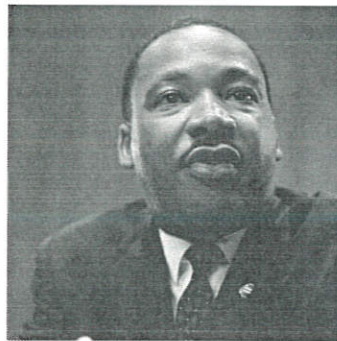# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Rosa Parks

Martin Luther King

Barack Obama

Harriet Tubman

The Hon. Jean Augustine

Carter G. Woodson
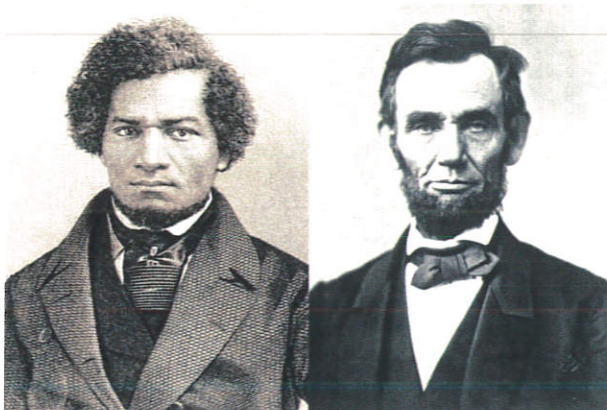
Who Created Black History Month?

It all began with historian Carter G. Woodson, who began what he called Negro History Week in February of 1926. He was a driven and passionate person who believed that all children should be educated about African American history. Woodson's entire purpose was to educate and highlight African American culture, and also to fight for equality through the positive celebration of black heroes. Celebrations of Black history began in Canada also shortly thereafter.

Carter G. Woodson

Why is Black History Month in February?

The reason why he chose February was because the second week of February was birthday to both President Abraham Lincoln, and abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Along with Woodson's work to create a week to celebrate black history, the 1920's brought with it a heightened interest in black culture, such as was seen in the Harlem Renaissance. In combination with movements throughout the United States, the idea of taking a period of time to celebrate black history began to catch on in many communities.

Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln

When Did Black History Month Become Official?

Afterwards, some communities adopted the entire month of February as an unofficial Black History Month, but it wasn't until 1976 when President Gerald Ford recognized it and encouraged Americans to participate in a month-long observance.

In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada following a motion introduced by the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine. The motion was carried unanimously by the House of Commons.

Jean Augustine

Check out these online resources to learn more:

- YouTube Search: Civil Rights Act of 1964, Montgomery Bus Boycott for Kids, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King

- Virtual Tour of the National Civil Rights Museum: https://joyofmuseums.com/most-popular/national-museums-united-states/civil-rights-museum/

