

# Black History 2023 Fact Book



40+ NEWS FACTS ON  
BLACK ACHIEVEMENTS  
AND STRUGGLES IN  
**POLITICS, SPORTS, POP  
CULTURE, AND MORE**

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## 1. Ketanji Brown Jackson is the first what?



Photo: White House, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

[Ketanji Brown Jackson is the first Black female justice in the Supreme Court's 200-plus-year history](#). She is the second Supreme Court justice since 1870 to be confirmed without a single vote from the Senate minority party. The first is Amy Coney Barrett.

But what are Ketanji Brown Jackson's credentials?

In late February 2022, FOX News scandalist Tucker Carlson demanded that [Jackson reveal her LSAT scores – implying she hasn't had the credentials to be a Supreme Court Justice](#). Actually, [Jackson attended Harvard Law School, where she was a supervising editor of the Harvard Law Review. She graduated in 1996 with a Juris Doctor cum laude, spent 15 years as a public defender, and eight years as a trial court judge in the US district court in DC](#). On the other hand, Amy Coney Barrett holds the record for [the first Supreme Court justice without an Ivy League degree](#) since the 2010 retirement of John Paul Stevens and [the only Supreme Justice who did not receive her Juris Doctor from Harvard or Yale](#).

## 2. Why was WNBA player Brittney Griner arrested and detained in Russia?



Photo: [Lorie Shaull, CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

WNBA player and two-time Olympic gold medalist [Brittney Griner was arrested and detained in Russia in late Feb. 2022 upon arriving from New York. Russian Customs Service found vape cartridges with hashish oil in her luggage.](#)

When was Griner released?

On Dec. 8, 2022, President Joe Biden announced that [the US had secured Griner's release in exchange for arms dealer Viktor Bout](#), who had been serving a 25-year sentence.

What was Griner doing in Russia?

Like many other WNBA players, Griner [plays overseas in the offseason, where salaries can be much higher](#). She has been [playing offseason with Russian club UMMC Ekaterinburg since 2015](#).

### 3. Karine Jean-Pierre is the first White House Press Secretary to be what?



Photo: [Erin Scott, The White House](#), Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

On May 5, 2022, [President Joe Biden appointed Karine Jean-Pierre, 44, to replace Jen Psaki as spokeswoman, making her the first Black woman and first openly gay person to hold the high-profile position.](#) Psaki's last day as press secretary will be May 13. She is [expected to take an on-air role with MSNBC.](#)



4. Who was the first Black person from Georgia to be elected to the US Senate?



Screenshot: [11Alive – YouTube](#)

On Dec. 6, 2022, [Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock defeated his Republican challenger, Herschel Walker, to secure a 51-seat Democratic majority and a full six-year term as the first Black senator from Georgia.](#) Warnock [became Georgia's first Black senator after winning a runoff election in 2021.](#)

How many Black senators have been elected to the US Senate?  
[Three senators currently serving in the Senate are Black:](#) Warnock, Democrat Cory Booker of New Jersey, and Republican Tim Scott of South Carolina.  
Historically, [only 11 Black people have served in the United States Senate, out of more than 2,000 senators.](#)



## 5. Who was the first African American to play Major League Baseball (MLB)?



Photo: [Bob Sandberg Look photographer](#), Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons, colorized

Jackie Robinson [broke the color barrier in the white major baseball leagues on Apr. 15, 1947](#), when he debuted for the Brooklyn Dodgers of the National League. He was [the first African American in the MLB](#) since [African-Americans had been excluded from major league baseball in 1884](#). Robinson was also [the first black vice president of a major American corporation](#), Chock full o’Nuts, and [helped establish the African-American-owned Freedom National Bank in Harlem, New York, to help Black citizens receive essential loans](#).

What’s the Jackie Robinson Museum?

The new [Jackie Robinson Museum in Lower Manhattan](#) is [New York City’s first museum dedicated mainly to the civil rights movement](#). The venue opened on Sept. 5, 2022.



6. She starred in “Fame” and sang “What a Feeling.”  
Who is she?



Screenshot: Fame / Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer / United Artists

The 1980s singer Irene Cara, who [sang the theme songs to “Flashdance” and “Fame,”](#) [passed away on Nov. 25, 2022. She was 63.](#) Her “Flashdance” song “What a Feeling” earned her an Oscar and a Grammy in 1984. She [sang the title track and played Coco Hernandez in the film version of Fame \(1980\).](#)

7. Which 1970s group sang “I’m So Excited”?



Photo: Rob Mieremet / Anefo, CC0, Colorized

Anita Pointer, one of four siblings who won Grammys and critical acclaim as The Pointer Sisters, [died at 74 on Dec. 31, 2022.](#) Her publicist didn't give a cause of death. [Between 1973 and 1985, the group had 13 hit songs on the US top 20, won three Grammys, and hit songs like "I'm So Excited."](#) The Pointer Sisters recorded in different lineups, including younger family members, through 1993.

## 8. Who is the youngest NBA player to reach 3,000 3-Point Field Goals?



Screenshot: [NBA on ESPN](#)

While [LeBron James, between ages 22 and 36, was the youngest NBA player to reach 5,000, 10,000, 20,000, 25,000, 30,000, and 35,000 points in his career](#), [Stephen Curry is the youngest NBA player to reach 3,000 3-Point Field Goals](#) – an achievement he met in Dec. 2021, at the age of 33 years, 289 days.

What happened in the 2022 NBA Finals?

