



Black History Month  
*“Reclaiming Narratives”*

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# CA1 ~ Mansa Musa



# Mansa Musa: Who was he?

*Born: 1280*

*Died: 1337*

*Age of death: 57*

- Mansa Musa ruled from 1312-1337. His reign is often marked as a high point in the history of the Mali empire.
- Mansa Musa was the ninth Musa of the Mali Empire.
- Mansa means king.
- He put Mali on the map.
- He is famously known as one of the wealthiest individuals in history.
- He was really generous to Cairo by donating some of his wealth.



# Interesting Facts

- Mansa Musa was surrounded by gold and had fortunes that could support his family for generations.
- He got his wealth by taxing the salt trades.
- To him, spending £1 million was like us spending £1. That is how rich he was.
- During his 1324 pilgrimage to Mecca, he gave away so much gold it devalued the currency in Cairo.
- He turned Timbuktu into a Majan centre of learning and Islamic culture.
- He gave 20,000 ounces of gold to his country for free.



# How significant was his influence?

Mansa Musa made a fit military leader, and a great king for the Mali Empire.

He even managed to become king even without having a strong claim upon the leadership role.

Mansa Musa developed cities like Timbuktu and Gao into important cultural centers. He also brought architects from the Middle East and across Africa to design new buildings for his cities. Mansa Musa turned the kingdom of Mali into a sophisticated center of learning in the Islamic world, a feat that no White, Asian or Brown person has ever achieved.

His name is...