JOY OF MUSEUMS VIRTUAL TOURS

Virtual Tours of Museums, Art Galleries, and Historic Sites

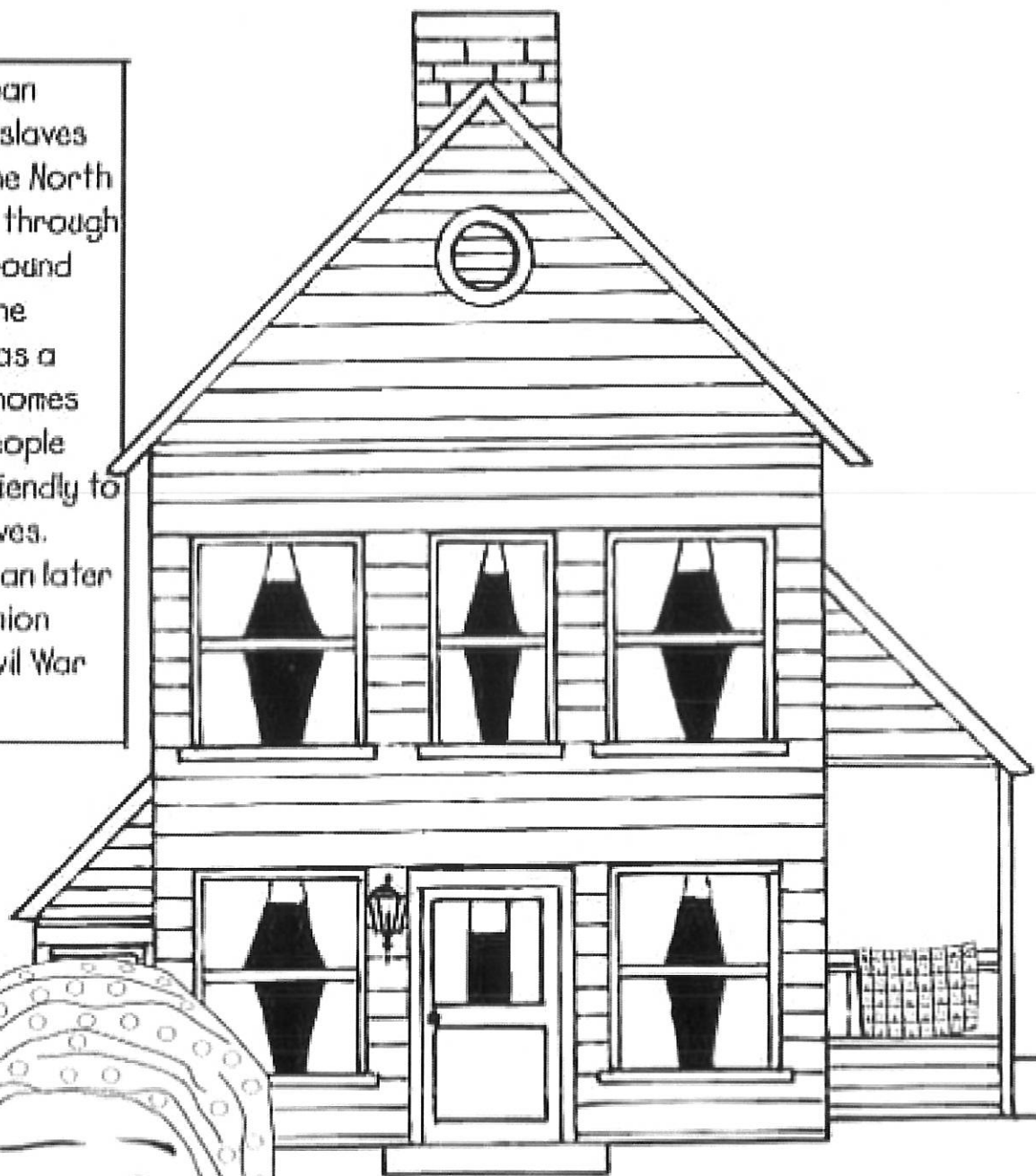- Timeline of Civil Right Trail in US: https://civilrightstrail.com/timeline/

- Timeline of Black History in Canada: https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/timeline/black-history

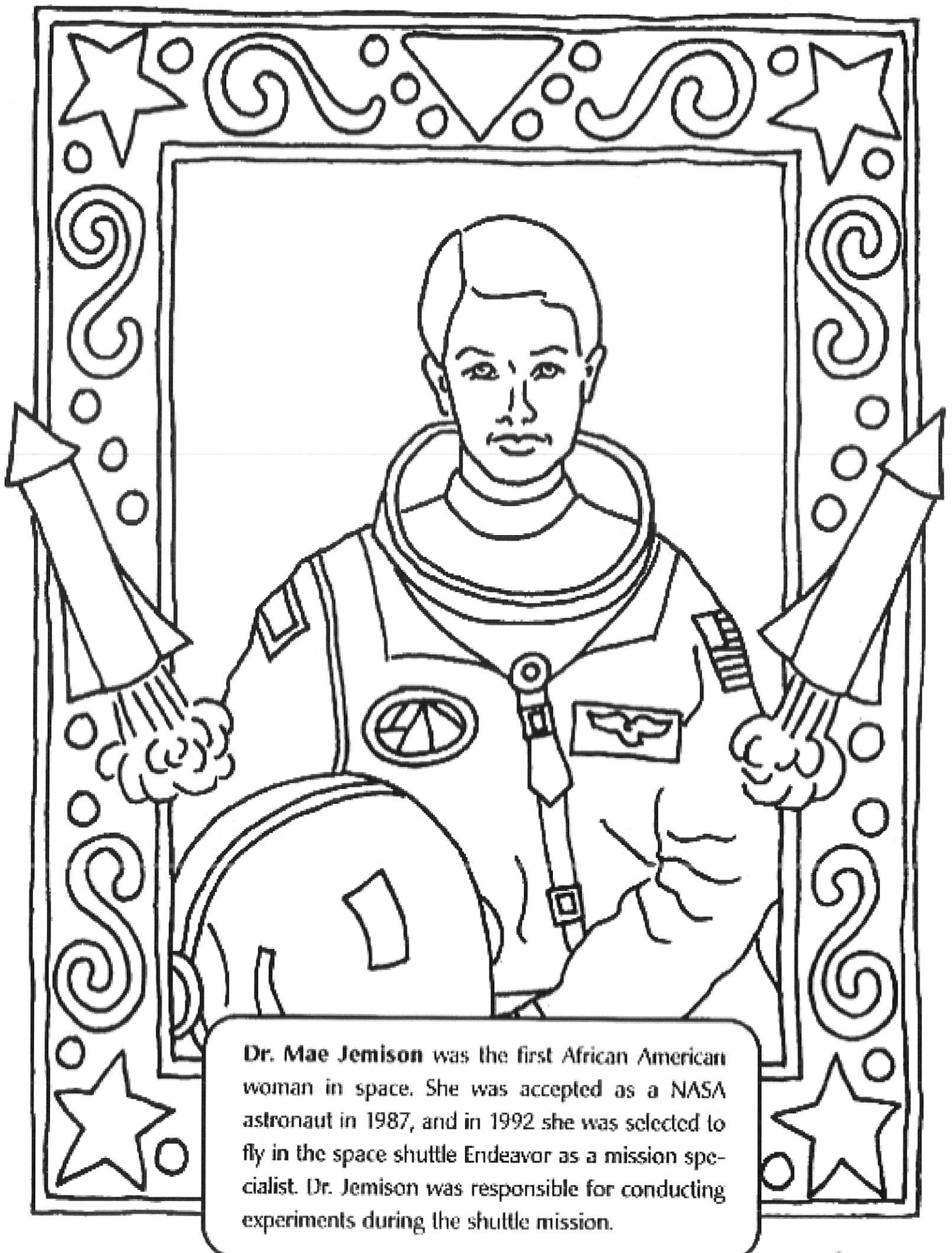**UNITED STATES CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL**

