

# AFRO QUIZ 2020

## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

### 10-12 AGE CATEGORY

*This year, CCACH is celebrating the different ways people of African and Caribbean heritage empower each other across continents and within their communities. As you read the material, it is our hope that you will learn about some of the men and women who have done a lot to empower their communities and beyond.*

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## SECTION 1: ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS

The material below will introduce you to three gentlemen who are in the spotlight. These men have used their fame to empower their communities and help those who are in need.

### WHO

### HOW THEY EMPOWER THEIR COMMUNITY

#### STORMZY



- He is a British rapper and singer. He is an ambassador for a genre of music called “Grime”. Grime is electronic dance music which came out of London in the early 2000s. He has received several MOBO (Music of Black Origin) awards.
- He was born on July 26, 1993 in Croydon, London to a Ghanaian mother.
- His birth name is Michael Ebenazer Kwadjo Omari Owuo Jr

*“Being so championed by my community, I feel like everyone’s put me on this pedestal and, like, everyone’s put me on top of the world ... I know it’s my purpose to just shine a light where I can, do something where I can, just whatever I can, in whatever way, shape or form.” – Stormzy*

- As the first very successful person in the grime music genre, Stormzy works to make sure that he is creating a space of other black musicians in the wider community.
- Stormzy is doing what he can to make sure that culture is celebrated. *“There’s always been a kind of lack of spotlight and shine on the black British side of British culture,”* he says. *“[But] there’s a whole world of it ... It’s a beautiful thing, and it’s coming of age right now.”*
- Stormzy understands that the grime musicians who paved the road for him struggled and their struggles made it easier for him.
- Stormzy was the first black British solo artist to headline the **Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts**. As a way of celebrating black British culture, he included black gospel singers and ballet dancers in his performance. He also included some parts of speeches made by black British politicians and a black British author.
- Stormzy launched **Merky Books**, a publishing company within Penguin Random House. With it, he hopes to encourage black British writers gain recognition that they have not been able to get.

## ROBERTO CLEMENTE



- He was a major league baseball player who played for the Pittsburgh Pirates.
- He was born on August 18, 1934 in Carolina, Puerto Rico.
- He died on December 31, 1972 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

*"My greatest satisfaction comes from helping to erase the old opinion about Latin Americans and blacks."* – Roberto Clemente

- He has also partnered with Cambridge University to launch **the Stormzy Scholarship** which covers tuition and living expenses for two black students throughout their degree. With this, he hopes to see more black and mixed heritage students attending elite universities in Britain.
- Cambridge has already reported that the number of black students admitted to the university is 33% more in 2019 than before the launch of the scholarship.
- Clemente is known not only for his great baseball skills, but also for his advocacy for the equal treatment of Latin baseball players and black people.
- He is good example of someone who gives back to his community with what his fame has given him.
- He led relief efforts in his native Puerto Rico and supported the relief work after the 1972 earthquake that hit Nicaragua.
- It was his efforts here that would later take his life. Relief supplies were stolen, so Clemente decided to fly there personally. His plane however, crashed shortly after take-off and Clemente died.
- In 1973, in his honour, the Major League Baseball award given to a player who demonstrated great sportsmanship and community service, was renamed the **Roberto Clemente Award**.

## JESSE WILLIAMS



- He is an actor, director, producer and an activist.
- He started off his career as a high school teacher and an activist.
- He was born on August 5, 1981 in Chicago, Illinois.

*"We often grow up being told that we can do this or that, but if you don't see anybody that looks like you doing it, you don't believe you can do it. But I had great teachers, and I wanted to be a great teacher." – Jesse Williams*

- He has always been an activist and out spoken about social issues that were affecting his community.
- He has been an important celebrity voice in the **Black Lives Matter Movement**. He has been involved in the protests and has written articles for news outlets like CNN.
- He is a board member of **The Advancement Project**, a national civil rights organization, and of **Sankofa**, a social justice organization founded by musician Harry Belafonte.
- He is an executive producer on **Question Bridge: Black Males**, a project with the goal of bringing black males from different backgrounds together to redefine the black male identity in America.
- He has used his actor platform to produce documentaries such as **America Divided** and **Stay Woke: The Black Lives Matter Movements**.
- He is most known for his acceptance speech after being honoured with the 2016 BET (Black Entertainment Television) Humanitarian Award. This speech is a perfect example of how people who have been given a platform can really empower and influence their community into action.
- Follow this link to a video of the acceptance speech.  
<https://youtu.be/orXogk3euMA>  
**Hint:** Some questions might come from the video.

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## SECTION 2: POLITICS AND/OR ACTIVISM

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*In this section, you will be introduced to two women and one man. Although two of these three people have passed on, their legacies of commitment to their communities is something that we continue to celebrate. The section will focus on the legacy of Sojourner Truth and will introduce you to Zulia Mena and Marcus Garvey.*

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### SOJOURNER TRUTH



She was an abolitionist and women's rights advocate who is famously known for her 1851 speech, "**Ain't I a Woman**". She delivered this speech at the Women's Rights Convention which was held in Akron, Ohio.

