

The 1st Annual Black365 Knowledge Bowl in collaboration with Learn 4 Life.

Sponsored by Jamaal Brown and
the Black365 Calendar!



Study Guide Instructions

Complete the study guide by researching the topics and filling in all underlines. Once all underlines are answered, review this study guide thoroughly. Familiarize yourself with the content in each paragraph as questions will come from the paragraphs as well.

The contest will feature 5 categories with 5 questions in each category.

The 5 topics are:

HBCUs, African American Inventors, Black Wealth, African Americans in STEAM, Kids these Days

Each individual is free to study in any way they feel gives them the best chance for success.

If you are unable to find an answer or need clarification, feel free to contact me.

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Introductory Monologue (no questions will come from this first paragraph).

African people are the mothers and fathers of civilization. They are the world's first doctors, first lawyers, and the first to create institutions of higher learning. People came from all over the globe to study our information, but they claimed Africa's information as their own when they returned to their home. Thus began the theft of African philosophy, followed by the theft of African spirituality, followed by the worst theft, the theft of African people. Despite facing unparalleled tragedy in the form of the holocaust of enslavement, reconstruction, black codes, and Jim Crow, there remain shining examples of greatness amongst us. There are several individuals of African descent who are doing good work, and then there are some who are simply doing AMAZING work .

HBCU's

The first Historically Black colleges or university (HBCU) that many people learned about in the late 1980's and early 1990's was Hillman College, the fictional HBCU showcased on the hit show *A Different World*. Historically Black colleges and universities are institutions of higher learning that were established in the mid 1800's in order to educate individuals of African descent who were no longer enslaved. Another segment of people that HBCUs were formed for were those never enslaved, but could not gain admission into segregated institutions. HBCU's makeup only 3% of the countries colleges and universities, but they produce nearly 20% of all African American graduates.

There were 121 HBCUs; however, today that number has dropped to 107.
_____ University of Pennsylvania, which was founded in 1837 was the first HBCU; however, Wilberforce University, which is located in Ohio was the first Black owned and operated HBCU.



It is thought that _____ graduates more African American men in a single day than any other place on the planet on a single day. This HBCU is the alma mater of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Samuel L. Jackson, Spike Lee and many other notable men.

While there are no competitions that crown an official “best band” award, every year the Battle of the Bands takes place between Grambling State University and Southern University at an event known as the Bayou Classic. The audience weighs in on who they thought won all year long until the next competition.

One HBCU, located in this nation’s capital, is known as “the Mecca”. _____ University is one of the most well-funded HBCUs, and it boasts such graduates as Chadwick Bosman, Taraji P. Henson, Anthony Anderson, Thurgood Marshall and Phylicia Rashad. Five of the historically Black Greek Lettered Organizations, known as the Divine Nine were founded on this campus. It also produces the most black doctorate recipients of any university.

Inventions

African American inventors have revolutionized the globe. Did you know that _____ was the first African American woman to receive a U.S. patent? She earned this patent in 1885 when she invented the folding bed. Nearly 100 years later, Marie Van Brittan Brown followed in her footsteps when she received a patent for the home security system.

Did you know that when Thomas Edison could not figure out how to make his light-bulb last for more than 12.5 hours, he put together a team of inventors. _____ was the



youngest and only African American inventor to be a part of this team. It was his invention of the carbon light filament that allows us to have the lights that we have in our home today. He also holds a patent for toilets on trains.

Speaking of trains, did you know that an inventor named Granville T. Woods owns more than 60 patents, mostly associated with trains. His most popular patents deal with communication from train-to-train and train-to-stations. Not to be outdone is _____
_____. He invented parts for trains that made them run longer, faster and more efficiently. His competitors would attempt to create knock off products that resembled his. When customers wanted quality that they could trust, they would ask the person selling the products, “Is this the real McCoy?”

Everyone on the planet interacts with items that have been invented by African Americans. We can not forget young Jan Matzliger. This man from Suriname created the Shoe Lasting Machine. This patent revolutionized shoe production around the globe!