THE CANADIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

The Underground Railroad

Harriet Tubman helped many slaves escape to the North for freedom through the "Underground Railroad." The "railroad" was a network of homes owned by people who were friendly to runaway slaves. Harriet Tubman later helped the Union Army as a Civil War spy!

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a minister, civil rights leader, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. King believed in equal rights and worked very hard for the benefit of African Americans. He said that all people should be treated equally and with respect. Nine years after his death, the United States honored him with the Congressional Medal of Freedom and declared his birthday a national holiday.

Dr. Mae Jemison was the first African American woman in space. She was accepted as a NASA astronaut in 1987, and in 1992 she was selected to fly in the space shuttle Endeavor as a mission specialist. Dr. Jemison was responsible for conducting experiments during the shuttle mission.
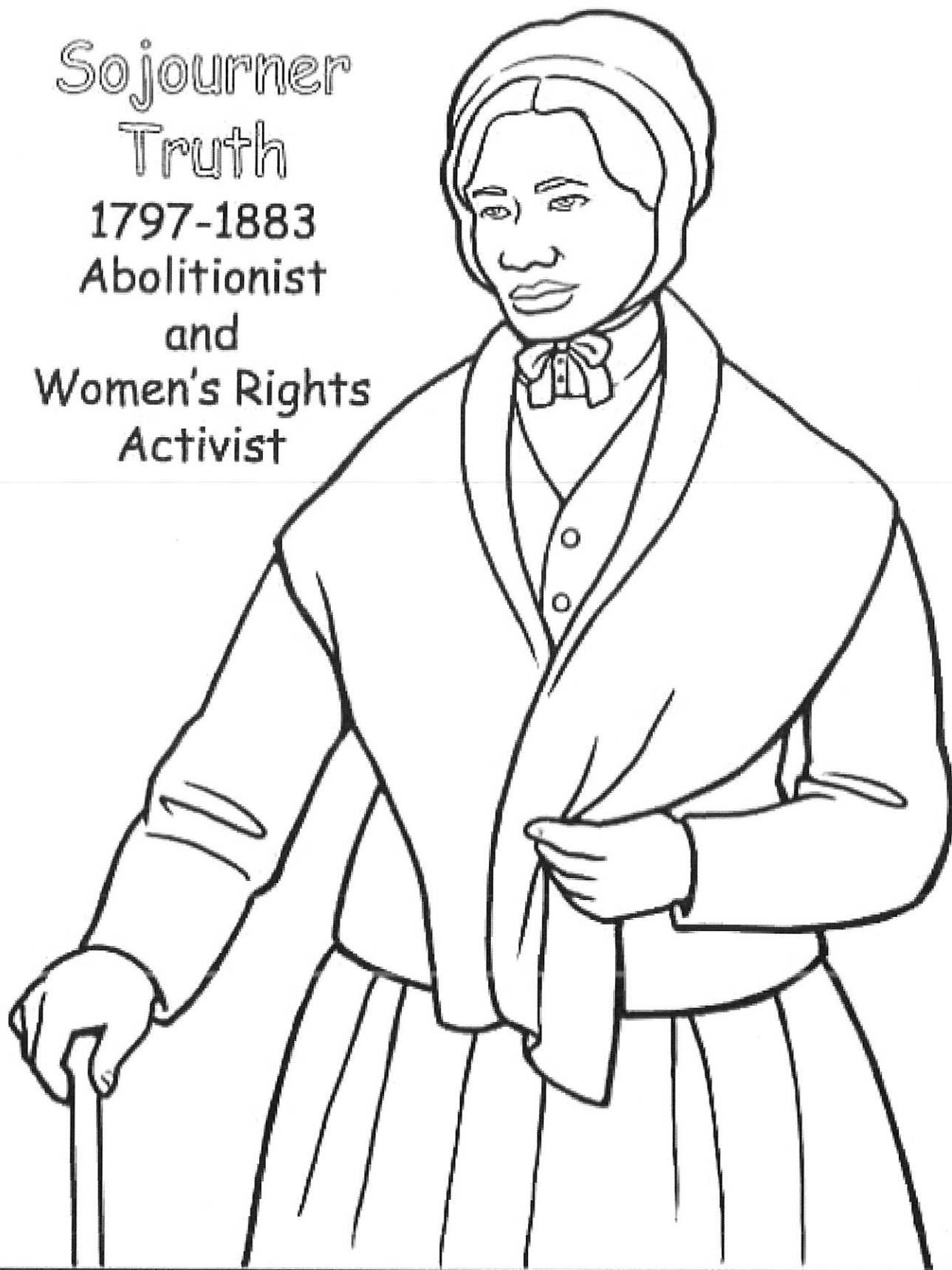
Name _____

