

## CELEBRATE BLACK EXCELLENCE & JOY



For our fourth and final challenge, we invite families to celebrate Black excellence and joy. Black history is American history, and learning about it benefits all families. The historical narratives our children learn at school about people of color often focus on struggle but leave out stories of joy, resilience, contribution and pride. Children should see authentic, non-token representations of African Americans that also celebrate Black achievement. The contributions of African Americans are central to our history and can be found in all aspects of our society today. Celebrating these examples of Black excellence, not just for 28 days during Black History Month, but everyday, can help to counter harmful biases and stereotypes in our families, our communities, and throughout the year.

## THE CHALLENGE

Expand your circle and venture out to explore museums, restaurants, businesses, and festivals that celebrate Black excellence, and discover the beauty and brilliance of Black culture right here in our own community. Share additional resources with other families on the [BLM Challenges padlet](#).

**PICK AN ACTIVITY (OR TWO) TO LEARN ABOUT AND CELEBRATE BLACK EXCELLENCE THIS WEEK (AND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR)!**



**VISIT** the [National Museum of African American History & Culture](#). Browse the rich online resources to learn about significant moments and people in African American history, culture, and community. The virtual [Learning Lab](#) features collections and hands-on projects for kids to explore Black history and become inspired to see themselves as agents of change.



**READ ABOUT BLACK HEROES:**  
[Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes From Past & Present](#) by Jamia Wilson celebrates the lives and achievements of 52 black heroes—activists, politicians, artists, writers, scientists, & entertainers from around the world.  
  
[22 Black Heroes Our Kids Should Know By Name](#)—a more comprehensive list of Black history heroes that kids often don't learn about in school.



**WATCH** these kid-friendly shows:

[Bookmarks: Celebrating Black Voices](#)

A live-action collection of videos featuring prominent Black celebrities and artists read children's books that highlight the Black experience.

[Kevin Hart's Guide to Black History](#)

(AVAILABLE ON NETFLIX)

An entertaining (& educational) comedy special highlighting the contributions of Black history's unsung heroes.



**BROWSE** this [Black Excellence Library](#) which is jam-packed with books that highlight Black authors & illustrators, plus stories about current & historical Black leaders.

CREDIT: MS. PENA, LIBRARIAN | HAZEL VALLEY ELEMENTARY

### MORE RESOURCES ABOUT BLACK CULTURE:

Explore the [PBS Black Culture Connection](#)—a comprehensive resource and guide to the films, stories and voices across public television centered around Black history and culture.

Learn about [Juneteenth](#) & [Kwanzaa](#), important holidays in Black culture.

Listen to the [Black National Anthem](#) which is often sung/recited at gatherings to celebrate excellence, community, and Black pride.



**LISTEN** to podcasts that explore history from an African American lens:

[Historically Black Podcast](#)

A digital museum of the people and for the people brought to life through interviews, archival sound & music.

[Hey Black Child—The Podcast](#)

A podcast by kids for kids (with a little help from the adults!). Join Avery and Jackson as they learn about history... Black history and talk about things that you might not learn in school.

[Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls](#)

This podcast is a fairy tale audio adventure about extraordinary real-life women, including powerful Black women such as Kamala Harris, Michele Obama, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Madame CJ Walker, Mae Jemison, & more! Tune in to experience an inspiring spectrum of female Black excellence.



In the whole world you know  
There are billion boys & girls  
Who are young, gifted & black,  
And that's a fact!

-NINA SIMONE, SINGER



### ★ ★ ★ STRETCH CHALLENGE ★ ★ ★

There's no time limit to supporting the Black community so we invite you to extend your learning beyond Black History Month. One way you can continue to support BLM is by participating in the [BLM @ School Year of Purpose](#), which calls for action throughout the school year. We hope that your family's learning journey and activism will not end here, but rather that these challenges have empowered you to keep learning so that we can all work together in community to turn knowledge into awareness, awareness into action, and action into change for a more just world.