

# AFRO QUIZ 2020

## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

### 16-18 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.*

#### CONTENT

- 1. ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS**
  - a. Chance the Rapper
  - b. Common
- 2. POLITICS AND/OR ACTIVISM**
  - a. Dr. Dorothy Irene Height
- 3. CANADIANA (TRUE, NORTH, STRONG)**
  - a. Brandon Hay
- 4. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**
  - a. Dr. Saada Naile Ahmed Elmahi
  - b. Juliana Rotich
- 5. CURRENT EVENTS**

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## SECTION 1: ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS

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### RAPPERS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES: CHANCE THE RAPPER AND COMMON

*Chance the Rapper and Common are two names that are well known to all who follow the rap or hip-hop genre of music. As you read about these two American rappers from **Chicago, Illinois**, you will discover that their music is not the only thing that they contribute to their community.*

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#### A Little Bit About Chicago

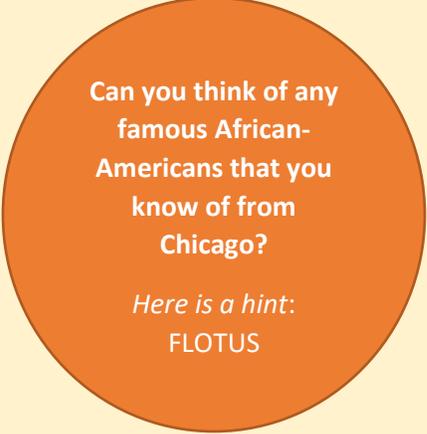
There are many well-known African-American who have called Chicago their home; whether they were born there or found themselves there, they represent the city well.

Chicago is a city famous not only for its architecture, but also for its numerous green spaces and parks. That is why it is known as a city in a garden. It looks out to Lake Michigan and is in the state of Illinois. Today, the city is an important centre of international trade and commerce and home to people from many different nationalities. The diversity of Chicago was perhaps perpetuated by **Jean Baptiste Point du Sable**, a free black man originally from Haiti who is recorded to be the first permanent resident of Chicago. He moved to the city in the 1770s.

Chicago, with a population of 2,716,450, is one of many firsts:

- In 1884, it birthed the nation's first sky scrapper – a 10 story Home Insurance building.
- From 1974 to 1998, the Willis Tower (formerly the Sears Tower) was the tallest building in the world, standing at 1,451 feet.
- It houses the start of the "Historic Route 66"- which starts at Grant Park in front of the Art Institute of Chicago.

With all these great successes and such rich history, it is not a surprise that the city has given us so many greats who have continued to empower their already thriving community. Chance the Rapper and Common are no exceptions. The two have not only represented their city well through their musical talents, but they have also done so through their non-profit organizations, **SocialWorks** and **Common Ground Foundation**.



Can you think of any famous African-Americans that you know of from Chicago?

Here is a hint:  
FLOTUS

## CHANCE THE RAPPER



Chance the Rapper, born **Chancellor Jonathan Bennett**, is rapper, singer, songwriter, actor and an activist.

**Birth Date:** April 16, 1993

**Birth Place:** Chicago, Illinois



Chance the Rapper founded the non-profit organization **SocialWorks**, in 2016.

The organization works with youth in Chicago and their aim is to empower youth through the arts, education and civic engagement.

The organization was founded in order to be an outlet for social good and a way for Chance the Rapper and his friends to give back to their community.

### About SocialWorks

<https://www.socialworkschi.org/>

The SocialWorks organization came about a year after Chance the Rapper had lost a friend, Brother Mike who used to run an open mic night for Chicago school children. Despite there being so many children who were hoping to showcase their skills; Chance the Rapper was often one the lucky ones who could. When Brother Mike, who was like a mentor to Chance the Rapper, passed away in 2015, Chance took on the operations of the open mic night, calling it **Open Mike**, in honour of his mentor. In the same year, he and his friend Cunningham launched a coat drive which they called Warmest Winter. 1,175 new coats were bought for the homeless people of their community. The two friends wanted to continue their spirit of giving, thus the idea to start a non-profit was born. They three other friends started the organization together.

