

**Damon City Campus Integrated Learning Center**  
**Black History Contest/WHO AM I?**  
**BLACK HISTORY CONTEST ANSWERS**

1. African American poet, playwright and author of first staged play by an African American.  
**Angelina Weld Grimke**
2. First Black woman elected to Congress (1969).  
**Shirley Chisholm**
3. First Black entertainer to host his own show on national television (1956).  
**Nat King Cole**
4. First woman/African American psychologist to hold the position of the director of the U.S. Peace Corps.  
**Carolyn Robertson Payton**
5. First Black artist in television history to star as a professional person in her own series.  
**Diahann Carroll**
6. First Black artist to paint an official presidential portrait—Bill Clinton's.  
**Simmie Knox**
7. First self-made African American woman millionaire.  
**Madame C. J. Walker**
8. Directs nuclear chemistry research & development at the Dept. of Energy. Plans, manages, evaluates research/development on reactor materials and chemistry carried out in DOE national laboratories.  
**Donald Cotton**
9. First Black to own billion dollar company. Opened TLC Group, a venture capital firm.  
**Reginald Lewis**
10. First Black woman to win a Tony Award for dramatic lead role of Lena Younger in A Raisin in the Sun.  
**Phylicia Rashad**
11. Taught himself astronomy and advanced math; known as the first "African American Man of Science."  
**Benjamin Banneker**
12. Baptist clergyman/civil rights activist born in Linden, Alabama. Confidante of Martin Luther King, Jr.  
**Ralph Abernathy**
13. First Black major league baseball player; first black player elected to Baseball Hall of Fame.  
**Jackie Robinson**
14. Former slave; taught to read and write by the Wheatley family. First Black poet published in the U.S.

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**Phillis Wheatley**

15. First Black woman to go into space aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavor on September 1, 1992.

**Mae Jemison**

16. Confirmed as the first female Secretary of State.

**Condoleeza Rice**

17. First artist ever to have seven consecutive singles hit number one.

**Whitney Houston**

18. First Black superstar of country music; first Black inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame (2002).

**Charley Pride**

19. Labor leader/social activist who organized the March on Washington movement (1940).

**A. Philip Randolph**

20. First Black to receive a Pulitzer Prize in 1950.

**Gwendolyn Brooks**

21. First Black chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff and first Black Secretary of State.

**Colin L. Powell**

22. First African American to win a Nobel Peace Prize.

**Ralph Bunche**

23. First African American to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics (Cornell University).

**Frank Elbert Cox**

24. First Black mayor of a major American city (Cleveland in 1967).

**Carl Stokes**

25. First African American to play in the US Open. She won the tournament in 1957 and 1958.

**Althea Gibson**

26. Composed first Broadway musical ever to be written and directed by an African American.

**James Hubert “Eubie” Blake**

27. First African American to win an Oscar for best actor (*Lilies of the Fields*); he became a hero to both Black and White audiences.

**Sidney Poitier**

28. Martin Luther King’s special assistant who served the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and was the coordinator for the SCLC March on Washington (1963).

**Brayard Rustin**