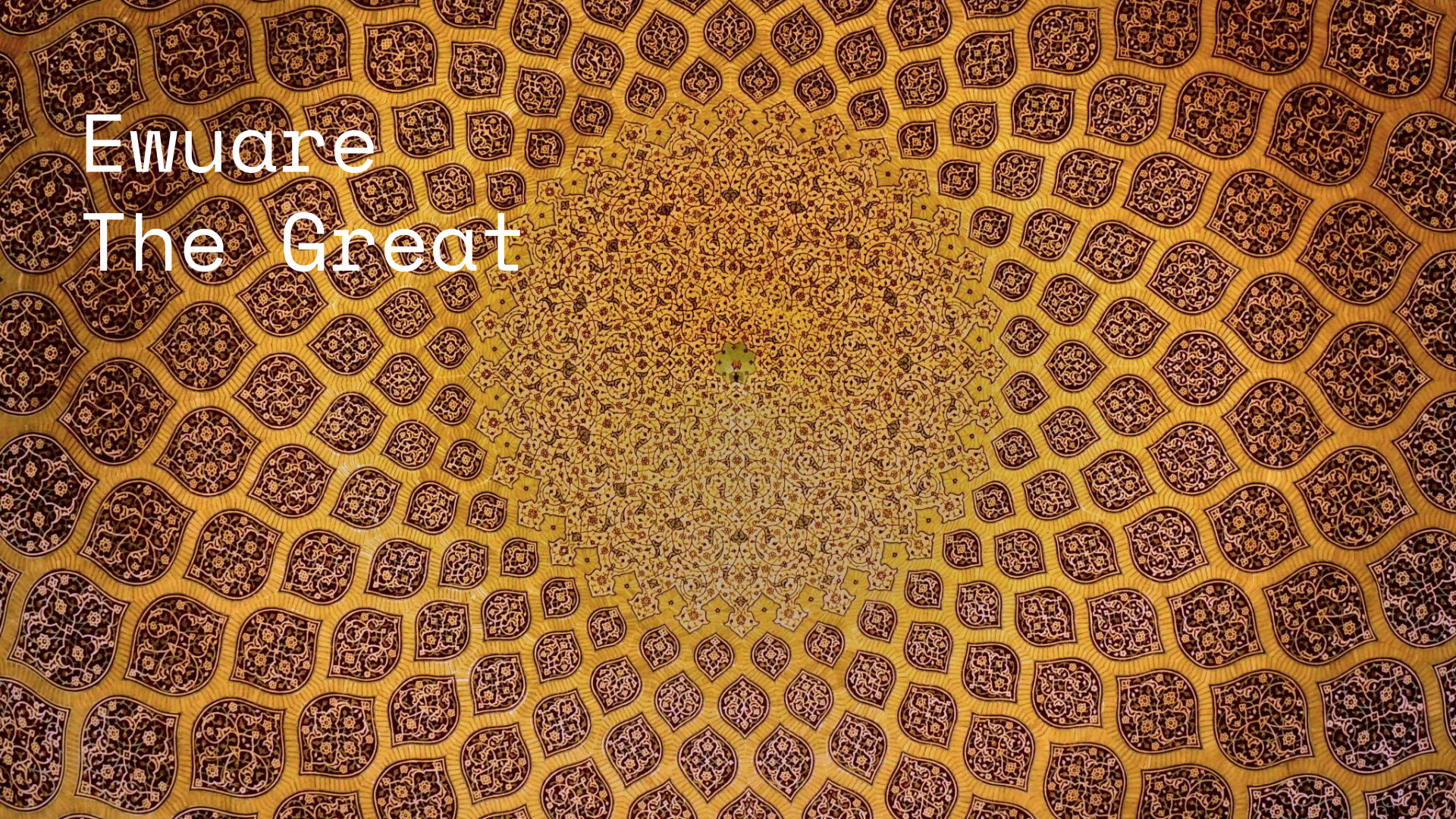
# MANSA MUSA



CA2 ~ Eware the Great



# Ewuaré The Great





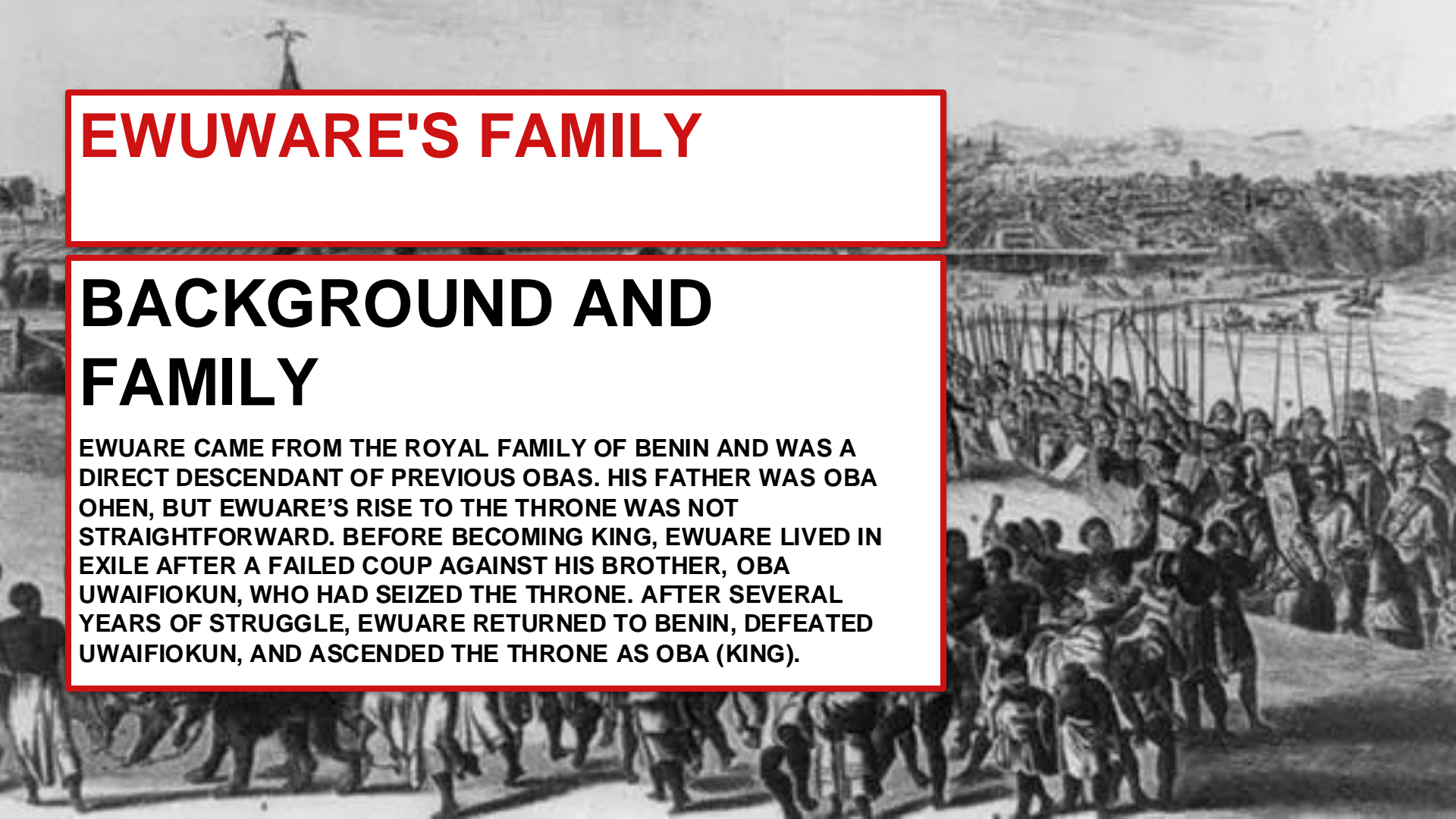
# WHO WAS EWUARE THE GREAT?

