

☆ BRAVE. BLACK. FIRST. ☆

50+ African American Women Who Changed the World

☆ ACTIVITY GUIDE ☆

ABOUT THE BOOK

Harriet Tubman guided the way.
Rosa Parks sat for equality.
Aretha Franklin sang from the soul.
Serena Williams bested the competition.
Michelle Obama transformed the White House.
Black women have changed the world!

Published in collaboration with curators from the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, this illustrated biography compilation captures the iconic moments of fifty African American women whose heroism and bravery rewrote the American story for the better.

They were fearless. They were bold. They were game changers.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

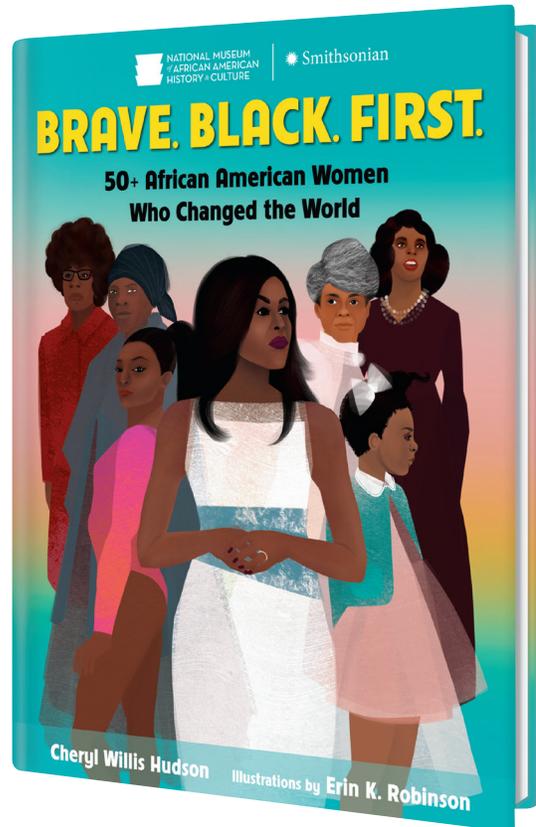
Cheryl Willis Hudson is an author, editor, and cofounder and editorial director of Just Us Books, an independent company that focuses on Black-interest books for children and young adults. Cheryl has written over two dozen books for young children, is a member of the children's book committee of PEN America, and has served as a diversity consultant to a number of educational publishers. Learn more about Cheryl on her website cherylwillishudson.com.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Erin K. Robinson is an Emmy-nominated illustrator in the news and documentary category. Trained at Parsons School of Design and the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design, Erin's illustrations have been featured in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, among other places. Erin splits her time between Brooklyn, NY, and Washington, DC. You can find her art on her Etsy shop, brooklyndolly.

A NOTE ABOUT THE SMITHSONIAN

The Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, dedicated to public education, national service, and scholarship in the arts, sciences, and history. www.si.edu



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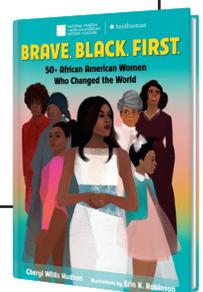
Smithsonian

Name _____

BLACK WOMEN WHO MADE HISTORY

Choose women from the book and outline their major accomplishments in the table below. You can choose women in the same field, like music or politics, or just choose any you admire.

NAME			
BIRTH AND DEATH DATES (IF APPLICABLE)			
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS			
WHY I ADMIRE THIS WOMAN			



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Name _____

BIO-POEM FOR A BRAVE BLACK WOMAN

Bio-poems use a defined structure to convey an idea of a person and her life. Have students create a bio-poem about one of the women in *Brave. Black. First.*, using this format.

