



1960 -- February 1, 1960, four students at [North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College](#) in Greensboro, North Carolina, begin a sit-in at Woolworth's Drug Store.

1962 -- October 1, [James Meredith](#) becomes the first black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi, escorted by U.S. marshals by order of President [John F. Kennedy](#).

1963 -- [Sidney Poitier](#) wins Best Actor for "Lilies of the Field." [Check out his other films.](#) **August 28, [The March on Washington](#)** becomes the largest civil rights demonstration in American history, a moment defined by Dr. King's historic "I Have a Dream" speech.

1965 -- February 21, [Malcolm X](#) is assassinated in Harlem by members of the Nation of Islam.

1968 -- April 4, [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

1972 -- November, [Barbara Jordan](#) of Houston and [Andrew Young](#) of Atlanta become the first blacks elected to Congress from the South since 1898.

1974 -- April 8, [Henry Louis "Hank" Aaron](#) hits his 715th home run, breaking Babe Ruth's longstanding record. [Who broke his record?](#) **November 12**, In the Bronx, [Clive "Hercules" Campbell](#), aka "Kool Herc," starts using two turntables and chanting rhymes over the beat, forming the basis of rap.

1975 -- [Arthur Ashe](#) becomes the first African-American male to win the British Men's Singles championship at Wimbledon.

1977 -- February 3, The eighth and final episode of the mini-series "[Roots](#)," based on Alex Haley's novel, airs, receiving the highest ratings for a single program.

1982 -- November 30, [Michael Jackson](#) releases "Thriller"; with sales of \$110 million, it becomes the best-selling recording of all time.

1983 -- April 12, [Harold Washington](#) is elected Mayor of Chicago. [Why was his tenure short?](#) **Alice Walker's** "[The Color Purple](#)" wins the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Award.

1984 -- [Jesse Jackson](#) wins one-fourth of the votes cast in the Democratic primaries and caucuses, and one-eighth of the convention delegates in his first presidential bid.

1989 -- March, [Frederick Drew Gregory](#) becomes the first African-American to command a space shuttle, the Discovery.

1990 -- February 11, [Nelson Mandela](#) is freed after 27 years in prison.

1991 -- March 3, [Rodney King](#) is brutally beaten in San Fernando Valley by L.A. police officers, sparking riots, an investigation, and subsequent trial.

1992 -- April 30, "[The Cosby Show](#)" broadcasts final episode of its eight season run.

1993 -- October 7, [Toni Morrison](#) becomes the first African-American to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

1995 -- October 16, the [Million Man March](#), under the leadership of Minister Louis [Farrakhan](#), is held in Washington, D.C.

2000 -- July, [Venus Williams](#) becomes the first black woman to win the Women's Singles title at Wimbledon since [Althea Gibson](#) in 1957 and 1958.

2002 -- March 24, [Halle Berry](#) becomes the first African-American female to win Academy Award for Best Actress

[Denzel Washington](#) becomes the second African-American male to win Best Actor.

2005 -- January 26, [Condoleezza Rice](#) becomes the first black female secretary of state. [What is she doing now?](#) August 29, [Hurricane Katrina](#) hits Louisiana and southern Mississippi, devastating New Orleans.

2008 -- November 4, United States Senator [Barack Hussein Obama](#) becomes the 44th president of the United States.

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