Chronology of Black Achievement

1619: Blacks Arrive at Jamestown on Dutch slave ship
1620: The original justification for slavery is that a man or woman is not a Christian
1640: The defining characteristic for slavery changes to skin color
1664: Carolina Colony enacts slave codes
1664: Maryland enacts slave codes
1670: Massachusetts enacts slave codes
1682: New York enacts slave codes
1690: Connecticut enacts slave codes
1700: Pennsylvania enacts slave codes
1704: New Jersey enacts slave codes
1705: Virginia enacts slave codes
1706: Delaware enacts slave codes
1712: New York leaders suppress slave revolt
1739: Stono Slave revolt in South Carolina led by a black slave named 'Cato'
1740: South Carolina enacts slave codes
1741: New Hampshire enacts slave codes
1753: North Carolina enacts slave codes
1762: Entrepreneur Samuel Fraunces Opens New York City's Most Cherished Revolutionary War Site: The Fraunces Tavern
1770: Georgia enacts slave codes
1770: Crispus Attucks is the first man to die in the American Revolution
1772: Chicago is Settled by Jean DuSable
1776: Lemuel Haynes Helps Lay the Foundation for Abolition
1777: Vermont becomes the first colony to abolish slavery.
1778: General George Washington invites blacks to join the Continental Army
1787: Blacks found New York's African Free School
1791: The First Black Man of Science, Benjamin Banneker, Surveys Washington, D.C.
1793: Congress passes the Fugitive Slave Act, making it a crime to aid an escaped slave
1793: Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin, helping to institutionalize slavery by making cotton the primary southern crop
1799: Richard Allen becomes the first ordained black minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church
1800: Gabriel Prosser leads the first major slave revolt in U.S. history; the revolt is betrayed and 35 slaves, including Prosser, are hanged
1808: Importation of slaves to the United States ends
1816: The African Methodist Episcopal Church is formally recognized and elects Richard Allen as its first bishop
1817: The American Colonization Society is established to transport blacks to Africa, leading to the founding of the Republic of Liberia in 1847
1820: Congress enacts the Missouri Compromise, which admits Missouri as a slave state, Maine as a free state, and western territories above Missouri's southern border to be free soil
1821: African Grove Theatre is founded in New York City as blacks begin parallel institution building
1822: Denmark Vesey plans Charleston slave revolt but is betrayed; he and 34 others are hanged
1823: Legendary Mountain Man James Beckwourth Enters the Rockies
1827: Samuel Cornish and John B. Russworn start the first black periodical, 'Freedom's Journal'
1829: Black abolitionist David Walker publishes "Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World" . . . , calling for a slave revolt, though radical for the time, some white abolitionists support him
1831: White abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison publishes the antislavery newspaper 'The Liberator'
1831: Nat Turner slave revolt in Virginia emboldens northern abolitionists and entrenches southern attitudes toward slavery
1833: William Lloyd Garrison and others found the American Anti-Slavery Society
1834: British Empire abolishes slavery
1839: Joseph Cinque leads successful slave revolt aboard the slave ship Amistad.
1843: Black abolitionist Henry Highland Garnet calls upon slaves to murder their masters at the National Convention of Free People of Color
1847: Frederick Douglass begins publication of the antislavery newspaper, the North Star
1848: The Free Soil Party opposes the extension of slavery into the western territories
1849: Harriet Tubman Uses Underground Railroad to Become Free
1850: Congress passes Compromise of 1850, which calls for a stricter Fugitive Slave Act and a better balance between slave and free states in the western territories
1850: Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes 'Uncle Tom's Cabin'
1851: Sojourner Truth Delivers Famous "Ain't I a Woman?" Speech
1853: William Wells Brown, a former slave, abolitionist, historian, and physician, publishes 'Clotel,' the first novel by an African American
1854: Lincoln University, the first black university, is founded.
1854: Congress passes the Kansas-Nebraska Act, repealing the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and increasing tensions between the north and south
1855: Frederick Douglass Publishes My Bondage and My Freedom
1855: John Mercer Langston, elected clerk of Brownhelm Township in Ohio, is the first black to win an elective political office in the United States
1856: Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church found Wilberforce University
1856: Pro-slavery forces sack Lawrence, Kansas; white abolitionist John Brown sacks Pottawatome Creek
1857: Dred Scott decision pushes nation toward Civil War
1859: The U.S. Supreme Court declares the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 constitutional, further increasing north south tensions
1859: Abolitionist John Brown captures the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, trying to inspire a slave revolt
1860: Following the election of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States, South Carolina secedes and is followed in 1861 by Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, and Tennessee
1861: The Civil War begins
1861: Pinckney Pinchback runs the Confederate blockade to New Orleans and recruits a
company of black volunteers for the Union, the Corps d'Afrique.

