African-American Subjects on United States Postage Stamps

Beginning in 1940 with a ten-cent stamp honoring Booker T. Washington, the United States Post Office Department began issuing stamps to commemorate the contributions of African Americans. A list of these stamps, their denomination, and their dates of issue follows. Stamps on which African Americans are part of a mixed scene – for example, the 15-cent "International Year of the Child" issued in 1979 and the 22-cent "Help End Hunger" stamp issued in 1985 – are not included.

The Postal Service Guide to U.S. Stamps lists all United States postage stamps and other useful information, including illustrations. You can find the Guide in some bookstores and Post Offices, or you can order a copy by calling 1-800-STAMP-24 or from the Postal Store at www.usps.com/shop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Date Issued</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Booker T. Washington</td>
<td>10¢</td>
<td>April 7, 1940</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th Amendment</td>
<td>3¢</td>
<td>October 20, 1940</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. George Washington Carver</td>
<td>3¢</td>
<td>January 5, 1948</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centennial of Booker T. Washington</td>
<td>3¢</td>
<td>April 5, 1956</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emancipation Proclamation</td>
<td>5¢</td>
<td>August 16, 1963</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frederick Douglass</td>
<td>25¢</td>
<td>February 4, 1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. C. Handy</td>
<td>6¢</td>
<td>May 17, 1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Ossawa Tanner</td>
<td>8¢</td>
<td>September 10, 1973</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Laurence Dunbar</td>
<td>10¢</td>
<td>May 1, 1975</td>
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<td>Salem Poor</td>
<td>10¢</td>
<td>March 25, 1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Heritage: Harriet Tubman</td>
<td>13¢</td>
<td>February 1, 1978</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Heritage: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.</td>
<td>15¢</td>
<td>January 13, 1979</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Heritage: Benjamin Banneker</td>
<td>15¢</td>
<td>February 15, 1980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Heritage: Whitney Moore Young, Jr.</td>
<td>15¢</td>
<td>January 30, 1981</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles R. Drew, MD</td>
<td>35¢</td>
<td>June 3, 1981</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ralph Bunche</td>
<td>20¢</td>
<td>January 12, 1982</td>
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<td>Black Heritage: Jackie Robinson</td>
<td>20¢</td>
<td>August 2, 1982</td>
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<td>Black Heritage: Scott Joplin</td>
<td>20¢</td>
<td>June 9, 1983</td>
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<td>Black Heritage: Dr. Carter G. Woodson</td>
<td>20¢</td>
<td>February 1, 1984</td>
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<td>Black Heritage: Mary McLeod Bethune</td>
<td>22¢</td>
<td>March 5, 1985</td>
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<td>Black Heritage: Sojourner Truth</td>
<td>22¢</td>
<td>February 4, 1986</td>
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<td>Duke Ellington</td>
<td>22¢</td>
<td>April 29, 1986</td>
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<td>Arctic Explorers: Matthew Henson</td>
<td>22¢</td>
<td>May 28, 1986</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Heritage: Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable</td>
<td>22¢</td>
<td>February 20, 1987</td>
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<td>Black Heritage: James Weldon Johnson</td>
<td>22¢</td>
<td>February 2, 1988</td>
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Black Heritage: A. Philip Randolph  
25¢  
February 3, 1989

Black Heritage: Ida B. Wells  
25¢  
February 1, 1990

Olympians: Jesse Owens  
25¢  
July 6, 1990

Black Heritage: Jan E. Matzeliger  
29¢  
September 15, 1991

Black Heritage: W.E.B. DuBois  
29¢  
January 31, 1992

Black Heritage: Percy Lavon Julian  
29¢  
January 29, 1993

Rock & Roll / Rhythm & Blues:  
Clyde McPhatter  
29¢  
June 16, 1993
Otis Redding  
29¢  
June 16, 1993
Dinah Washington  
29¢  
June 16, 1993