### SocialWorks Initiatives

There are four main initiatives that are conducted at the organization:

1. **Education** through the provision of arts grants for many Chicago public schools.
2. **Mental health** through funding for six local healthcare facilities.

3. **Assistance for homeless people** by way of a coat drive called Warmest Winter (Warmest Winter is now an annual tradition).
4. **Summer camp** or **Kids of the Kingdom**, a Christian kids camp that was founded by Chances' grandmother.

Below are a few short videos on the different initiatives that SocialWorks has put in place over the years:

<https://youtu.be/YgzyRk9TF8A>

<https://youtu.be/suZbLxHoRHk>

**Hint:** Some of the questions asked during the quiz might originate from the content in these videos.

## COMMON

### COMMON



Common, born **Lonnie Rashied Lynn**, is an American rapper and actor, who has won 3 Grammy awards and 1 Academy Award.

**Birth Date:** March 13, 1972

**Birth Place:** Chicago, Illinois



### MISSION

*To empower high school students from under-served communities to become future leaders. Our programs focus on character development, social impact, healthy living, technology, financial literacy, creative arts, and global leadership.*

## About Common Ground Foundation

<https://commongroundfoundation.org/>

*"I started the Common Ground Foundation because I wanted to help. Most of all help people to help themselves. I always believed that if we started with the youth then we would be planting the seeds for our future to blossom. Give the children a sense of hope, self-esteem, and love that will better the world...I think making a difference in the lives of others is life's greatest purpose. I walk this path with faith knowing that the Common Ground Foundation will Change the World."- Love, COMMON*

Common started the foundation over ten years ago with the hope of helping inner-city youth in Chicago. He not only invests his resources into the foundation, but he also devotes his time, working closely with the students that Common Ground Foundation works with. The inner-city youth are mentored throughout high school and into their college education.

The foundation's programs work to ensure that the youth are provided with the opportunity and resources to ensure they have successful high school and college careers. Below is a list of the programs that Common Ground Foundation offers:

- **Youth Mentoring Program:** by working closely with the administration of 30 high schools from the South and West side of Chicago, the foundation recruits students who are entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade into the program. These students commit to the 4 years duration of the program where they are exposed to monthly mentoring sessions, community service projects and cultural field trips.
- **Transition to College Program:** this program assists students entering their junior and senior years of college with entry and financial support process.
- **Dreamers and Believers Summer Camps:** this is a week-long camp which combines the mentorship program curriculum with team building and sports activities. This program gives Common Ground Foundation students a chance to form profound relationships with their peers while providing them with the opportunity to be creative and innovative.
- **Youth Business and Leadership Conference:** this conference caters to hundreds of students from Chicago. It introduces them to the possible career choices available to them. At the conference, they are given the opportunity to interact with leaders and experience the interview process and be able to network.

Please take some time to browse through the website (URL provided above) and watch the video link below for a deeper appreciation of the work that Common Ground is involved in.

<https://youtu.be/9yD5g7V6Yo4>

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## SECTION 2: POLITICS AND/OR ACTIVISM

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Activism and politics are two very popular vehicles that are used to address issues that might be affecting a community. In this section, you will acquaint yourselves with Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, a woman whom for President of the United States, Barack Obama called “the godmother of the Civil Rights Movement”.

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### DR. DOROTHY IRENE HEIGHT



Dr. Dorothy Irene Height was born in Richmond, Virginia on March 24, 1912. She was the daughter of a building contractor and a nurse. Although born at a time when racial segregation was the law, a move to Rankin, Pennsylvania allowed Dorothy to attend racially integrated schools. She excelled in her studies and was extremely talented as an orator when she was in high school. This talent led her to winning a national oratory competition, which resulted in her being awarded a college scholarship. She attended New York University, after being refused admittance into Barnard College in New York because they had already met their quota for black students. At New York University, she obtained a bachelor’s degree in education (1930) and a master’s degree in Psychology (1932). As a great orator, it was perhaps no surprise that Height was very socially and politically active, participating in many campaigns that fought for the rights of African-Americans and women.