1862: Black slave Robert Smalls seizes a Confederate frigate in Charleston harbor and turns it over to the Union

1862: The second Confiscation Act is passed, stating that slaves in regions of the Confederacy occupied by the Union Army shall be free

1862: President Abraham Lincoln allows blacks to join the Union army

1863: The Morril Act, known as the Homestead Act, is passed, allowing settlers to claim 160 acres of land after they have lived on it for five years

1863: Lincoln Signs Emancipation Proclamation on January first

1863: Black Regiment Storms Fort Wagner in the Civil War

1865: Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, prohibiting slavery, is ratified.

1866: The 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments, known as the Buffalo soldiers are created by the U.S. Army to fight in the Indian Wars

1868: Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, defining citizenship is ratified

1868: Amateur National Association of Baseball Players votes to bar black baseball players

1869: Hiram Rhoades Revels becomes the first African American U.S. Senator

1870: Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution, giving blacks the right to vote, is ratified.

1870: Robert Brown Elliot is elected to Congress

1873: Mifflin Gibbs becomes the first African American elected a Municipal Judge in the U.S.

1875: Robert Smalls, former slave, is elected to House of Representatives

1875: Congress passes Civil Rights Act

1877: Henry Flipper is the first black to graduate from West Point

1881: Booker T. Washington Opens Tuskegee Institute

1881: T. Thomas Fortune publishes 'The New York Globe.' which later becomes 'The New York Age,' and prophesies the Long and Bitter Struggle for Equality

1883: U.S. Supreme Court declares 1875 Civil Rights Act unconstitutional

1884: John Roy Lynch is elected Chairman of the Republican Convention

1887: Granville T. Woods, known as the "Black Edison," patents the Induction Telegraph System

1890: T. Thomas Fortune founds the Afro-American League, the forerunner of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; coins term Afro-American

1890: Louisiana passes 'Jim Crow law' requiring railroads to provide separate cars for Blacks and Whites

1893: Ida B. Wells-Barnett crusades against black lynching in America and pioneers tactic of economic boycott of white owned businesses

1893: Black surgeon, Daniel Hale Williams, performs the first Open Heart Surgery

1896: In Plessy v. Ferguson, the U.S. Supreme Court decides that segregation is constitutional, making possible the South's the repressive Jim Crow laws

1896: Black scientist George Washington Carver joins the Tuskegee institute and goes on to develop more than 300 useful products, many derived from the peanut

1899: Scott Joplin publishes the "Maple Leaf Rag"

