documentary examining the lifelong work of a pioneering civil rights organizer, Jack O'Dell, who was a close colleague and advisor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In this award-winning film, Jack O'Dell eloquently speaks to issues concerning the civil rights movement, both with respect to his historical involvement and to contemporary movements such as Black Lives Matter. O'Dell passed away in 2019 at the age of ninety-six, after this film was completed.

Expelled: My Roots in Uganda with Omar Sachedina

2022 44:14 min CTV

Fifty years after his mother and thousands of other Indians were expelled from the only home they had known in Uganda, CTV's Chief News Anchor and Senior Editor Omar Sachedina takes viewers on an intimate journey back to where his mother was born. The documentary follows Sachedina as he travels to his family's homeland of Uganda alongside his mother Salma and sister Nafilia, marking the first time his mother has returned since her expulsion in 1972.

GeoMinutes - Welcome to Canada - Canada Welcomes Ugandan Asian Refugees

2022 1:00 min Canadian Geographic Enterprises

In 1972, Uganda ordered the expulsion of its South Asian minority within 90 days, accusing them of economic sabotage and failure to integrate. Canada was one of the first countries to open its borders to the refugees, marking the country's first major postwar resettlement of non-Europeans.

Ride for Promise

2018 22:50 min Taza Media

Former CFL prospect Curtis Carmichael embarks on a nation-wide adventure - cycling from Vancouver to Halifax - to challenge Canadians on their perceptions of racialized youth growing up in marginalized communities. Ride for Promise follows an inspiring young man determined to flip the narrative on race, privilege and poverty.

Brotherhood of Skiing

2019 10:11 min Wild Confluence Media

Since 1973, the National Brotherhood of Skiers has overcome barriers by bringing soul and smiles to the mountain. Formed during the height of the Black Power movement, the organization is dedicated to creating a welcoming space for people of colour on the slopes and supporting Black youth in snowsports. Today, the NBS hosts the largest gathering of Black skiers in the United States.

Snow

2017 10:02 min Cotton Bush Productions

Award of Distinction - CanadaShorts

A young Black immigrant to Canada is having a hard day at school. She's not able to pronounce the days of the week in French, and her predominantly white classmates are enjoying themselves at her expense. And then she sees it, falling outside the classroom window – SNOW. In this wonderful short, a young girl experiences snow and racism for the first time.

1961, the Road to Freedom

2015 51:57 min AB Productions

The film follows the historic movement begun on May 4th, 1961 by a group of black and white civil rights activists, the so called "Freedom Riders" who launched a series interstate bus trips into the deep South to desegregate travel facilities. Brutally attacked, they eventually challenged the federal government's inaction to reverse decades of segregation and provide equality for all.

1961, la route de l'égalité

Un road movie historique à travers l'Alabama et le Mississippi sur les traves de près de 450 militants noirs et blancs, hommes et femmes, ayant pris part aux « freedoms rides » au cœur de la lutte pour les droits civiques aux Etats-Unis.



Black Community Mixtapes Series

2024 5 episodes x 22 min each OYA Media Group

WINNER OF 3 CANADIAN SCREEN AWARDS 2024

Black Community Mixtapes is an award-winning 5-part documentary series following KhaRâ Martin, a young filmmaker and actor, as she embarks on a journey to uncover and re-examine pivotal Black social movements in Canada over the past 60 years. Through a vivid exploration of personal archives collected by Canadians, the series brings to life the transformative moments that have shaped and defined Canadian history.



1— Hip Hop

Exploring Canadian Hip Hop's beginnings from Michie Mee and Maestro to Drake and in the process uncovering a rich history of cultural activism.



2 — Toronto Carnival

Every year over 2 million people celebrate Toronto Carnival but not everyone knows there are hidden messages in the revelry.



3 — Photography

This episode discusses the complexity of the Black gaze with renowned photographers and curators.

4 — Literature

We explore Black Canadian literature and how it intersects with immigration from the Caribbean and Africa.



5 — Archivists

In this episode, we uncover what motivates members of the Black Canadian community to archive Black history.