There are even African American inventions that save lives everyday.

_____ invented the street light that controls traffic around the globe. Did you know that he also has a patent for the modern day gas mask? On July 24, 1916 Waterworks personnel working under Lake Erie were personally saved by this inventor while using the mask. Sadly, the papers did not give him the credit for saving these lives because of racism. Years later he was acknowledged for his heroic act and given his proper accolades.

Black Wealth

Did you know that a study conducted by Forbes discovered that an individual of African descent was the richest man to ever live? That is right



Mansa Musa of Mali controlled nearly an unimaginable amount of gold and salt reserves! He was generous with his wealth. In 1324 he made a Hajj to Mecca. During his trip he gave away so much gold that gold was devalued along his route for nearly 10 years!

William Leidesdorff was a successful sea captain. Some erroneously say he was the richest African American in California at one point. This is erroneous for two reasons one, he was African of St. Croix and Danish descent. Also , when he reached California in 1841 it was still owned by Mexico. Nevertheless, this pioneer who was the first to captain a seam ship in the San Francisco Bay was a savvy businessman. He obtained over 35,000 acres of land near Sacramento, owned waterfront property in what is today's San Francisco financial district, and built the first hotel there. He not only donated land what would become the home of the first public school in California, but he organized the first public school as well. He even was elected as the city treasurer. The value of his property in Sacramento increased dramatically once gold was discovered along the American River. His property alone was worth over one million dollars. Today there are streets and bridges named after him in San Francisco and Folsom California

Madam C.J. Walker did not invent the hot comb (let's get that out of the way.) She made enhancements to an existing one. However, that is not what made her millions. She realized that women of African descent in the at 1800's worked as field and domestic workers from "can't see in the morning, to can't see at night." Often times they had their hair tied in handkerchiefs and head wraps as they worked. The lack of hair maintenance for these women caused them to have damaged hair and scalps. She developed a variety of natural salves, ointments and creams to help heal scalps and re-grow hair. She declared that the recipes for her products came to her in visions. She trained thousands of women in the areas of etiquette and business. These women eventually became "Walker



Agents” and went door to door selling her products! She not only became wealthy, but she ensured that many others around her became wealthy too. Additionally, she had a tremendous amount of social consciousness. She would often allow her mansion to be used by Marcus Garvey to hold high level meetings with ambassadors from other countries.

In the late 1800’s and early 1900’s thousands of African Americans went West after the end of enslavement in an effort to escape racism in the South. Many of them congregated in Oklahoma. One man, J.B. Stradford from Kentucky, who was a graduate of Oberlin College, and Indiana Law School, came to Oklahoma in 1899 with enterprising ideas. (Note, the initials J.B. did not stand for anything. J.B. recalls that individuals of African descent were often simply called by initials and not given names during the period of enslavement). He is credited with initiating the successful Black business district in Tulsa, Oklahoma, known as Black Wallstreet in the early 1900s. J.B. Stradford owned boarding houses, rental properties and even owned the largest African American owned hotel in the United States! Not only did he have individual wealth, but he taught others how to be wealthy as well.

Did you know that the title of richest woman of African descent is in flux? A Nigerian woman named Folorunsho Alakija and Oprah Winfrey have traded spots a few times as the richest woman of African descent in the world. Ms. Alakija’s wealth is estimated at \$1.58 Billion. She earned her wealth in the Oil industry. Her first career path of high-end fashion.

Aliko Dangote of Nigeria inherited three cement trucks from his grandfather, received an investment from his uncle, and obtained a loan from the bank that he had to repay in two years in order to start his cement business. Being efficient and having internal motivation Aliko turned his business into the largest business conglomerate in West Africa. Also, he has turned himself into richest individual of African descent in the world with an



estimated net worth of \$16.7 Billion! That is \$10 Billion more than the next richest person on the continent.