1903: W.E.B. DuBois Publishes Souls of Black Folks
1903: Madam C.J. Walker becomes the first black woman millionaire with her cosmetics company
1904: Scott Joplin and Ma Rainey Initiate the Merger of Two Cultures
1908: Black boxer, Jack Johnson, wins the Heavyweight Boxing Championship
1908: Black Cowboy and naturalist George McJunkin discovers folsom spear point in New Mexico
1909: Matthew Henson Discovers the North Pole
1909: W.E.B. Du Bois Founds the NAACP
1910: W.E.B. Du Bois founds the 'Crisis' Magazine, the official Media Organ of the NAACP
1914: Jamaican born Marcus Garvey organizes the Universal Negro Improvement Association and the African Communities League.
1920: The National Negro Baseball League is Formed
1924: George Washington Carver delivers first speech on the need for sustainable technologies
1925: Black author, educator and philosopher, Alain Locke, leads Harlem Renaissance
1926: Star pitcher, Satchel Paige joins the National Negro Baseball League
1929: Black entrepreneur, S.B. Fuller incorporates Fuller Products Company
1931: Sammy Davis Jr. begins his film career
1935: Mary McLeod Bethune founds National Council of Negro Women
1936: Jesse Owens wins four gold medals of 1936 Olympics
1938: Joe Louis beats German, Max Schmelling for World Heavyweight title
1939: Hattie McDaniel Wins the Oscar
1940: First Black General, Benjamin O. Davis, is Stepping Stone to Desegregation of U.S. Army
1940: Black doctor, Charles Drew, designs means of storing Plasma rather than whole blood in blood banks
1941: President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issues Executive Order 8802, barring discrimination in all defense contracts and establishing the committee of Fair Employment Practices to investigate all violations
1943: Duke Ellington's Band Performs "Black, Brown and Beige" at Carnegie Hall
1947: Black baseball player, Jackie Robinson, breaks baseball's color barrier
1948: Satchel Paige joins the Cleveland Indians
1948: President Harry Truman issues historic executive order, ending segregation in the United States armed forces
1950: Ralph Bunche Wins the Nobel Peace Prize
1950: Herman Branson discovers DNA's alpha helix
1950: Gwendolyn Brooks becomes the first black to win the Pulitzer Prize
1954: U.S. Supreme Court strikes down segregation in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas
1955: Rosa Parks Refuses to Give Up Her Seat to a White Passenger on a Montgomery Bus
1956: Althea Gibson, First Black Woman To Win a Tennis Grand Slam Event
1957: President Dwight D. Eisenhower sends federal troops to little Rock Arkansas to protect 9 black students attending an all white high school
1957: Congress creates Civil Right Commission to investigate voting rights for blacks
1959: Lorraine Hansberry's Play 'A Raisin in the Sun' is Produced
1960: Track star Wilma Rudolf becomes first American woman to win three gold medals at Olympic Games
1960: Lunch counter sit-ins organized by black students desegregates lunch counters throughout the south
1961: President John F. Kennedy issues Executive Order 10925, which creates the Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity
1961: James Farmer, director of the Congress of Racial Equality organizes Freedom Rides throughout the south
1963: Black actor Sidney Poitier wins Academy Award for 'Lilies of the Field'
1963: Medgar Evers is gunned down in the driveway of his Mississippi home
1963: Martin Luther King Jr. leads demonstrations in Birmingham, Alabama, which leads to desegregation of the city's facilities.
1963: Martin Luther King Jr. Delivers His "I have a Dream Speech"
1964: Congress passed the Civil Rights Act, barring discrimination against minorities in employment and places of public accommodation, and protecting voting rights and advancing school desegregation
1965: Congress passes the Voting Rights Act, outlawing registration tests and putting voter registration under control of the US government.
1965: President Johnson issues Executive Order 11246, enforcing affirmative action for the first time
1965: Malcom X, leader of Black nationalism movement is assassinated
1967: Muhammad Ali Refuses Induction into the U.S. Army on Religious Grounds
1967: Thurgood Marshall, First Black U.S. Supreme Court Justice
1968: Congress passes the 1968 Civil Rights Act, forbidding discrimination in housing
1968: Civil rights leader Martin Luther King is assassinated
1976: Alex Haley publishes "Roots: The Saga of An American Family"
1978: U.S. Supreme Court in Regents of the University of California v. Bakke rules to ensure that affirmative action does not provide greater opportunities for minorities at the expense of the rights of the majority
1980: In Fullilove v. Klutznick the U.S. Supreme Court rules that some modest quotas are perfectly constitutional
1980: Black entrepreneur Robert L. Johnson founds Black Entertainment Television
1982: Alice Walker publishes the Pulitzer Prize winning, "The Color Purple"
1983: Guy Bluford is the first African American to travel in Space
2001: President George W. Bush appoints Colin Powell Secretary of State
2001: President George W. Bush appoints Dr. Condoleezza Rice National Security Administration advisor
2003: Supreme Court rules (5-4) on the University of Michigan Law School's policy, that race can be one of many factors considered by colleges when selecting their students because it furthers "a compelling interest in obtaining the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body"