Sarah Breedlove Walker, known as "Madame C. J. Walker," invented a hair softener and straightening comb. In doing so, Walker became the first African American woman to become a millionaire.

Sojourner
Truth
1797-1883
Abolitionist
and
Women's Rights
Activist

Name: _____

African American Freedom Fighters Word Search

Circle each of the words on the list. The words can go up, down, backwards or diagonally.

```
J   H   Z   T   K   D   W   S   B   X   X   B   K   D   J
K   K   K   E   H   L   W   S   W   O   O   M   K   C   N
C   F   C   O   U   T   X   A   S   K   R   A   P   C   T
Q   T   P   T   I   E   U   L   T   U   W   F   U   E   R
V   V   H   P   O   T   U   G   Z   U   T   G   I   S   J
H   E   E   A   M   D   O   U   H   H   B   R   M   S   L
R   T   S   E   M   R   K   O   D   U   R   M   N   E   O
J   O   U   A   A   D   E   D   B   A   Y   G   A   J   Q
R   Z   F   R   R   W   E   N   H   S   M   X   M   N   R
A   E   J   L   T   T   F   C   R   Y   K   V   J   Y   I
R   H   W   T   I   E   U   T   B   U   K   I   N   G   N
E   Q   V   H   N   V   X   J   X   O   O   E   I   Q   Q
J   V   R   P   S   J   M   Y   O   P   Q   J   E   Z   W
L   J   W   K   C   I   R   E   D   E   R   F   O   C   H
J   A   C   K   S   O   N   L   C   E   X   F   E   S   G
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FREDERICK	ROSA	SOJOURNER
DOUGLASS	PARKS	TRUTH
HARRIET	MARTIN	JESSE
TUBMAN	LUTHER	JACKSON
	KING	

Name: _____

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J  H  Z  T  K  D  W  S  B  X  X  B  K  D  J
K  K  K  E  H  L  W  S  W  O  O  M  K  C  N
C  F  C  O  U  T  X  A  S  K  R  A  P  C  T
Q  T  P  T  I  E  U  L  T  U  W  F  U  E  R
V  V  H  P  O  T  U  G  Z  U  T  G  I  S  J
H  E  E  A  M  D  O  U  H  H  B  R  M  S  L
R  T  S  E  M  R  K  O  D  U  R  M  N  E  O
J  O  U  A  A  D  E  D  B  A  Y  G  A  J  Q
R  Z  F  R  R  W  E  N  H  S  M  X  M  N  R
A  E  J  L  T  T  F  C  R  Y  K  V  J  Y  I
R  H  W  T  I  E  U  T  B  U  K  I  N  G  N
E  Q  V  H  N  V  X  J  X  O  O  E  I  Q  Q
J  V  R  P  S  J  M  Y  O  P  Q  J  E  Z  W
L  J  W  K  C  I  R  E  D  E  R  F  O  C  H
J  A  C  K  S  O  N  L  C  E  X  F  E  S  G
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FREDERICK   ROSA   SOJOURNER
DOUGLASS   PARKS   TRUTH
HARRIET   MARTIN   JESSE
TUBMAN   LUTHER   JACKSON
               KING

Name: _____

Ride the Bus With Rosa Parks!

Rosa Parks was a civil rights leader who struck a blow for freedom. In 1955, she was riding a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. The bus driver demanded she give up her seat for a white person. Rosa Parks, a black woman, refused to be treated unfairly. She stayed in her seat. Rosa Parks became a hero by working for equality for everyone.

Now you can ride the bus with Rosa Parks!
Travel through this maze from the start to the finish.

START

END