Dr. Height has been called a tireless activist who worked as a social worker for many years after she obtained her degrees. In 1933, she became a leader of the **United Christian Youth Movement of North America**. During this time, she began to answer to her calling of being a civil rights advocate. She worked on campaigns that fought against lynching and desegregation of the armed forces, to those fighting for reform in the criminal justice system and for free access to public accommodation. As Vice President of the movement, she was one of 10 American youth delegates who attended the **World Conference on the Life and**

*“I want to be remembered as someone who used herself and anything she could touch to work for justice and freedom. I want to be remembered as one who tried.” – Dorothy Height*

**Work of the Churches** in England, in 1937. She would attend the same conference two years later in Holland, but this time representing the **YWCA**.

In 1937, Dr. Height started working for the YWCA in Harlem as Assistant Executive Director. In this role, she accomplished the integration of all of its centers in the year 1946. In 1965, Dorothy established the **YWCA's Center for Racial Justice**; and she ran it until 1977. Through her work at YWCA, she was introduced to the **National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)**, an organization which she would later become the president of in 1957. The NCNW was an organization which worked in roughly 200 communities in 32 states. Its mission is: *to lead, advocate for and empower women of African descent, their families and communities*. It was founded in 1935 by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune who was an educator and an activist, just like Dorothy. Height stepped down from her role as NCNW president in 1998, after over 50 years of service. However, she remained a part of the organization and held the position of board chair until her death in 2010.

By using her platforms (YWCA and NCNW), Dorothy continued her fight for rights for women and African-Americans. She became a prominent figure in the **Civil Rights Movement**, working with Martin Luther King Jr. and other Civil Rights figures on various campaigns and initiatives. Below is a chart highlighting just some of the important years in the life of this fearless leader who fought for the members of her community and engaged them into fighting for themselves as well. Also included is her many awards and honours. Notice Dorothy's work and achievements in the different platforms overlapped throughout her life.

The **Civil Rights Movement** took place during the 1950s and the 1960s. It was a struggle for social justice and it was the hope that this struggle would lead to black people (African-Americans) being given equal rights under the law in the United States. There are many events that highlight the Movement, but one of the most well-known is that of **Rosa Parks** refusing to move to the back of the bus from the front, which was only meant for white people. Another important event was the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1957 by President Eisenhower. This made it so that if anyone prevented anyone from voting, they would be prosecuted. Thus making it law that black people could legally vote.

### Her work while at YWCA

- 1937- Started work
- 1946- Directed the integration of all centers
- 1965- Established the Center for Racial Justice
- 1977- Retired from YWCA

### Her fight for Women's Rights

- 1957- Became president of NCNW
- 1971- Co-founded the National Women's Political Caucus
- 1986- Established the first **Black Family Reunion**
- 2002- Her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration became a fundraiser for the NCNW

### Civil Rights Movement and Awards

- 1963- Instrumental in the organization of the **March to Washington**.
- 1994- Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton
- 2004- Awarded the Congressional Gold Medal

After her death on April 20, 2010, at the age of 98, a historic post office in Washington DC was renamed **Dorothy I. Height Post Office** in honor of Dr. Height and Black History Month. On February 1, 2017, the United States Postal Service issued the **Dorothy Height Forever**. Listed below are some of the other honours and awards that she has received, but this is not an exhaustive list:

- **John F. Kennedy Memorial Award**
- **President Ronald Reagan- Citizens Medal**
- **NAACP- Spingarn Medal**
- **Essence Award**
- **Franklin Roosevelt- Freedom Medal**

Dr. Height has also received thirty-six Honorary Doctorate Degrees from various universities and colleges, namely, Harvard University, her Alma mater, New York University, Princeton University, Spellman College and Tuskegee University just to name a few.

**Follow this link to watch a 5-minute video where Dorothy talks about the civil rights movement:** <https://youtu.be/3znI8EDsyXI>.