Joe Louis  
29¢  
June 22, 1993

Broadway Musicals: Porgy & Bess  
29¢  
July 14, 1993

Black Heritage: Dr. Allison Davis  
29¢  
February 1, 1994

Buffalo Soldiers  
29¢  
April 22, 1994

Popular Singers: Nat 'King' Cole  
29¢  
September 1, 1994

Popular Singers: Ethel Waters  
29¢  
September 1, 1994

Jazz and Blues Singers:  
Mildred Bailey  
29¢  
September 17, 1994
Billie Holiday  
29¢  
September 17, 1994
Robert Johnson  
29¢  
September 17, 1994
'Ma' Rainey  
29¢  
September 17, 1994
Jimmy Rushing  
29¢  
September 17, 1994
Bessie Smith  
29¢  
September 17, 1994
Muddy Waters  
29¢  
September 17, 1994
Howlin' Wolf  
29¢  
September 17, 1994

Legends of the West:  
Jim Beckwourth  
29¢  
October 18, 1994
Bill Pickett  
29¢  
October 18, 1994

Black Heritage: Bessie Coleman  
32¢  
April 27, 1995

Civil War: Frederick Douglass  
32¢  
June 29, 1995

Civil War: Harriet Tubman  
32¢  
June 29, 1995

Jazz Musicians:  
Louis Armstrong *  
32¢  
September 16, 1995
Eubie Blake  
32¢  
September 16, 1995
John Coltrane  
32¢  
September 16, 1995
Erroll Garner  
32¢  
September 16, 1995
Coleman Hawkins  
32¢  
September 16, 1995
James P. Johnson  
32¢  
September 16, 1995
Charlie Parker  
32¢  
September 16, 1995
Charles Mingus  
32¢  
September 16, 1995
Thelonious Monk  
32¢  
September 16, 1995
'Jelly Roll' Morton  
32¢  
September 16, 1995

Black Heritage: Ernest E. Just  
32¢  
February 1, 1996

Folk Heroes: John Henry  
32¢  
July 11, 1996
Big Band Leaders: Count Basie

Black Heritage: Benjamin O. Davis, Sr.

Holiday Celebrations: Kwanzaa

Black Heritage: Madam C. J. Walker

Celebrate the Century-1900s: W. E. B. DuBois, Social Activist

Celebrate the Century-1910s: George Washington Carver

Celebrate the Century-1920s: Jazz Flourishes

Folk Musicians:
  - Leadbelly
  - Sonny Terry
  - Josh White

Gospel Singers:
  - Mahalia Jackson
  - Roberta Martin
  - Sister Rosetta
  - Clara Ward

Celebrate the Century-1930s: Jesse Owens

Black Heritage: Malcolm X

Celebrate the Century-1940s: Jackie Robinson

Celebrate the Century-1950s: Desegregating Public Schools

Celebrate the Century-1960s: "I Have A Dream"