- EWUARE THE GREAT WAS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS AND INFLUENTIAL OBA (KING) OF THE KINGDOM OF BENIN (MODERN-DAY NIGERIA), RULING FROM AROUND 1440 TO 1473 AD. HIS REIGN IS NOTABLE FOR TRANSFORMING BENIN INTO A POWERFUL AND PROSPEROUS EMPIRE, ENHANCING ITS MILITARY MIGHT, GOVERNANCE, AND CULTURE. HE IS REMEMBERED FOR HIS LEADERSHIP, INNOVATIONS IN ART, ARCHITECTURE, AND POLITICAL REFORMS, EARNING THE TITLE "EWUARE THE GREAT."

# **EWUWARE'S FAMILY**

## **BACKGROUND AND FAMILY**

**EWUWARE CAME FROM THE ROYAL FAMILY OF BENIN AND WAS A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF PREVIOUS OBAS. HIS FATHER WAS OBA OHEN, BUT EWUWARE'S RISE TO THE THRONE WAS NOT STRAIGHTFORWARD. BEFORE BECOMING KING, EWUWARE LIVED IN EXILE AFTER A FAILED COUP AGAINST HIS BROTHER, OBA UWAIKUN, WHO HAD SEIZED THE THRONE. AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF STRUGGLE, EWUWARE RETURNED TO BENIN, DEFEATED UWAIKUN, AND ASCENDED THE THRONE AS OBA (KING).**



# Ewuare's impact on Benin

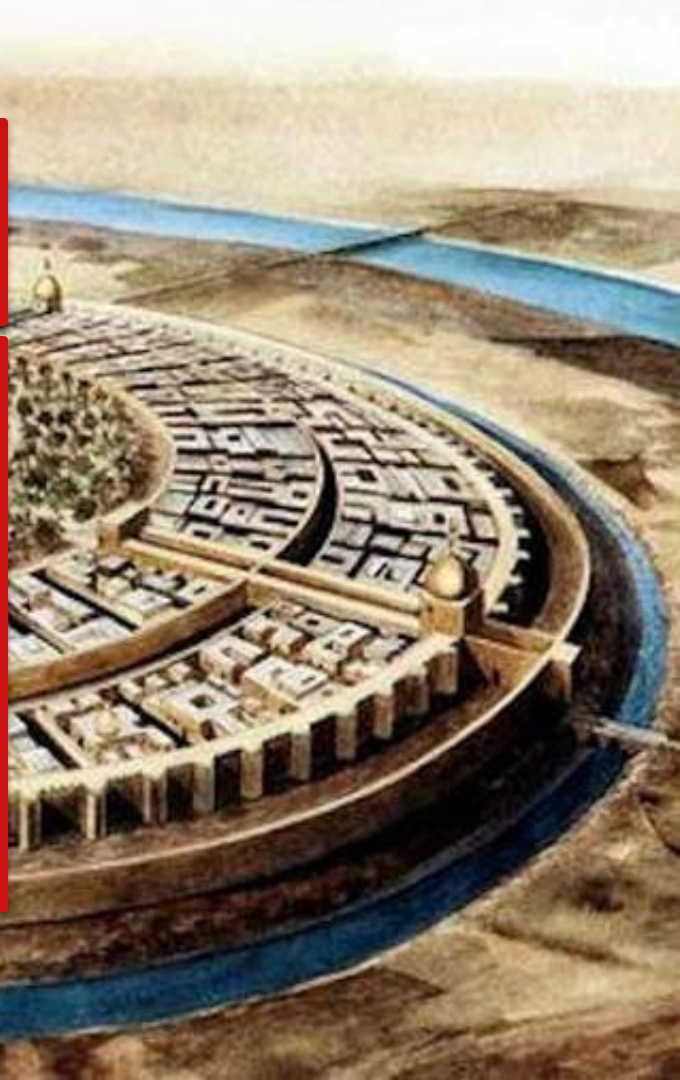
**EXPANSION OF THE KINGDOM: EWUARE EMBARKED ON MILITARY CAMPAIGNS TO EXPAND THE BENIN KINGDOM. HIS REIGN MARKED THE HEIGHT OF BENIN'S TERRITORIAL INFLUENCE, WITH CONQUESTS THAT EXPANDED ITS REACH ACROSS MUCH OF MODERN-DAY SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA AND BEYOND.**