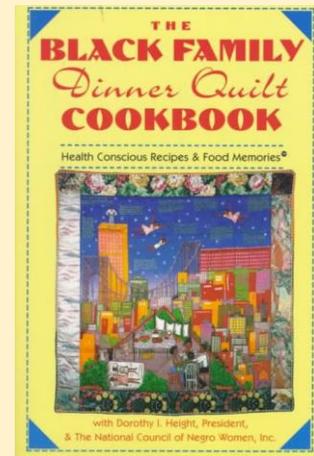
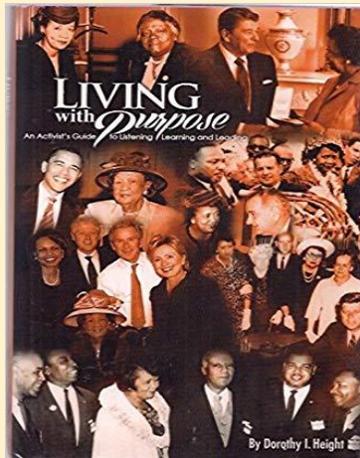
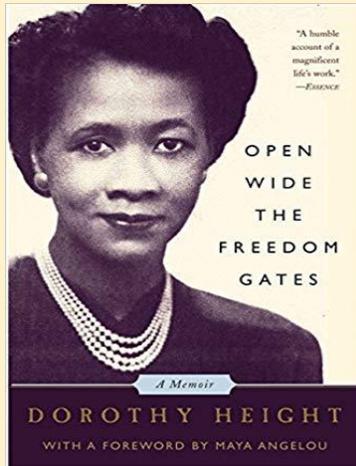
Please note that this video is aimed at ensuring you appreciate this exemplary woman. Questions will **not** be taken from the content of the video.

Later in her life, Dorothy focused on building the black community by strengthening the African American family. The **Family reunion**, a two-day cultural event celebrating the enduring strengths and traditional values of the African-American family, was her way of doing this.

## BOOKS

Dr. Dorothy Irene Height has authored 3 books:

- **The Black Family Dinner Quilt Cookbook: Health Conscious Recipes & Food Memories** (1993)
- **Open Wide the Freedom Gates: A Memoir** (2005)
- **Living with Purpose an Activists Guide to Listening, Learning and Leading** (2012)



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

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*In this section, you will be inspired by Brandon Hay and his club which was formed in order to provide black fathers with a space where they can share and learn about parenting, but specifically, about being a black father.*

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### BRANDON HAY



Brandon Hay was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1979, but now calls Canada, more specifically, Scarborough, Ontario, his home. When he was 10 years old, he and his mother moved from Jamaica to New York first, before finally settling in Toronto in search for better opportunities. His father did not accompany them. Although he was an only child to his mother, he shared his father with seven siblings. Mr. Hay is a father of three boys, and it was when his first-born son was 5 years old that he decided to start the club.

Follow the link below and read the article written by Brandon Hay, titled: *What Killed My Father Wasn't a Gun*. [https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/brandon-hay-and-junior/black-community-father\\_b\\_2389961.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/brandon-hay-and-junior/black-community-father_b_2389961.html).

**Hint:** You may be asked question on the content in this article.

In the second to last paragraph of his article, Hay refers to “eight words”. Do you know what these eight words are that he is speaking of?

**“A MOVEMENT BUILT ON LOVE”**



**Black Daddies Club**, more a movement than a club, was started in 2007 in Toronto by Brandon Hay. He was about to become a father for the first time and having been raised by a single mother, he did not have confidence that he would be a great father. He realized that there was no forum for him to learn from others and express his anxieties, so he founded the Black Daddies Club (BDC). The club was Hay's response to the absence of forums that enabled black fathers to discuss their parenting trials as well as other issues going on in the black community.

#### Guiding Principles of BDC

1. Develop a continuous support system for Black men and fathers to share their challenges and/or experiences.
2. Work with Black fathers and the community at large to address issues facing Black fathers, children and families.
3. Work with the media to provide alternate images of Black fathers, and assist in the creation of our own media that depicts Black fathers in a positive light

In the 12 years of its existence, the BDC has held many sessions where black fathers were able to engage with one another and share experiences and challenges as well as be able to share experiences with their children as a group. **Daddies and Me** sessions have allowed fathers to join their peers in experiencing different social events in Toronto with their children. This has included attending sporting events and art galleries. Many **Barbershop sessions** have been held in barbershops throughout Toronto, where different topics pertaining to fatherhood in the black community are tackled. Holding the sessions in a barbershop makes it easy to capture the target demographic that the club seeks to empower.

The organization has partnered with York Centre for Education and Community (YCEC), York University and Centre for Urban Schooling at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) to carry out a research project called **Gathering Our Voices: The Lived Experiences of Black Fathers in the City of Toronto**. The project was funded by the City of Toronto. Research projects are the main source of funding that BDC receives, otherwise majority of their daily operations are managed by personal funds from Mr. Hay.

