**Resources for Black History Month**

**K-3:**

● [Seraphim "Joe" Fortes](https://www.nfb.ca/playlists/nfb_celebrates_black_history_month/playback/#9) (10 min) This animated short tells the story of Seraphim "Joe" Fortes, one of Vancouver's most beloved citizens. Born in the West Indies, Joe Fortes swam in English Bay for over  30 years. A self-appointed lifeguard at first, he became so famous that the city of Vancouver finally rewarded him with a salary for doing what he loved best. He taught thousands of people to swim and saved over a hundred lives. Yet there were some who did not respect him because of his skin colour. Through his determination, kindness and love for children, Joe helped shift attitudes. (article about Joe: <https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/fortes-seraphim-joe-1865-1922/> )

● [28 days: Moments in Black History that Changed the World](https://www.curiouscitydpw.com/2016/02/04/28-days-audio/). (audio) Each poem is read by a range of professional narrators, complete with music and sound effects.

● [CHANGE SINGS: A Children’s Album](https://bookshop.org/a/9788/9780593203224) Written by Amanda Goreman and Illustrated by Loren Long

● [Youtube video:**Story of Barbara Howard**](http://blackstrathcona.com/#barbara-howard)**-**one of the fastest women in the world, from East Van

● Children’s book: “**Daddy Speaks Love”** by Leah Hendersen

● Children’s book: **“Mayann’s Train Ride”** by the Honourable Mayann Francis, first Black Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

● Video reading of [Sulwe](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vujbTOuzg2Q) by Lupita Nyong’o

● [**Abigail’s Wish**](https://amzn.to/3iUlBY8)by Gloria Ann Wesley- Based in the 1780s in the Black Loyalist community of Birchtown, Nova Scotia.  Black Loyalists found freedom in Canada through supporting the British during the American Revolutionary War.  Abigail’s family struggles to make ends meet in their new colony, but she has one wish - a new dress to help celebrate a new birth in the family.

● [Black history month videos](https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html)

● [Harry Jerome : The Fastest Man on Earth  (10 min)](https://www.nfb.ca/playlists/nfb_celebrates_black_history_month/playback/#6)**Ages 9-12.** This short film is a condensed version of our feature documentary Mighty Jerome, made especially for elementary and middle-school classes. Canadian athlete Harry Jerome overcame racism to reach the height of track-and-field success. When an injury ended his career, Jerome continued training and went on to achieve one of the greatest comebacks in sports history.

● [My Brother Charlie](https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S38C1993523)by Holly Robinson Pete. A girl tells what it is like living with her twin brother who has autism and sometimes finds it hard to communicate with words, but who, in most ways, is just like any other boy.

**Gr 4-5:**

● [Ice Breakers](https://www.nfb.ca/playlists/nfb_celebrates_black_history_month/playback/#1) Josh Crooks is a promising teen hockey star in a sport where Black players like him are chronically underrepresented. ***Ice Breakers*** reveals the buried history of a pioneering Black hockey league in Atlantic Canada, as Crooks discovers that his unshakable passion is tied to a rich and remarkable heritage. (National Film Board, 12 min)

● [SuperSoaker Inventor](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpvEF_GIhmw&t=22s) - Engineer Lonnie Johnson for NASA accidentally invented a million dollar toy - the super soaker!

● Knowledge Network Documentary:**“British Columbia: An Untold History”**episode 2, 9:33- 19:53 - a short history of the arrival of theBlack population in BC <https://www.knowledge.ca/program/british-columbia-untold-history/e2/labour-persistence>​​​

● Novel:[**“Beatrice and Croc-Harry”**](https://www.lawrencehill.com/beatrice-and-croc-harry)by Lawrence Hill​​

● Graphic Novel: [**“Class Act”**](https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S38C7594994) by Jerry Craft. Puberty is on the horizon for thirteen-year-old Jordan Banks, who returns in this hilarious and heartfelt companion to New Kid

● Novel:[**One Crazy Summer** by Rita Williams-Garcia](https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S38C2385418)

● **Blended**by Sharon M. Draper. A story about 11-year-old Isabella, whose parent’s divorce makes her feel like she’s living two lives. Not only does Isabella switch homes, but she also realizes she switches identities. Her mom is white, and her dad is Black, which leads to inappropriate questions from classmates, neighbors, and friends.

● **Syrus Marcus Ware**- Film (2-3mins) [**“In the Studio”**](https://vimeo.com/275909676?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=364932) - Syrus is aBlack, transgender, disabled artist, activist and scholar. Using painting, installation, and performance, **Syrus** works with and explores social justice frameworks and Black activist culture.  The video shows some of the large scale artwork Syrus does and talks about his passion for his work.

● Check out the murals in Hogan’s Alley: Black Strathcona Resurgence Project <https://vanmuralfest.ca/community-projects/bsrp>

**Teachers/Adults:**

● **Article:** [Why do we recognize Black History Month?](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/01/black-history-month-what-is-it-and-why-do-we-need-it/)

● **Barbara Howard- local student, runner, and teacher:**​[**https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/students-campaign-rename-school-after-canadian-runner-1.6027900**](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/students-campaign-rename-school-after-canadian-runner-1.6027900) - This article highlights the story of Barbara Howard and a small group of students at Strathcona Elementary ​​​

● Short Video series on Black Strathcona:<http://blackstrathcona.com/>

● Education resources from Vancouver’s Anti-Racism Coalition: <http://www.antiracismcoalition.org/education>​​

● Educational resources from the BC Black History Awareness Society: <https://bcblackhistory.ca/learning-centre/>

● **[Remember Africville](https://www.nfb.ca/playlists/nfb_celebrates_black_history_month/playback/" \l "4)** - Ages 13-18. This short film depicts Africville, a small black settlement that lay within the city limits of Halifax, Nova Scotia. In the 1960s, the families there were uprooted and their homes demolished in the name of urban renewal and integration. More than 20 years later, the site of the community of Africville is a stark, under-utilized park. Former residents, their descendants and some of the decision-makers speak out and, with the help of archival photographs and films, tell the story of that painful relocation.