

As a retired middle school teacher, I find that so many of the students I've encountered have an extremely limited knowledge of the roles that African-Americans have played in the development of this country or the world.

They can tell you that slaves came here on slave ships. But what they can't tell you is the history of the "slaves" captured and brought to America? Who were they? What was their culture like? What contributions did they make before slavery? Who was Henry "Box" Brown or Harriett Jacobs? The African American has such a rich history, yet most of our history is excluded in the lessons taught to our children. There is not an area of American History that did not include contributions made by African Americans. And yet, even our children don't know about the richness of their own heritage. Our history is an inter/multidisciplinary field of study that should analyze and treat the past and present culture, achievements, characteristics, and issues of people of African descent. We were more than slaves...we were families, doctors, Mathematicians, architects, etc.

Connect Social Studies, Mathematics, ELA, ...all subject areas with the African American or Black Experience. My History did not start with slavery...why not start at the beginning and show are students that we are more alike than different.

Thank you,  
Dee Crawford

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