Sojourner was born Isabella Baumfree in New York, 1797, it is

believed. She was born into slavery, but later escaped in 1826 in order to find freedom. She changed her name to Sojourner Truth on June 1, 1843.

*"If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back and get it right side up again!"* —**Sojourner Truth**

#### Notable Moments:

- Truth took the owner she escaped from to court, after he had sold her son to a slave owner in the south illegally. On July 4, 1827 slaves in New York were **emancipated** (freed), thus her owner should not have sold her son. She became one of the first black women to ever take a white man to court in the country. She won the case and her son was brought back from the person he was sold to.
- She joined an organization called **Northampton Association of Education** in 1844. The organization was founded by abolitionists. With this organization is where her career as an activist truly begun.

#### Know your words!

##### **Abolitionist**

During Sojourner's time, an **abolitionist** was the name given to someone who fought for the end of slavery and ensure that those who were enslaved lived freely with rights.

##### **Suffrage**

This is defined as the right to vote in political elections.

- In 1850, she spoke at the first **National Women's Rights Convention** which was held in Worcester, Massachusetts. After this speech she started going on speaking tours where she would speak about slavery and human rights.
- After her famous speech "**Ain't I a woman**" in 1851, Sojourner toured the state of Ohio speaking about anti-slavery for 3 years. She recited her speeches on the spot because she was not able to read and write.
- She met and spoke with President Abraham Lincoln, when she was asked to go to Washington D.C in 1864.
- She rode in street cars that were only for whites as a way of trying to desegregate them.
- Her other causes were: **universal suffrage, prison reforms** and **land for freed slaves**. She believed if freed slaves had land, they would be more self-sufficient.

Click this link to watch Sojourner's famous speech being recited by actress, Nkechi.

<https://youtu.be/eUdxsQQQsrc>

## ZULIA MARÍA MENA GARCÍA



**Birthdate:** November 21, 1965

**Birth place:** Campo Bonito, Quibdó, Chocó

She is known as one of Colombia's most notable politicians, but she started off her career as an activist. In each role that she held, she made sure that the plight of Afro-Colombians was being talked about, even to the international community.

### Notable Moments

- In 1994, Zulia was the first Colombian congressional representative who was tasked to fight for the rights and interests of Afro-Colombians.
- She was Colombia's first congresswoman of African descent.
- She was very vocal in the fight to pass a law in Colombia which would lead to the mandatory acknowledgement of the existence of the Afro-Colombian community. Called **Law 70**, or the **Law of Blackness**, it would also give Colombian's of African descent the legal right to own the land that their ancestors had lived on for centuries. The law was passed in 1993.
- From 2012 to 2015, she was **Mayor of Quibdó, Chocó**; a predominantly Black state.
- From March 2016 to August 2018, she was the **Vice Minister of Culture**.
- She has led many community initiatives within the Afro-Colombian community that have led her to receive global recognition.

## MARCUS GARVEY



- Born in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica on August 17, 1887
- Died in London, England on June 10, 1940.

***He was a strong advocate for the Black Nationalism and Pan-Africanism movements.***

Marcus Garvey advocated for the well-being of people of African descent throughout the whole diaspora. Having lived and worked in many nations in the Americas and in England during his lifetime, he saw that no matter where he went, black people were the most ill-treated. His solution to this was through the teaching of:

### Black Nationalism and Pan-Africanism.

**Black Nationalism** is the promotion and development of the black race identity for people of black ancestry.

**Pan-Africanism** is the idea that people of African descent have common interests and should unite to strengthen the bond of solidarity and ensure that they work together for their benefit

His Pan-African thinking resulted in a global movement which was called **Garveyism**. This philosophy didn't only inspire black people globally, but it also inspired the Nation of Islam and the Rastafari Movement.

***A video says a lot more than a thousand words!***

Follow this link to a mini-biography about this man who wanted to empower black people and bring them together. <https://www.biography.com/video/marcus-garvey-mini-biography-11191875521>

***Hint:*** Some questions may come from the video.

**Did you catch Mr. Garvey's middle name while watching the video? Do you remember what it is?**

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## SECTION 3: CANADIANA (TRUE, NORTH, STRONG)

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*In this section you will learn about two black Canadians who have been empowering their communities and making a difference through their volunteerism and work; and their talents and passions. You will meet Audrey Gordon, a politician with a heart for community volunteerism, and Ahmed “Knowmadic” Ali, a man whose passions and talent empower his community.*

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### AUDREY GORDON



#### What is an MLA?

MLA stands for **Member of the Legislative Assembly**.

An MLA has to be chosen by the people in the area which they represent. So when you become one, it is because people have chosen you. They believe that you can represent them and their needs. It is a great achievement.

Audrey is a politician who was born in Jamaica and moved to Manitoba as a child. She has over 25 years of experience working in health and community development and project management just to name a few.

In September 2019, Audrey became the first black MLA to be sworn in during the 42nd general elections in Manitoba. She was also joined by two other black Manitobans; and the three of them collectively became the first black MLAs. She looks at her role as MLA as a way of serving her community; and hopes that having three black MLAs will encourage the community to be more involved in politics.