On June 16, 2022, [Stephen Curry won his first NBA Finals MVP award](#). He is [the only player in NBA history to average at least five 3-pointers per game in the Finals](#) – repeating the record in 2018 and 2022. [Curry's 31 3-pointers in 2022 were the most in a six-game series in any NBA Finals](#).

## 9. LeBron James became the only NBA player to hit which milestone?



Screenshot: [NBA on YouTube](#)

LeBron James became [the first NBA player to record 10,000 career assists, rebounds, and points](#), on March 13, 2022. He is [the seventh player in NBA history to reach 10,000 assists](#), one of seven players who have earned 30,000 points, [one of 42 players to reach 10,000 career rebounds](#), and the only one in NBA history to pass the career 10K in all three.



10. Why is Serena Williams stepping away from tennis?



Screenshot: [WTA on YouTube](#)

Serena Williams announced on Aug. 9, 2022, that she [would retire from playing tennis after the US Open to focus on having a second child and being a mother, a fashion maker, and a venture capitalist.](#)

11. What's the most-watched tennis match in ESPN history?



Screenshot: [US Open Tennis Championships on YouTube](#)

Serena Williams's [third-round loss to Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic](#) on Sept. 2, 2022, at the US Open, was [the most-watched tennis telecast in ESPN's 43-year history](#), peaking with 6.9 million viewers. [Serena Williams's defeat to Venus Williams at the 2001 US Open finals was watched by 22.7 million viewers](#) – but was broadcast on CBS prime-time television.

12. Who is the actor in this picture?



Screenshot: Emancipation / Apple TV+

[Will Smith's first feature film since being banned from attending the Oscars for 10 years](#) is [the slavery-era thriller Emancipation](#), released in theaters on Dec. 2, 2022, and Apple TV+ on Dec. 9.

What is 2022's Emancipation movie?

[Antoine Fuqua directed this \\$120 million film](#), which tells the [true story of Gordon, or "Whipped Peter,"](#) who escaped a Louisiana plantation in 1860 and walked to the north to join the Union army. [Watch the trailer.](#)

13. What was The Emancipator?



The Emancipator was [America's first newspaper dedicated to ending slavery, founded in 1820 in Tennessee](#). A joint effort by Boston University's Center for Antiracist Research and The Boston Globe revives the historical publication and reimagines it on digital platforms. [The new online Emancipator will feature written and video opinion pieces, multimedia series, and virtual talks to "reframe" the national conversation around racial injustice.](#) [Take a peek.](#)

14. What did Whoopi Goldberg say on The View that got her suspended in Feb. 2022?



Screenshot: The View / ABC

On Jan. 31, 2022, Whoopi Goldberg, co-host of “The View,” commented during a discussion about a Tennessee school board’s banning of the Pulitzer-winning Holocaust graphic novel “Maus” that [the Holocaust was “not about race ... it’s about man’s inhumanity to other men.”](#) As a result, [she was suspended for two weeks starting Feb.2, 2022.](#) Goldberg [expressed remorse over her remarks, saying she realized that they were misinformed and that she had misspoken.](#)

Was the Holocaust about race?

The [Nazi ideology was based mainly on a misconception of racism as a science,](#) specifically [Eugenics,](#) as [a means to improve the genetic quality of what they called “The Aryan race.”](#) This misconception led to the systematic extermination of what the Nazis saw as “degenerate” sub-humans, such as Roma and Jews (and homosexuals and others). Today [the Roma people and the Jewish nation are not considered a biological race.](#) In fact, in recent years, [human geneticists have mostly abandoned the term “race” in favor of “ethnicity,” “ancestry,” and location-based terms.](#)

Is Whoopi Goldberg Jewish?

Whoopi Goldberg was [born Caryn Elaine Johnson to a Manhattan Baptist clergyman, and attended a local Catholic school.](#) She [adopted the name Whoopi Goldberg as her stage name,](#) stating that [“Goldberg is my name—it’s part of my family, part of my heritage, just like being black,”](#) and that [“I know I am Jewish. I practice nothing. I don’t go to temple, but I do remember the holidays.”](#) On her Jan. 31 “The Late Show” appearance, Goldberg explained that, as a Black person, she thinks of racism as being based on skin color but that she realized not everyone sees it that way. On Feb. 1’s The View, she said she had learned from the experience. [“It is indeed about race because Hitler and the Nazis considered Jews to be an inferior race,”](#) she said. [“I stand corrected. I also stand with the Jewish people, as they know, and y’all know because I’ve always done that.”](#)

15. Who is the Grammy's most nominated artist?



Screenshot: [Beyoncé – YouTube](#)

[Beyoncé has nine Grammy nominations this year, tying Jay-Z with 88 nominations throughout their careers](#) – making them both [the most-nominated artists in Grammy history](#).

Which Grammy nominations did Beyoncé receive in 2023?

[Beyoncé's hit song Break My Soul is nominated for both song and record of the year](#). Renaissance is up for album of the year. Additionally, Beyoncé was nominated in the dance/electonica and R&B categories.

Who holds the record for most Grammy wins?

Beyoncé holds 28 Grammy awards. If she wins more than three in the 2023 ceremony, she could surpass conductor Georg Solti's 31 awards. Currently, she shares second place with Quincy Jones.

16. Who is Emmy's first Black woman to win the lead actor in a drama series award TWICE?



Screenshot: [Television Academy – YouTube](#)

Zendaya has made Emmys history with her second [win for outstanding lead actress in a drama series for Euphoria at the 2022 Emmys](#). The 26-year-old became [the youngest two-time winner for acting in Emmy's history](#) and [the first Black woman to win the Emmy for lead actress in a drama series twice](#).



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