

Black Life in America: The experience and impact of African Americans as recorded by the news media, 1704 to today

From the early days of slavery to modern times, people of African descent have had a profound impact on American history. This primary source collection offers an expansive window into centuries of African American history, culture and daily life—as well as the ways the dominant culture has portrayed and perceived people of African descent.

Where does the content come from?

The content in this database is sourced from more than 19,000 American and global news sources, including over 400 current and historical Black publications.

What time period does it cover?

From the early 18th century to the early 21st – from pre-Revolution America to the modern era.

What's in it?

This collection covers many topical categories such as slavery and flights to freedom, voting rights and voter suppression and disenfranchisement, segregation and civil rights, prejudice and discrimination and activism and protest movements. This archive contains varied perspectives on subjects including but not limited to:

- Curfews and 'sundown' notices
- Antigua Slave Conspiracy
- Dred Scott v. Sandford
- Underground Railroad
- Emancipation Proclamation
- Ratification of the 13th Amendment
- Buffalo soldiers
- Mississippi Plan
- Fisk Jubilee Singers
- Plessy v Ferguson
- Literacy tests and poll taxes
- Sharecropping and tenant farming
- Tuskegee Airmen
- Church bombings
- Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- School desegregation
- Election law and voters' rights
- Bob Jones University v. United States
- Los Angeles Riots
- Emmett Till Antilynching Act

And on organizations such as:

- American Anti-Slavery Society
- Pennsylvania Abolition Society
- Ku Klux Klan
- White League
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching
- Black Panther Party
- Nation of Islam
- Rainbow Coalition
- Black Lives Matter

This database provides important background and context for students seeking an understanding of the disparate interpretations of America's most deeply held principle: all people are created equal.

How can I use this content in my research project?

This collection provides researchers with many points of departure covering a vast array of projects. Some examples of research projects include:

- Explore the conflict between freedom and segregation
- Survey vigilantism through groups like the Ku Klux Klan
- Evaluate the use of literacy tests
- Examine the impact of Supreme Court decisions
- Track the founding and growth of Black colleges
- Investigate the use of power and authority in the administration of criminal justice
- Review the struggle for suffrage
- Appraise the regulation of child labor
- Analyze the relationship between activist organizations and civil rights laws
- Study the role of the church in politics and culture
- Trace the ramifications of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Let's get started!

The content can be accessed easily through several search approaches. One search option is to utilize the Suggested Searches tool, which provides focused coverage of an entire topic.

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Start exploring here Search

[More Search Options](#) | [Date Search](#) | [Map Search](#)

[Learn more about this database](#)

Suggested Searches Explore Topics, Eras and Events

Arrival in America (Beginning - 1783)	Arrival in America (Beginning - 1783)
Antebellum (1784 - 1860)	Laws and Legislation ▾
Civil War (1861 - 1865)	Military ▾
Reconstruction (1866 - 1877)	Notable People ▾
Jim Crow (1878 - 1922)	Rebellions, Uprisings, and Revolts ▲
Great Migration (1923 - 1944)	Jamaican Slave Uprising (1760)
Civil Rights Movement (1945 - 1975)	New York Conspiracy (1741)
	Stono Rebellion (1739)

Within each topic are many subtopics that link to prepared searches that generate results specific to that subtopic. These subtopics can be used as a launch pad for a wide variety of research projects. For example, in Series One “Act for Gradual Abolition of Slavery” is a subtopic under the topic “Laws and Legislation” in the era “Arrival in America.”

The screenshot shows a NewsBank search interface. The search query is "act for gradual abolition" with filters for "All Text" and "Date(s)" set to "1704-1780". The results list two legislative acts from Pennsylvania: one from 1820 and another from 1818. Both results include a preview of the original document text, with the phrase "ABOLITION OF SLAVERY" highlighted in yellow.

And in Series Two “Freedom Riders bus attack” is a subtopic under the topic “Unrest and Acts of Violence” in the era “Civil Rights Movement.”

The screenshot shows a NewsBank search interface. The search query is "freedom ride" OR "freedom riders" AND attack A... with filters for "All Text" and "Date(s)" set to "may 1961". The results list three articles: one from the Houston Chronicle (May 28, 1961), one from the New York Post (May 24, 1961), and one from the Atlanta Journal (May 24, 1961). Each result includes a preview of the original document text, with the phrase "Freedom Ride" highlighted in yellow.

Another example, “Athletes kneel during National Anthem in protest of police tactics” is a subtopic under the topic “Activist Groups and Protest Movements” in the era “Early 21st Century” in Series Three.