Celebrate the Century-1980s:
  - "The Cosby Show"
  - Hip-hop Culture

Black Heritage: Patricia Roberts Harris

Legends of Baseball:
  - Josh Gibson
  - Satchel Paige
  - Jackie Robinson

Black Heritage: Roy Wilkins

Holiday Celebrations: Kwanzaa

Black Heritage: Langston Hughes

Masters of American Photography: James VanDerZee

Women in Journalism: Ethel L. Payne

Holiday Celebrations: Kwanzaa

Black Heritage: Thurgood Marshall

Literary Arts: Zora Neale Hurston

Black Heritage: Paul Robeson

American Choreographers: Alvin Ailey

Distinguished Americans: Wilma Rudolph

Literary Arts: James Baldwin
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Holiday Celebrations: Kwanzaa</td>
<td>37¢</td>
<td>October 16, 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Heritage: Marian Anderson</td>
<td>37¢</td>
<td>January 27, 2005</td>
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<td>Arthur Ashe</td>
<td>37¢</td>
<td>August 27, 2005</td>
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<td>To Form a More Perfect Union:</td>
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<td>Selma March</td>
<td>37¢</td>
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<td>Montgomery Bus Boycott</td>
<td>37¢</td>
<td>August 30, 2005</td>
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<td>Greensboro Lunch Counter Sit In</td>
<td>37¢</td>
<td>August 30, 2005</td>
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<td>Freedom Riders</td>
<td>37¢</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Rock Nine</td>
<td>37¢</td>
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<td>Civil Rights Act of 1964</td>
<td>37¢</td>
<td>August 30, 2005</td>
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<td>Brown v. Board of Education</td>
<td>37¢</td>
<td>August 30, 2005</td>
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<td>Executive Order 981</td>
<td>37¢</td>
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<td>March on Washington</td>
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<td>Voting Rights Act of 1965</td>
<td>37¢</td>
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<td>Sugar Ray Robinson</td>
<td>39¢</td>
<td>April 7, 2006</td>
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<td>Distinguished American Diplomats: Clifton R. Wharton Sr.</td>
<td>39¢</td>
<td>May 30, 2006</td>
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<td>Baseball Sluggers: Roy Campanella</td>
<td>39¢</td>
<td>July 15, 2006</td>
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<td>American Treasures: Gee's Bend Quilts</td>
<td>39¢</td>
<td>August 24, 2006</td>
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<td>Vintage Black Cinema:</td>
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<td>The Sport of the Gods</td>
<td>42¢</td>
<td>July 16, 2008</td>
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<td>Black and Tan</td>
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<td>July 16, 2008</td>
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<td>Princess Tam-Tam</td>
<td>42¢</td>
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<td>Caldonia</td>
<td>42¢</td>
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<td>Hallelujah</td>
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<td>Civil Rights Pioneers:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Church Terrell and Mary White Ovington</td>
<td>42¢</td>
<td>February 21, 2009</td>
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<td>J.R. Clifford and Joel Elias Spingarn</td>
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<td>Oswald Garrison Villard and Daisy Gatson Bates</td>
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<td>Charles Hamilton Houston and Walter White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medgar Evers and Fannie Lou Hamer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ella Baker and Ruby Hurley</td>
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<td>Richard Wright</td>
<td>61¢</td>
<td>April 9, 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Heritage: Anna Julia Cooper</td>
<td>44¢</td>
<td>June 11, 2009</td>
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<td>Holiday Celebrations: Kwanzaa</td>
<td>44¢</td>
<td>October 9, 2009</td>
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<td>Distinguished Sailors: Doris Miller</td>
<td>44¢</td>
<td>February 4, 2010</td>
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<td>Black Heritage: Oscar Micheaux</td>
<td>44¢</td>
<td>June 22, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Negro Leagues Baseball: Rube Foster</td>
<td>44¢</td>
<td>July 15, 2010</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Since 2011, all commemorative First-Class stamps have been issued as Forever stamps. Forever stamps can always be used to mail a First-Class letter weighing up to one ounce; the value given in parentheses was the price of the stamp when first issued.
Latin Music Legends: Celia Cruz (44¢) March 16, 2011
Jazz (44¢) March 26, 2011
Black Heritage: Barbara Jordan (44¢) September 16, 2011
Romare Bearden (four designs) (44¢) September 28, 2011
Holiday Celebrations: Kwanzaa (44¢) October 14, 2011
Twentieth-Century Poets:
    Gwendolyn Brooks (45¢) April 21, 2012
    Robert Hayden (45¢) April 21, 2012
Miles Davis (45¢) June 12, 2012
Major League Baseball All-Stars:
    Larry Doby (45¢) July 20, 2012
    Willie Stargell (45¢) July 20, 2012
Innovative Choreographers: Katherine Dunham (45¢) July 28, 2012
Civil Rights: Emancipation Proclamation (45¢) January 1, 2013

* A separate stamp honoring Louis Armstrong was issued in July 1995; the same stamp also was part of the Jazz Musicians series in September 1995.