**CENTRALIZATION OF POWER: HE STRENGTHENED THE CENTRAL AUTHORITY OF THE MONARCHY, ESTABLISHED A MORE ORGANIZED BUREAUCRACY, AND CONSOLIDATED POWER OVER THE NOBILITY, MAKING THE OBA MORE POWERFUL.**



# Urban and Architectural Development:

**REBUILDING AND FORTIFICATION OF BENIN CITY: EWUARE IS CREDITED WITH REDESIGNING BENIN CITY, THE CAPITAL OF THE KINGDOM. HE ORDERED THE CONSTRUCTION OF WIDE ROADS, NEW PALACES, AND DEFENSIVE WALLS AROUND THE CITY. THIS INCLUDED THE GREAT BENIN WALLS, A MASSIVE SERIES OF EARTHWORKS THAT ARE CONSIDERED ONE OF THE LARGEST MAN-MADE STRUCTURES IN HISTORY.**



# EWUWARE'S LEGACY

The background of the slide is a detailed black and white illustration of a large, walled city, likely Benin, with a river in the foreground and a battle scene below. The city is shown from an elevated perspective, with numerous buildings and a complex network of streets. In the foreground, a river flows, and a group of people is engaged in a battle or a significant event on the bank. The overall scene depicts a thriving and organized society.

**OBA EWUWARE THE GREAT IS REMEMBERED AS ONE OF THE MOST TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERS IN AFRICAN HISTORY. HIS REIGN MARKED THE APEX OF THE BENIN EMPIRE'S POWER AND ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT, LEAVING A LONG-LASTING LEGACY ON GOVERNANCE, MILITARY ORGANIZATION, RELIGION, ART, AND ARCHITECTURE. HIS ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS HELPED MAINTAIN THE KINGDOM'S COHESION LONG AFTER HIS DEATH, AND HIS IMPACT ON THE REGION CAN STILL BE FELT IN CONTEMPORARY NIGERIA, WHERE THE BENIN MONARCHY CONTINUES TO EXIST IN A TRADITIONAL FORM.**

**HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE ARTS, LEFT A LASTING MARK ON AFRICAN AND GLOBAL HISTORY. MANY BENIN BRONZES CREATED DURING HIS REIGN WERE TAKEN BY BRITISH FORCES DURING THE 1897 BENIN EXPEDITION AND ARE NOW HOUSED IN VARIOUS EUROPEAN MUSEUMS, SPARKING INTERNATIONAL DEBATES OVER THEIR REPATRIATION.**

# RANDOM FACTS ABOUT EDUWARE



**NAME CHANGE TRADITION: ONE OF EWUARE'S FIRST ACTS AFTER TAKING POWER WAS TO CHANGE HIS NAME FROM PRINCE OGUN TO EWUARE, WHICH MEANS "THE TROUBLE HAS CEASED," MARKING THE END OF CONFLICT AND THE BEGINNING OF A PEACEFUL REIGN.**

