

Timelines of African American History

Compiled by Dr. S. Y. Evans 2007

www.ProfessorEvans.com

It is interesting to note the various sources, content, and periodization of these timelines. Periodization of Black American history can be categorized within the larger national history of the United States (roughly 5 periods):

1. Colonial Period / Enslavement (1600s-1860s)
2. Civil War & Reconstruction (1860s-1900s)
3. WWI and WWII / Segregation (1900s-1940s)
4. Cold War / Civil Rights (1940s-1960s)
5. Contemporary era (post1960s)

However, many perspectives represented below debate that this periodization is accurate or appropriate for defining the Black experience in the U.S.

History, at its best, is an interdisciplinary field that can be categorized in the humanities or the social sciences. Researchers have focused on the history of subjects in humanities (i.e. literature, language, or arts), social sciences (psychology, political science, or economics), STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, & math), or professions (health, business, law, or education). Research entails a focus on a person, place, thing, or idea, but researchers approach these basic topics in many different and imaginative ways.

Below are some useful links to timelines in Black history. Though these reference sources are useful as a general entry point, primary documentation and peer-reviewed secondary sources must be consulted for accuracy and updated verification of records. Further, this list offers a series of dates, places, people, and events. However, writing history requires *interpretation* and *analysis*. These tools will help students get a general feel for main events of Black history, but much of this content represents ongoing and energetic debates about what happened, when, why, and who was involved.

A note of caution to those who use these tools: take nothing for granted.

Encyclopedia Britannica <http://www.britannica.com/blackhistory>

Library of Congress <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/civilrights/flash.html>

Schomburg Public Library "In Motion" Migration <http://www.inmotionaame.org/home.cfm>

PBS Timeline <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld/timeline.html>

Gale Thompson Group http://www.gale.com/free_resources/bhm/timeline/

Scholastic <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory/>