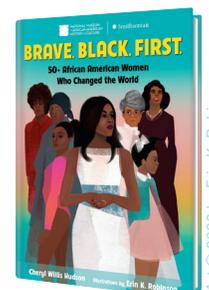
FORMAT:

- Line 1: First name of person
- Line 2: Three to four adjectives to describe her
- Line 3: Important relationship(s), such as “friend of”
- Line 4: Came from, lived in (places)
- Line 5: Cared about (two to three ideas, people, or experiences)
- Line 6: Faced (two or three obstacles)
- Line 7: Felt (two or three emotions)
- Line 8: Accomplished (two or three accomplishments)
- Line 9: Hoped for (hopes for the future)
- Line 10: Last name of person

EXAMPLE:

Harriet
Strong, brave, determined, hardworking
Daughter of Harriet, ally to Frederick Douglass
Came from Maryland, lived in New York
Cared about liberty and justice
Faced slavery and racism
Resolved to be free and to free others
Served as a spy and nurse, led slaves to freedom
Hoped for the end of slavery and racism
Tubman

YOUR POEM:



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Educators:
Reproduce this activity sheet for students.



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NATIONAL MUSEUM
of AFRICAN AMERICAN
HISTORY & CULTURE



Smithsonian

Name _____

BUTTONS, BLAZERS, AND PLAYBILLS: A MUSEUM TREASURE HUNT

The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture has many artifacts, photographs, and printed materials related to the women in *Brave. Black. First.* Some are listed in the back of the book (pp. 123–124). Pick five objects from those pages and find them in the museum or learn more about them at the museum’s website: nmaahc.si.edu/explore/collection. Scroll down to the search box, and enter the name of the woman whose items you are searching for. Scroll through the results to find the item, click the “Expand” button, and find the following information. If you are lucky enough to visit the museum itself, find the objects there!

ITEM: _____

CREATOR: _____

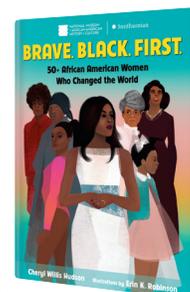
MEDIUM: _____

DIMENSIONS: _____

DATE: _____

DESCRIPTION (A SENTENCE OR TWO): _____

ANOTHER ITEM RELATED TO THAT WOMAN (IF ANY):



Name _____

IN HER OWN WORDS

A good way to learn more about the women in *Brave. Black. First.* is through their own words, which you can research and share with your partner or a group. Politicians like Shirley Chisholm gave speeches, as did Michelle Obama and Harriet Tubman. Sojourner Truth dictated letters. Ida B. Wells wrote newspaper articles. Many of these women have given interviews. Some of them have written memoirs, novels, or poetry.

Choose a few women and find their speeches, letters, newspaper articles, interviews, books, or poems, many of which are available online. Search the person's name in quotation marks, and then add terms like "speech transcripts," "letters," "interviews," and so on.

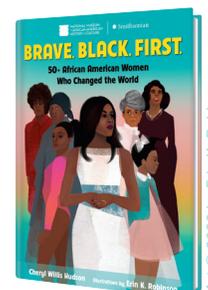
Choose one woman to focus on, and select an excerpt from one of the works you found that you feel represents her. Enter the information in the template below, and then practice reading aloud the excerpt you chose. When you are ready, share it with your partner or a group.

PERSON: _____

DATE AND TITLE OF EXCERPT: _____

SOURCE: _____

EXCERPT:



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Name _____

PAYING IT FORWARD

Many women in *Brave. Black. First.* were helped or inspired by another person or group. These women, in turn, helped others. For example, Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress, was encouraged by author Marguerite de Angeli through her work titled *Bright April*. In her profile, we learn about Hayden encouraging Daliyah Marie Arana, a child who loves to read and who served as “Librarian for a Day.”

In the middle boxes below, write the name of one of the women featured in *Brave. Black. First.* In the box to the left, describe a person or group who helped or inspired her. In the box to the right, describe a person or group that she helped or inspired.

	→		→
	→		→
	→		→
	→		→

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