African American in STEAM

For as far back as she can remember, Katherine Johnson, loved figuring out math problems. She excelled so much in academics that she enrolled in high school at age 10, and entered West Virginia State College at the age of 14. At the age of 35 she was hired at _____ as a “human computer”! Johnson had the keen ability to work geometry backwards, which allowed her to calculate the trajectory of the space ship that sent the first American into outer space in 1961...by hand. In May 2016 _____ (same acronym as above) named one of their buildings in Hampton, Virginia the Katherine G. Johnson Computational Research Facility, after the now 97 year old Johnson.

Lonnie Johnson was a curious child who loved discovering how things around him worked. As a child he recalls taking his sister’s dolls apart to discover what made the eyes close. On one occasion he nearly burned down his family’s home by cooking rocket fuel in his mother’s saucepan. On yet another occasion he was stopped by police while driving a go-cart that he made from a lawnmower engine and parts from a junk yard. All of this was preparation for his future endeavors like attending the HBCU, Tuskegee University, on a math scholarship. There, he earned a master’s degree in nuclear engineering before beginning work on NASA’s space program. Remaining curious as an adult is what led him to inadvertently creating the _____. Johnson’s toy has been one of the top 20 best selling toys world-wide every year since the year that it hit the market and has topped nearly \$500 million in sales revenue.



Dr. Jedidah C. Isler graduated Magna cum Laude with a Bachelor's of Science in Physics from the HBCU Norfolk State University. If that wasn't impressive enough, she attended Yale University and became the first African American to receive a Master's degree in astrophysics! She studies the astronomical phenomena known as "blazers" and the "jets" that shoot out of them at nearly the speed of light!

Mae C. Jemison became the first African American woman to enter outer space. She went in 1992. It was over a decade before another African American woman would go. That was _____ in 2006, followed by Joan Higginbotham who also went into outer space in 2006. In January 2017 it was announced that Jeanette Epps would next be added to this list. Ms. Epps also works for the CIA .

Before now, had you ever heard of chemical oceanography or the study of geochemistry (I certainly hadn't). Well, those are the main courses of study for Dr. Ashanti Johnson. She was the first African American to earn a doctoral degree in oceanography from Texas A&M University-Galveston. In 2010 she received a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAEMST) at the White House. She earned these awards for her efforts in expanding African American participation in STEM related fields.

Kids These Days

There are a number of students who have won scholarships and earned degrees, both young and old; however, Andrea Pugh has the distinct honor of having a planet (albeit minor) named after her! This Michigan native won the 2010 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in San Jose with a project that discovered ways to inject soil with nutrients in order to better prepare it to grow healthy crops! We should check what is in the water of Michigan because that is also the home state of Thessalonika (Thess-ah-lawn-ika) Embry who, at the age of 14, graduated from Chicago State



University with a degree in psychology. She plans to continue her studies in order to receive a graduate degree in psychology and eventually open clinics to assist her community with psychological needs.

When he was sixteen years old _____ created a radio station so that people in his community could discuss matters affecting their home, Sierra Leone. His D.J. handle is D.J. Focus. He created his own batteries in order to solve electrical issues in his area. Because of his brilliance, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) housed him here in America and picked his brain. After only a short time, the young man grew home-sick and wanted to return home to continue to invent. Blessed with more resources and mentorship _____ became the founder of Bledsoe Technologies an I.T. services company when he was 13! While he was still a teenager, he has expanded his company into the global market, his company is now valued at more than \$3.5 million. His future plans are to make an app usable by hotels that will allow individuals to check-in with their phone then be able to use their phone as their hotel key! You will certainly be hearing more about him in the future. The next wave of millionaires will be made using apps as the vehicle.

Some more amazing young people are the Imafidon (I-math-eh-don) twins. At eight, they set a joint world record, when they passed an A/AS-level examination in mathematics. A year later, they took and passed the University of Cambridge's Advanced Mathematics exam, becoming the youngest students ever to pass the rigorous test.

Ginger Howard is an amazing golfer. At the age of 17 she was the youngest African American to turn professional and win her debut tournament. She was the first African American to earn a spot in Junior Ryder Cup, playing in 2010.

