

Name _____

Carter G. Woodson: Father of Black History

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Carter G. Woodson's efforts to promote African American history have contributed to a more inclusive and accurate portrayal of American history by highlighting the significant contributions, achievements, and struggles of African Americans. Before his work, much of African American history was omitted or misrepresented in mainstream history books. By establishing Negro History Week and later Black History Month, he ensured that the stories of African Americans were recognized and celebrated. This has enriched our understanding of American history, offering a more comprehensive and truthful account that includes the experiences of all Americans.
2. Carter G. Woodson believed it was essential to establish Negro History Week and later Black History Month to rectify the omission and misrepresentation of African American history in mainstream education and society. He recognized that African Americans had made significant contributions to various fields, including science, literature, politics, and the arts, but these contributions were often overlooked or downplayed. By dedicating a specific time to focus on African American history, he aimed to ensure that these achievements were acknowledged, celebrated, and integrated into the broader narrative of American history. Woodson believed that understanding the full scope of American history required recognizing the experiences and contributions of all its citizens.
3. Carter G. Woodson is considered a significant figure in African American history and American history as a whole because he played a pioneering role in recognizing the importance of African American contributions and experiences. He devoted his life to promoting the study and celebration of African American history at a time when it was largely ignored or misrepresented. His establishment of Negro History Week, which later became Black History Month, created a platform for acknowledging the achievements and struggles of African Americans. Woodson's work has had a lasting impact, fostering a more inclusive and accurate portrayal of American history that highlights the diverse and significant roles played by African Americans in shaping the nation.
4. If I had the opportunity to meet Carter G. Woodson, I would ask him about his motivation and inspiration for dedicating his life to promoting African American history. I would want to know what challenges he faced and how he overcame them in his pursuit of education and advocacy. Additionally, I would inquire about the impact he hoped his work would have on future generations and the broader understanding of American history. I would ask these questions to gain insight into his personal experiences and the driving force behind his pioneering efforts to ensure African American history was recognized and celebrated.

