



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH MARKS 100 YEARS







This year, Black History Month will mark 100 years of educating Americans about the history of the African-American community. During the past century, Black History Month has evolved from an observance into an American institution -- and it all started with Carter G. Woodson, a determined historian with an idea.

Born in 1877 to formerly enslaved parents in Virginia, Woodson's early schooling was sporadic at best, and had to delay his high school education until age 20 to work in a coal mine. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in literature in 1903, and graduate degrees from the University of Chicago in 1908. And in 1912, he became the second African-American student (after W.E.B. DuBois) to earn a doctorate from Harvard University.



Disappointed with the limited career opportunities for African-American history scholars and the absence of any structured Black history research program in higher education, Goodson decided to create his own. He founded the ASLNH, now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. And in 1926, Goodson promoted a new big idea -- Negro History Week, which grew into today's Black History Month.

The celebration has evolved and expanded over the years, but the central idea remains unchanged: that African-American history is inseparable from the American story, and a scholarly pursuit worth fighting for.

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The developer, Keel Labs, calls the kelp fiber kelsun and it has already partnered with Stella McCartney and Outerknown to release the clothes made of the fiber.






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# WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DON'T TRUST ANYTHING?

Sad to say, but those fun videos of porch pirates getting covered in paint and such -- all fake. Some staged. But mostly fake. Same thing with most dramatic disaster clips. Nearly every one is fake. Forget the heartwarming wild animal clips. Animals don't really ask people for help. The happy exception is with seals, who actually do jump onto boats to escape killer whales. But, polar bear cubs do not. They have different habitats entirely.

Welcome to the Artificial Intelligence (AI) world. Don't believe what you see or hear because anything that any person can dream up can be made into a video in minutes with AI. Ironically, if you suspect a video is AI generated, you can always ask AI, which doesn't mind telling on itself. Still, our reality is fragmenting.

In early era of radio and television, people of all ages gathered to watch or listen to big events. Big sports events, or a big television premiere -- these were things that everyone watched, young and old. They were the talk of the water cooler the next day; The top subject at school for kids.

Today, we all watch different things. Kids have their noses stuck in their TikTok videos. Grandma is watching Facebook reels.

# FAKE

What we see there we should not necessarily believe. A host of studies by researchgate.net and others, suggest that a constant stream of fake videos promote widespread cynicism ("nothing is real") and low trust in all media. That can lead to a polarized, low-trust society.

Imagine what happens when juries don't trust actual, visual evidence of a crime. Or, what if a criminal argues that a real video of his criminal act is fake? Will people who are used to seeing everything as fake reject the real evidence as fake?

Yet, there is a potential for good news. People might well demand credible, verified sources of information. That could give traditional journalism a boost. Unfortunately traditional journalism has a job ahead of them. In 2025 Gallup's September 2025 poll showed that public trust of traditional journalism was at a 50-year low of 28 percent.



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**VICKI L. LOPEZ**  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY - DISTRICT 5



My Miami and Miami Beach offices are open and ready to welcome you. If you have a concern, need assistance, or want to connect with County services, my team and I are here to listen and support you.

**CONTACT US:**

- 305-375-5924 | district5@miamidade.gov
- www.miamidade.gov/district05 | @CommissionerVickiLLopez
- 2100 Coral Way, Suite 400, Miami, FL 33145 (Open M-F, 9 AM - 5 PM)
- 1700 Convention Center Drive, 1st Floor, Miami Beach, FL 33139 (Open M & W, 9 AM - 5 PM)

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**CONTÁCTENOS:**

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