Before becoming a politician, Audrey worked in health care and with the Manitoba government. Even with a career as full as she has had, she is committed to building capacity in communities through volunteerism. She volunteers with Siloam Mission and the Arthur Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice.

When asked why she decided to run in the Manitoba elections, this was her response:

*“I have always made it my mission to serve people. Running to be the MLA of Southdale, to represent the views and concerns of the people at the Manitoba Legislature, is my way of giving back to the community. I have deep roots in Southdale through community sports, businesses,*

*ethno-cultural organizations and faith groups that are in the riding. I welcome the opportunity to work in collaboration with these groups to build a strong and prosperous Southdale."*

Follow the link to Ms. Gordon's campaign video: <https://youtu.be/K3wJMIHNSrk>

**Hint:** Some questions may come from the video.

**Do you think becoming an MLA is something you could do?**

### AHMED "KNOWMADIC" ALI

Ahmed was born on November 28, 1984, in Mogadishu, Somalia. His name, "**Knowmadic**" is a combination of the words; knowledge and nomadic. He is an *Artist, Community Builder and Educator; and an award-winning Poet Laureate.*



- He is the first Somali Poet Laureate in North America and Edmonton's 7th Poet Laureate. He held this honour from July 2017 to July 2019.
- He has been awarded a **Human Rights Champion Award**, a **Youth Empowerment Award**, and the **2012 RISE Award** for community involvement in Arts and culture, just to name a few.
- He has supported AfroQuiz for many years and has performed his inspirational poetry at our events several times.
- Ahmed is a great example of someone who uses their talents to engage and empower their local community and beyond.
- He is the co-founder of **Breath in Poetry**, the only spoken word collective in Edmonton. The collective is made up of a group of poets and community members whose aim is to grow poetry in Edmonton and expand its reach.
- He holds workshops on community initiatives and empowerment for the youth in his community.
- He is very passionate about the arts, education and the importance of representation of different groups on all levels of government.
- Ahmed was on the **Edmonton Arts Council Board** for 3 years.
- As a member of the **Quarterz Arts Board**, he promotes events at **the Boyle Street Community League**.
- Knowmadic ran for School Board of Trustee in the 2017 elections and was runner up. Watch his inspiring campaign video here: <https://www.facebook.com/Aknowmadic/videos/1477749302305362/>
- Watch Knowmadic recite his famous poem "**I am Africa**" <https://youtu.be/n0E-xN64Hz0>

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## SECTION 4: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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*In this section, you will also be introduced to an organization that makes it possible for those who are underrepresented to understand that they too, can have a seat at the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) table.*

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### BLACK GIRLS CODE

Black Girls CODE is an organization that was launched in April 2011. Through workshops and after school programs, the initiative acquaints young black girl with computer coding. They are equipped with knowledge and learning that will enable them to pursue a profession in the computer science field or other STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields. The organization not only teaches coding to those who would otherwise not have been exposed to it, but in so doing, they are providing underserved communities with much needed access to the internet and other computer technologies.

Follow the link to this short video of some of the CODE participants telling you about their experiences with the program: <https://youtu.be/RV22wvqEIEA>

#### ABOUT THE BLACK GIRLS CODE FOUNDER



The organization was founded by Kimberly Bryant (left), who herself, pursued a profession in STEM, Electrical Engineering. During her undergraduate studies, she noticed that not many of her classmates looked like her; and

although she admits that this has changed a little, there is still a lack representation of women of colour in the STEM fields. She attributes this void not to the lack of interest from this demographic, but rather to the lack of access and exposure to STEM topics for these young people. Watch this 5-minute video where Ms. Bryant talks about Black girls CODE:

<https://youtu.be/x07g9EdzhLs>

**Hint:** Some questions may be asked from the content of the video.



#### IMPACT

- 7 established institutions as of 2013
- Operations in 7 U.S. states as of 2013 with plans to expand to more cities in the country
- Over 3,000 students reached
- Operations in Johannesburg, South Africa

### Black Girls Code Vision:

*To increase the number of women of color in the digital space by empowering girls of color ages 7 to 17 to become innovators in STEM fields, leaders in their communities, and builders of their own futures through exposure to computer science and technology. To provide African-American youth with the skills to occupy some of the 1.4 million computing job openings expected to be available in the U.S. by 2020 and to train 1 million girls by 2040.*

### DEMONSTRATION OF LEARNING

You are now at the end your study material for Afro Quiz 2020, so we have a question for you:

***Two of the people you have learned about have heritage ties to a West African country. Which of these cities listed below is the capital city of that country?***

**(Hint: it has 2 'A's in it!)**

Antananarivo

Asmara

Abuja

Accra

Addis Abba

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## SECTION 5: CURRENT EVENTS

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*This section is based on current news and events that highlight progress, positivity and celebration in the Black community and Black personalities around the world. The period covered will be the year 2019 and may also include recent news that happened in January and February 2020. You are encouraged to read a broad spectrum of information paying close attention to black based news on various platforms.*

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