

# POWERPOINT HANDOUT

The Untold Story of the First Black Women's History

By: T'Ahnah McGilmer and Erika Walker



This is Viola Davis's speech when she wins a Emmy for her amazing leading character role in How to Get Away with Murder.



Before there was Rosa Parks there was Claudette Colvin. Who 9 months before Rosa Parks stood her ground and did not move so a white person could sit down. Due to her not being a lighter complexion as well as also being pregnant at 15 her story was not told. Before there was a Laverne Cox there was a Marsha P. Johnson the p standing for “pay it no mind”. She was an LGBTQ black trans woman who was a pioneering activist standing strong for all rights to the LGBTQ community. Not only was Marsha P Johnson a trans-black woman but she also was a drag mother to the homeless LGBTQ community. She was sadly murdered on July 6, 1992. Before there were Serena and Venus William there

was the great Althea Neale Gibson. She was the first African American Women to win a Wimbledon in tennis and the first African American woman to join the ladies professional Golf Association. Althea Gibson won the U.S open and was even the female of the year in 1957 and 1958. These Women are so Talented, Strong and most of all they are trailblazers in not only their time but also today, but we do not talk about them as well as so many others like them. Why are these Black Queens not discussed in the classroom today? Why learn black history or specifically black women history and who were the first black women to do anything we have to do our research? My name is T'Ahnah McGilmer and along with Erika Walker, we will be discussing The untold story of Black Women's History specifically the First in Black Women's History.

<https://www.biography.com/news/claudette-colvin-rosa-parks-bus-boycott>

<https://www.biography.com/activist/marsha-p-johnson>

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/althea-gibson>



First Black Woman to Graduate College.

Mary Church Terrell was the very first African American woman to graduate from a college university. Born on September 23, 1863, in Memphis, Tennessee. Education was instilled in her at a young age by her parents and with those beliefs, she attended Antioch college laboratory school in Ohio but later transferred to Oberlin College

where she obtained a bachelor's as well as her master's degree. Mary Church Terrell held the torch for racial equality and women's suffrage in the late 19th to early 20th century. She helped found the National Association of colored women(NACW)in 1896, where she was president from 1896 to 1901 her motto was “lifting as we climb”. She also co-founded the college Alumnae club. Terrell also published an autobiography called A colored woman in a white world. She was also the first black member of the American Association of women's university.



#### First Black Women in Congress.

Shirley Chisholm was born on November 30, 1924, in Brooklyn New York to immigrant parents. She was an American politician, educator, and author. Shirley Chisholm graduated from Brooklyn College in 1946 and a master's in elementary education at Columbia University. She worked in early childcare as well as child welfare. In 1968, Chisholm became the first black woman to be elected into Congress, representing New York's 12 congressional districts for seven terms. She once said, “I learned at an early age that I was somebody” and that she didn't need the black revolution to tell her that.

Fun fact: Shirley Chisholm was the first black woman nominated for president in 1972.



#### The American Lawyer/Civil Rights Advocate

Florence (Flo) Kennedy was born on February 11, 1916, in Kansas City, Missouri. She was a lawyer, feminist, civil rights advocate, lecturer, and activist. She graduated top of her class at Lincoln High School. She also graduated pre-law at Columbia University in 1949. She then tried to apply for the law program where she was denied because she was black and a woman. She threatened to sue the school, and in 1951 she graduated from Columbia Law School. Kennedy used Intersectionality as her approach to activism. Sherie Randolph, in her book *Florynce "Flo" Kennedy: The Life of a Radical Black Feminist*, quotes Flo saying: "My main message is that we have a pathologically, institutionally racist, sexist, classist society. And that niggerizing techniques that are used don't only damage black people, but they also damage women, gay people, ex-prison inmates, prostitutes, children, old people, handicapped people, native Americans. And that if we can begin to analyze the pathology of oppression... we would learn a lot about how to deal with it."



### First Black Woman to Travel in Space

Mae Carol Jemison, born October 17, 1956, is an American engineer, physician, and former NASA astronaut. She was born in Alabama but raised in Chicago. She entered Stanford University at the age of 16 and later graduated with degrees in chemical engineering as well as African American studies. She became the first black woman to travel into space when she served as a mission specialist. Jemison flew her only space mission from September 12th to the 20th in 1992. She logged 190 hours, 30 minutes, 23 seconds in space, and orbited the Earth 1277 times. Jemison left NASA in 1993 and founded a technology research company, then formed a non-profit educational foundation.



### Political/LGBTQ Activist

Angela Yvonne Davis, born on January 26, 1944, in Birmingham, Alabama. Her family lived in the "Dynamite Hill" neighborhood, which was marked in the 1950s by the bombings of houses in an attempt to intimidate and drive out middle-class black people who had moved there. Davis is an American political activist, philosopher, academic, and author. Davis was a longtime member of the Communist Party USA and the Black Panther Party and is a founding member of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism. She is the author of over ten books on class, feminism, race, and the US prison system. Davis earned a master's degree from the University of California in 1968. She earned a doctorate in philosophy at the Humboldt University in East Berlin. She is most famous for her involvement with the Soledad Brothers, who were accused of killing a prison guard. Davis went into hiding and was placed on the FBI's most-wanted list. She spent eighteen months in jail, for being accused of taking part in the event and was charged with murder. Evidence showed that the guns were registered to her and rumors said she was in love with Jackson, which later proved untrue. In 1997, Davis came out as a lesbian during an interview. Since then, she has continued to tackle oppression faced by the black community, women, and the LGBTQ+ community.



In conclusion, Women have had fewer features than most men have for their many accomplishments throughout history. There are so many Black women that we don't hear about but they have made such an impact in today's society. Day in and day out these women fight for love, to live, to be heard, and to be respected but still Black women are usually seen as a disadvantage in society. My partner and I hope that with this PowerPoint you examine the Black women community and how they have created different cultural landscapes with their courage and their vision. Though this was the untold story of The First Black Women's History our story is never done.

## References

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/mary-church-terrell>  
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