NewsBank

Search: "national anthem" AND (kneel OR kneeling OR "take a knee")

Filters: All Text, Date(s), 2016, Headline

Suggested Searches: Early 21st Century (2001 - present) / Activist Groups and Protest Movements / Athletes kneel during National Anthem in protest of police tactics

1,276 Results | Save Search

Sort by: Best Match, Newest, Oldest

Date selector: Aug 2016 - Dec 2016 (Months)

Date search: From

Select Articles 1 - 20

- BC-US--National Anthem-Kneeling-Coaches,1st Ld-Writethru, US**
September 18, 2016 | Associated Press State Wire | Washington (WA)
... Anthem-Kneeling-Coaches, 1st ... Anthem-Kneeling-Coaches, 1st ... coaches join high school team in kneeling for ... at a Seattle high school joined their players in taking a knee during the national anthem, following the lead ...
BC-US--National Anthem-Kneeling-Coaches, 1st Ld-Writethru,248
Seattle coaches join high school team in kneeling for anthem Eds: Adds details throughout: Football coaches at a Seattle high school joined their
- All players on the Indiana Fever WNBA team kneel during national anthem**
September 22, 2016 | NBC - 4 WCMH (Columbus, OH) | WISH Staff
... Tuesday night, the entire team knelt as the national anthem was ... Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick in kneeling during the national anthem. Kaepernick has said ... Colin Kaepernick in kneeling during the national anthem. Kaepernick has said his action is an effort to ...
INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) — Prior to the Indiana Fever's WNBA playoff opener against the Phoenix Mercury Tuesday night, the entire team

Users can further refine the suggested search results by adjusting the search parameters and narrow the results to their specific area of interest.

The content can also be accessed through more traditional approaches like searching on key words or terms. For example, a simple search on “Harlem Renaissance” results in an array of articles on topics such as revisiting the jazz age, the approach of the 100th anniversary, the origins of the Harlem Renaissance, and much more.

NewsBank

Search: "Harlem Renaissance"

Filters: Advanced Search

48,668 Results | Save Search

Sort by: Best Match, Newest, Oldest

Date selector: 1920 - 2020 (Decades)

Date search: From, To

Select Articles 1 - 20

- HARLEM RENAISSANCE REVISITS JAZZ AGE**
December 30, 2006 | Bluffton Today (SC) | BLUFFTON TODAY | Page 22
... Arts Council of Beaufort County presents Harlem Renaissance 2007 from 7 to 11 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Parris ... artists, performers and writers of the Harlem Renaissance (1919-1940) that breathed new life into the ... Delany came to symbolize the creativity of the Harlem Renaissance while music revealed the soul of the black ...
The Arts Council of Beaufort County presents Harlem Renaissance 2007 from 7 to 11 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Parris Island Lyceum. The gala black-tie
- HARLEM RENAISSANCE REVISITS JAZZ AGE**
February 14, 2003 | Carolina Morning News (GA) | Carolina Morning News | Page 8A
... of Beaufort County hosts the sixth annual Harlem Renaissance from 7 p.m. to midnight Feb. 22 at the Parris ... Harlem Renaissance is a gathering of the whole community, with all ... Harlem Renaissance was a period of extraordinary creative activity. ...
The Arts Council of Beaufort County hosts the sixth annual Harlem Renaissance from 7 p.m. to midnight Feb. 22 at the Parris Island Lyceum. Harlem Renaissance is a gathering of the whole community.
- TWO COLLECTIONS SUM UP HARLEM RENAISSANCE**
February 7, 1995 | Times Union, The (Albany, NY) | NANCY PATE | Page C2
... "Wedding" is the last surviving member of the Harlem Renaissance, that extraordinary flowering of ... standard history of the Harlem Renaissance is David Levering Lewis' 1981 book, "When ... also edited a recent anthology, "The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader" (Vintage, \$23.95), which along with the ...
Now 87, Dorothy West, author of the new novel "The Wedding" is the last surviving member of the Harlem Renaissance, that extraordinary

Researchers can also use the Advanced Search function that allows several terms to be included in various fields and provides a refined set of results. For example, articles about Charlie

Sifford's PGA victories can be found by entering "Sifford" in the Headline field and ("win" OR "Won") and "open" in the All Text field and 1967-1970 in the Date field.

The screenshot shows the NewsBank search interface. At the top, the search criteria are displayed: "Sifford" in the Headline field, ("win" OR "Won") and "open" in the All Text field, and 1967-1970 in the Date(s) field. The search results show 3 results. The first result is "It's Sifford in LA Open" from the Dallas Morning News, dated January 13, 1969. The second result is "Masters Bid for Sifford?" from the Dallas Morning News, dated February 27, 1969. The third result is "Sifford Hartford Champion". The interface includes a sidebar with sorting options (Best Match, Newest, Oldest), a date selector (1967-1969), and a date search field. The main content area displays the search results with preview images and article titles.

Complete Help documentation can be found by clicking the Need Help? link at the bottom of the page.