

# History Can Teach Us Valuable Lessons and Explanations.

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The history taught in school focuses on how African-Americans were treated in America. However, it glosses over people who are seen as less important than MLK, Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, W.E.B. Du Bois, and a few others.

Think about this for a moment, who was Sarah Baartman? Who was Nat Turner? Who brought vaccines to America? Who was Dr. James McCune Smith? Who was the first Black news reporter?

All of these answers you will not find in your local history classes. You will not learn about all the wonderful Black inventors from your local history classes. The stop light, hair brushes, the light bulb, home security system, etc... You must invest the time and interest to find out on your own.

We will never learn our history unless we choose to. What does our history teach us? That everything really does go back to the racist rhetoric started during slavery. We are still answering for the stereotypes others' ancestors put on ours. The rhetoric runs deep in our culture.

They called Harriet Tubman disobedient, dangerous, and difficult. The same things they continue to call Black women today who stand up for themselves and fight for change today.

They called Nat Turner careless, unjustified, and a threat. The same things they call people who protest whenever an innocent Black life is lost.

Knowing the similarities between then and now will help you see that we are our ancestors. We are continuing the fight they started. The fight is not the only thing that continues. We continue the rules placed on them.

Think about this. Why do your grandparents prefer butter pecan ice cream over vanilla? Why is Christianity so prevalent in our communities? Why did your parents tell you that having the light on in the car was illegal at night?

All things we have seen or heard but did not think too much into. We should, we should question why things in our community are a certain way. Once you begin to question you can find your answers and learn how our history affects our today and tomorrow.

The answers to the questions:

1. Sarah Barartman was a woman exploited for her body by Europeans. Even in death her brain and organs were displayed in a museum, and she was officially laid to rest in 2002.
2. Nat Turner started a slave rebellion in Virginia, in 1831
3. A slave, Onesimus, brought the vaccines to America during the Smallpox era.
4. Dr. James McCune Smith was the first African American to receive a medical degree, from the University of Glasgow.
5. Max Robinson was the first Black news anchor.
6. During slavery, slaves were not allowed to have vanilla ice cream. So they had to have butter pecan.
7. Slaves were told God wanted to save non-believers. So, in order to save them they were to be enslaved and taught Christianity.