These programs mentioned above are just some of the many that the BDC has carried out over the last 12 years. Feel free to visit the "history" section of their website to learn about more their impact. <http://theblackdaddiesclub.com/>. You will not be tested on content in this website.

A great way to learn about anything is to hear that thing being spoken about by the person who founded it. **Watch the first 8 minutes** of this 17-minute video where Brandon talks about the questions and personal issues that led him to starting BDC. <https://youtu.be/vavhKM0W6e8>. **Hint:** you will only be quizzed on content from the first 8 minutes but feel free to finish the whole video.

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## SECTION 4: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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*In this section, you will learn that activism or the formations of non-profit organizations are not the only ways that one can engage and/or positively impact their communities. You will be introduced to scientists who are using science to find solutions for the advancement of their communities.*

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### DR. SAADA NAILE AHMED ELMAHI



*I believe the work of Science is to turn problems into opportunities.*  
– Saada Naile Ahmed Elmahi

The holder of a PhD in plant production sciences, with a focus on organic agriculture, Dr. Saada Naile Ahmed Elmahi is an assistant professor at Sudan's National Centre for Research, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research Institute working in the Department of Agro-technology. She earned her PhD in Tunisia after receiving a scholarship. Throughout her schooling, she was an excellent student and was supported by her family to attain the highest level of education that she could. Her pursuit of a PhD in Tunisia made her the first female Sudanese to obtain a PhD from Tunisia. Saada believes that the work of science is to turn problems into solutions; and this is just what she did when she became a part of the project that worked with a community in Sudan around the **Dinder National Park**. The project was implemented by the Sudanese Environment Conservation Society, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Having gained a vast amount of experience after attaining her PhD, Dr. Elmahi was in a position to excel at this project and she did just that. Bringing in her thought process of science being a solution to problems, she worked with the community by conducting social and economic studies and facilitating training activities, building capacity, raising awareness and leading the community through communication activities. By applying her knowledge on science, she was instrumental in positively impacting the lives of people from three towns and 40 villages around the park.

## JULIANA ROTICH



### JULIANA'S AWARDS

- World Economic Forum Young Global Leader 2016
- Monte Carlo Woman of The Year Award 2016
- DLD Women Impact Award 2013
- Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2011 - Schwab Foundation World Economic Forum

Juliana Rotich is a technologist, strategic advisor and keynote speaker who enjoys figuring out how technology can help to make things, fix problems, and help others. These three things are her personal mission; and as a scientist, she looks to her science to achieve her personal mission. She is the co-founder of **BRCK Inc.**, a hardware and services technology company based in Nairobi, Kenya. BRCK was founded in order to realize a vision for enabling communication in low infrastructure environments by developing useful and innovative hardware-centered technologies in Kenya.

This tech entrepreneur went on to further her personal mission when she demonstrated that her scientific prowess can be used to make a difference in her community. In 2007, during the post-election violence that happened in Kenya, Juliana co-founded a software platform which provided a way for citizens to report incidences of violence. This platform was called **Ushahidi.com**. Once reported, the incidences were mapped out via Google Maps, something that is now a trend in social media activism. Before co-founding Ushahidi, Juliana amassed over 10 years of work experience in the telecommunications and data warehousing industry; giving her a great foundation to head Ushahidi which now specializes in developing free and open source software for changing how information flows in the world. From January 2011 until September 2015, Ms. Rotich was the Executive Director at Ushahidi. Under her leadership, the information flowing into the non-profit was translated into over 30 languages and reached about 20 million people.

Follow this video link and watch the 9 minute TED talk video where Juliana explains her work and its impacts and explains a little more about the work that her other non-profit BRCK does.

<https://youtu.be/qsJYrwzfd6w>.

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

To learn more about BRCK Inc or Ushahidi and the innovative ways they are impacting communities through technology, click on links below. You will NOT be questioned on this content.

<https://www.brck.com/>

<https://www.usahidi.com/>

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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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## REFERENCES

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15. <http://ayibamagazine.com/five-african-female-scientists-you-should-definitely-know-about/>