

African American History and Culture Web Resources:

By Matt Knope

This is a listing and description of many very good websites about African Americans and African American history. While doing this research, I decided to broaden my focus because I found so many fantastic sites across all areas. I could have posted a hundred good sites, but here are some that I thought were especially good and/or unique. Please use these sites and refer them to students and colleagues. Most of these sites are oriented towards secondary school.

- <http://www.si.umich.edu/CHICO/Harlem/>

This site from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture deals with black history and culture in Harlem during the first half of the 20th century. It includes resources for teachers, exhibits and resources. A great site because it seems to be so unique.

- <http://nmaahc.si.edu/resources/default.htm>

This is the Smithsonian site about the National Museum of African American history and culture. As usual, Smithsonian is a fantastic site, and has on-line exhibits, teaching resources, spoken recordings, primary resources, and too many other great features to list.

- <http://www.toptags.com/aama/index.htm>

This is the AFRO-American Almanac. This site could be used effectively by teachers and upper-level secondary students. It is chock-full of historical documents and pertinent biographical information. It is very comprehensive and even has a great site-searching capability. This site is a real find for older high school students.

- <http://www.si.umich.edu/CHICO/Schomburg/>

This is another fantastic site by the Schomburg Center. It is comprehensive and covers the first 500 years of the African American history, from 1492-1992. This site has resources similar to the Harlem site, and you can get lost for hours cruising through all of the different links.

- <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld/>

This is the PBS site about African American history and culture. PBS offers a “reference room,” classroom, timeline, resources, and many more fantastic features. This site is rich with good materials for educators and students.

- <http://www.kodak.com/US/en/corp/features/moore/mooreIndex.shtml>

This is an interesting site by KODAK. It offers some very powerful pictures in a comprehensive overview of modern African American history. This site is included because it could be very useful for visual learners and students who struggle with reading. It is worth checking out.

- <http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/mlk/>

The Seattle Times offers a comprehensive site about Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement. This site is set up as an educational resource and has scores of appropriate links to good articles, educational materials, and primary resources.

- <http://www.withoutsanctuary.org/>

This is a disturbing site that leaves a lasting impact on visitors. It uses photographs to outline American lynching of African Americans. It keeps these memories alive in a way that will teach and remind future generations of these horrors. The site can be viewed in still photographs or as a flash movie. It also offers visitors the option of participating in a forum about the material. Many of these graphic photographs were actually made into postcards during this time of racial violence.

- <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/99/railroad/j1.html>

This National Geographic site takes students on a tour through American slavery and the Underground Railroad. A well-known and popular site that is worth noting again.

- <http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/sayitplain/index.html>

Public Radio offers a really neat site featuring some of the greatest African American speeches of all time. Background information, transcripts, and actual audio recordings are available from the most famous speeches of the 20th Century. From Booker T. Washington right up to Barack Obama's 2004 speech at the Democratic National Convention. This site offers another unique way for students to learn about African American history and heritage.

- <http://www.jimcrowhistory.org/>

This site is a real jewel for teachers and educators. It allows visitors to "explore the complex African-American experience of segregation from the 1870's through the 1950's. The site connects Jim Crow with history, geography and American literature and offers a wealth of supplemental materials for teachers. All teachers of American history should visit this site.

- <http://members.aol.com/klove01/blackhis.htm>

This black history web page is a great resource for comprehensive coverage of African American history. It includes links to biography, speeches, historical events, and a whole host of other interesting topics.

- <http://www.blackbaseball.com/>

Kind of a short and simple sight about the Negro baseball leagues. Includes historical information and biographies. This site would be easily understandable to all kids and give them some good background information about this important topic.

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

This is a Scholastic site titled, Culture and Change: Black History in America. This is a really good site for students and teachers. The information is very readable and easy to understand for lower-level readers, and gives all sorts of pertinent information about African American history. In addition, the site offers plenty of teacher resources.