Black History Month: How It Started

What started out as one week dedicated to the celebration and education of African American history in February has evolved into a month-long event celebrating Black cultural and historical achievements. The origins of Black History Month are rooted in the 1920s, when Carter Woodson, a historian and educator, recognized the need for African American history to be taught in schools. He founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which later became the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Woodson believed that a separate month was needed to educate the public about the contributions of African Americans to American society.

The idea of a week-long celebration was first presented in 1915. The idea gained traction in the 1920s, and in 1926, Woodson chose February to celebrate the birthday of Frederick Douglass, who was born on February 21st. The first official observance of Black History Month was held in 1926.

In 1976, the U.S. Congress officially recognized Black History Month by a joint resolution introduced by Senator Edward W. Brooke of Massachusetts and Representative Parren M. Thomas of Maryland. The resolution encourages schools and other institutions to observe Black History Month annually.

The Black American Music Experience

African American artists have made significant contributions to the world of music throughout history. From sacred music to hip hop and rap, many of the genres and sub-genres we know today have African American roots. African American musicians have been influential in shaping music across different cultures and periods in history.

To foster a culture of belonging and purpose, we're offering this downloadable resource on Black History Month and inclusion. This guide highlights the contributions of African Americans to music, literature, and entrepreneurship during this month and throughout the year. It also provides a list of companies and businesses to support during Black History Month.

Black Americans in Literature

African American writers have written powerful books, novels, plays, poems, and short stories that have shaped American literature. From James Baldwin to Toni Morrison, African American authors have explored themes of race, identity, and social justice in their work.

One way to support the Black community during Black History Month is to shop Black-owned businesses. Your support creates social change and can help alleviate the economic disparities that African Americans face. By choosing to support Black-owned businesses, you're not only supporting local entrepreneurs but also contributing to the overall growth of the Black community.

Black Owned Businesses

African Americans have made significant contributions to entrepreneurship, and many Black-owned businesses are thriving today. By supporting these businesses, you're investing in the future of the Black community and helping to create opportunities for others.

The Black American Music Experience

African American musicians have made significant contributions to music across different genres and periods in history. From sacred music to hip hop and rap, many of these genres have African American roots. African American musicians have been influential in shaping music across different cultures and periods in history.

For more information on the celebration of Black History Month, visit the National African American History Month website, or refer to the links provided below.

Origin of Black History Month

Black America's History Month
The Continuing Importance of Black History Month