



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: January 25, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane
Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Black History Month Resources

As our nation observes Black History Month, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is pleased to provide teachers and school divisions with Black History Month resources celebrating and honoring African Americans and their achievements and contributions to America. In 1925, Carter G. Woodson and the organization he founded, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH)), conceived and announced Negro History Week. Expanded to a month in 1976, ASNLH, now the [Association for the Study of African American Life and History \(ASALH\)](#) continues to promote the study of Black history all year.

The resources below support the [2015 History and Social Science Standards of Learning](#):

- [Association for the Study of African American Life and History \(ASALH\)](#), publishing several scholarly works and establishing Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month.
- [H.R.1242 - 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act](#) - signed into law in 2018. This bill establishes the 400 Years of African-American History Commission to develop and carry out activities throughout the United States to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans in the English colonies at Point Comfort, Virginia, in 1619.
- Virginia's [2019 AMERICAN EVOLUTION™ commemoration](#) - highlights the significance and modern relevance of several important events that occurred in Virginia in 1619. Explore the 2019 commemoration's [education resources](#), including primary source materials, videos, and innovative lesson ideas to use in your classroom all year long!
- The [Library of Congress](#), [National Archives and Records Administration](#), [National Endowment for the Humanities](#), [National Gallery of Art](#), [National Park Service](#), Smithsonian Institution, and [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#) join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve

full citizenship in American society at [February is African American History Month](#) and [National Archives Black History](#).

- The [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#) is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture Established by Act of Congress in 2003, following decades of efforts to promote and highlight the contributions of African Americans.
- The Library of Virginia focuses on topics in Virginia history and includes [African American History Sites](#).
- The [Virginia's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission](#) website includes the following resources:
 - [Emancipation Proclamation Sesquicentennial](#)
 - [RESOURCES from the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Commission](#)
 - [RESOURCES from the Abraham Lincoln Subcommittee](#)
 - [RESOURCES from the 50th Anniversary of Public School Closings in Virginia](#).

For more information, please contact Betsy Barton, Specialist for History and Social Science, Office of Humanities, by email at Betsy.Barton@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3454.

JFL/BSB/as