

# African-American Firsts Quiz

Source: <https://www.infoplease.com/take-quiz/bhmfirsts>  
by Borgna Brunner

**Question 1:** Who was the first African-American Nobel Peace Prize winner?

- Martin Luther King
- Ralph Bunche
- John Hope Franklin

**Question 2:** Who was the first African-American millionaire?

- Madame C .J. Walker
- Robert Johnson
- Oprah Winfrey

**Question 3:** Who was the first African-American Miss America?

- Halle Berry
- Vanessa Williams
- Tyra Banks

**Question 4:** Who was the first African-American senator AFTER Reconstruction?

- Adam Clayton Powell
- Edward Brooke
- Barack Obama

**Question 5:** Who was the first African-American mayor of a major U.S. city?

- Tom Bradley
- David Dinkins
- Carl Stokes

**Question 6:** Who was the first African American to win an Oscar?

- Sydney Poitier
- Hattie McDaniel
- James Earl Jones

**Question 7:** Who was the first African American to reach the North Pole?

- Gordon Parks
- Matthew A. Henson
- Marcus Garvey

**Question 8:** Who was the first African-American heavy weight champion?

- Joe Frazier
- Muhammad Ali
- Jack Johnson

**Question 9:** What was the first African-American tennis champion?

- Arthur Ashe
- Serena Williams
- Althea Gibson

**Question 10:** Who was the first African-American Rhodes scholar?

- Alain Locke
- W.E.B. Du Bois
- Henry Louis Gates

# African-American Firsts Quiz - Answers

**Question 1:** Who was the first African-American Nobel Peace Prize winner?

**Correct Answer:** Ralph Bunche

*Ralph J. Bunche received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950 for mediating the Arab-Israeli truce. Martin Luther King became the second African-American Peace Prize winner in 1964.*

**Question 2:** Who was the first African-American millionaire?

**Correct Answer:** Madame C .J. Walker

*The first black millionaire was Madame C. J. Walker, an entrepreneur who invented black hair care products in the early 1900s and launched an enormously successful business.*

**Question 3:** Who was the first African-American Miss America?

**Correct Answer:** Vanessa Williams

*Vanessa Williams, 1984, representing New York. When controversial photos surfaced and Williams resigned, Suzzette Charles of New Jersey, the runner-up and also an African American, assumed the title.*

**Question 4:** Who was the first African-American senator AFTER Reconstruction?

**Correct Answer:** Edward Brooke

*Edward Brooke (R-Mass.) became the first African-American senator since Reconstruction, serving from 1966–1979.*

**Question 5:** Who was the first African-American mayor of a major U.S. city?

**Correct Answer:** Carl Stokes

*In 1967, Carl Stokes became mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, making him the first black mayor of a major U.S. city.*

**Question 6:** Who was the first African American to win an Oscar?

**Correct Answer:** Hattie McDaniel

*In 1940, Hattie McDaniel became the 1st African American to win an Oscar for her supporting role in Gone With the Wind.*

**Question 7:** Who was the first African American to reach the North Pole?

**Correct Answer:** Matthew A. Henson

*In 1909, explorer Matthew A. Henson accompanied Robert E. Peary on the first successful U.S. expedition to the North Pole.*

**Question 8:** Who was the first African-American heavy weight champion?

**Correct Answer:** Jack Johnson

*In 1908, Jack Johnson defeated Tommy Burns to become the world's first African-American heavyweight champion*

**Question 9:** What was the first African-American tennis champion?

**Correct Answer:** Althea Gibson

*In 1957, Althea Gibson was the first black person to play in and win Wimbledon and the United States national tennis championship. She won both tournaments twice, in 1957 and 1958. In all, Gibson won 56 tournaments, including five Grand Slam singles events.*

**Question 10:** Who was the first African-American Rhodes scholar?

**Correct Answer:** Alain Locke

*Philosopher Alain Locke became the first African-American Rhodes scholar in 1907.*

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