**WIVES AND SUCCESSION: EWUARE HAD SEVERAL WIVES, AND HIS RULE WAS FOLLOWED BY HIS SON, OBA OZOLUA, CONTINUING THE ROYAL LINEAGE. OZOLUA WOULD GO ON TO FURTHER EXPAND THE BENIN EMPIRE.**

# WA2 ~ Crater G Woodson



# Carter G. Woodson

19<sup>th</sup> Dec 1875  
3<sup>rd</sup> April 1950



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# Carter G Woodson

- Woodson didn't start high school **until he turned 20** and graduated in just **2 years!**
- Woodson worked as a teacher and a school principal before obtaining a bachelor's degree in literature from Berea College in Kentucky.
- He was the **second black man in history** to graduate with a doctorate from **Harvard University**, **earning a PHD** in history!
- **Woodson's work has inspired countless people** to pursue careers in history, education, and activism. **He's a true cultural icon whose impact is still felt today.**





# Carter G Woodson

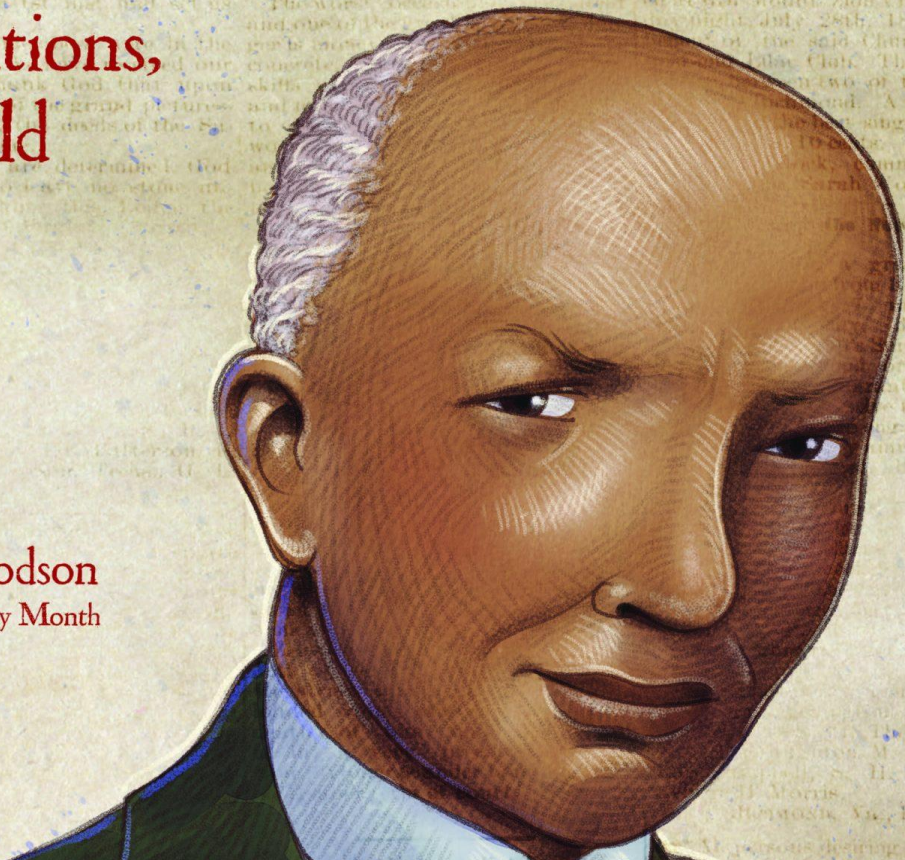
- He co-founded the association for the study of **African American life and history**, also known as “**ASALH**”
- Throughout the course of his life, Woodson published many books on black history.
- He also most famously authored the ‘**Mis-Education of the Negro**’ in 1933 critiquing the exclusion of black history in education.

Woodson is known as ‘**The father of black history**’.



“What we need is not a history  
of selected races or nations,  
but the history of the world  
void of national bias,  
race hate,  
and religious prejudice.”

Carter G. Woodson  
Father of Black History Month  
1875–1950





Thank  
you!

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