

# Black History Month Timeline Lesson Plan

Covering from the mid-1600s to present day, the web-based Richmond History Timeline (<https://thevalentine.org/explore/richmond-stories/interactive-timeline/>) seeks to give students the opportunity to put Richmond history in a larger historic context. There are over 500 entries on the timeline that cover everything from when Manchester was annexed into the city to the story of Lady Wonder, the psychic horse.

There are many ways the timeline may be used with students, here is one example.

## Essential Questions

### How did this event make a difference in our community?

- What caused the event to happen? What else was going on at that time (locally or nationally)?
- What were the effects afterward from the event? What impact did the event have on our community?

## Objectives

- Students will analyze 3-4 events from Richmond's Black History on the [Valentine's Richmond History Timeline](https://thevalentine.org/explore/richmond-stories/interactive-timeline/) (<https://thevalentine.org/explore/richmond-stories/interactive-timeline/>)
- Students will create a yearbook page representing their 3-4 events that includes a title that thematically connects the four events together, images and captions including how the events impacted our community.

## Virginia SOLs

Skills: Grades 4-6 and 9-12

Grade 11/12

- selecting and synthesizing evidence from information sources, including, but not limited to artifacts, primary and secondary sources, charts, graphs, and diagrams, to question and understand information about events in Virginia and United States history;
- determining cause and effect to analyze connections;
- developing products that reflect an understanding of research and content to make real-life connections;

## Materials

- Computer and internet connection to access timeline
- Word processing program to create yearbook page or art supplies to create yearbook page
- Pen, paper and/or markers if not using computer

- Printer

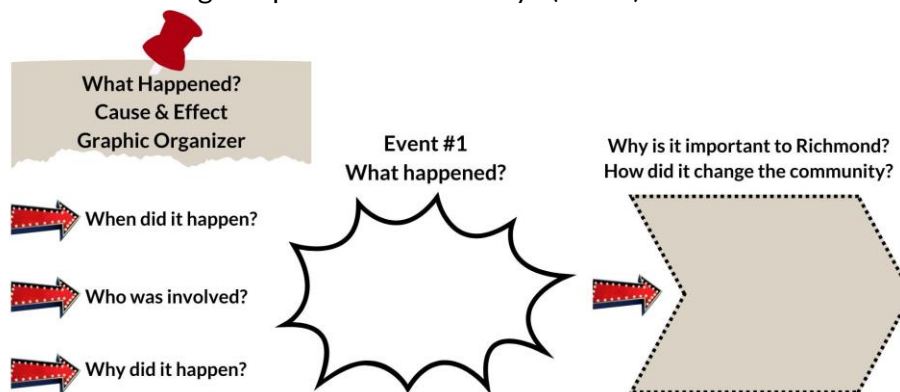
## Directions

There are **two parts** to this lesson plan. In the **first part**, students complete a cause/effect analysis of 3-4 events from a particular time period in Richmond's Black history. In the **second part**, students create a yearbook page highlighting those events and create a theme that ties the events together. **Part 1 and 2 may be used independently or together.**

### Part 1

#### What Happened? Identifying Cause and Effect using a Graphic Organizer.

1. Create student groups and assign each group 3-4 events from the attached list.
2. Students will find their events on the [Richmond History Timeline](#) and read them.
3. Students will fill out [What Happened graphic organizer](#) identifying the cause/effect for each event. Organizer may be downloaded from [<https://thevalentine.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/what-happened-graphic-organizer.pdf>] Questions from the organizer:
  - a. What happened?
  - b. When did it happen? (cause)
  - c. Who was involved? (cause)
  - d. Why did it happen? (cause)
  - e. Why is it important to Richmond? (effect)
  - f. How did it change/impact the community? (effect)



### Part 2

#### How are events connected? Weaving together events by creating a Yearbook Page.

1. Students will identify a theme that ties each of their 3-4 events together.

- Students will create a yearbook page that features all of their events and the theme they have created to connect these events. Students can use various tools (Word, Canva, etc.) to create the yearbook page depending on what they have available.





**Each page should contain:**

- 3-4 events (including date and event description)
  - 3-4 images (an image for each event)
  - Page title that reflects the theme and a short paragraph (3-5 sentences) explaining how all the events are connected and how they have changed or affected the Richmond community.
- Students will present their yearbook page to the class highlighting each event and the connections among the events and their impact those events had on the Richmond community.

[Sample yearbook page can be downloaded here:](#)



**What comes next...**

1868 Kidd Started Pickle Empire	1868 New Virginia State Constitution	1869 Virginia Public Schools Established	1870 Fire & Police Switched to New Telegraph System
At 16 years old, Ellen G. Kidd began making her grandmother's pickle recipe out of her parents' kitchen and selling them to friends and neighbors to make a little "pin money" or extra spending money.	John C. Underwood shepherded through the new state constitution that was adopted after the constitutional convention met in Richmond from 1867 until 1868. The constitution, created a free public school system, and established a state board of education.	After the ratification of the Underwood Constitution, A state supported public school system opened in Richmond offering a free education to all students. Schools were segregated by race until 1959 following federal courts' overturning of Virginia law.	By 1870, Richmond's hand-rung system was replaced by the Electric Fire Alarm and Police Telegraph System. Using call boxes, circuits, alarm bells, and a central control office, the system rang out a different code for each fire station.
			

After the Civil War ended in 1865, Richmond had to rebuild. In those years immediately following the war, a new state constitution was enacted, new businesses opened, a public and free school system was created, and services from the fire and police departments were upgraded. These developments helped Richmond lay the time to grow into a modern city.



## Black History Month Events List from Richmond History Timeline

1. **1619:** First General Assembly Convened and the First Africans Arrived
2. **1800:** Gabriel's Rebellion Spoiled
3. **1815:** Black Cemetery Opened On Northside
4. **1831:** Nat Turner's Rebellion
5. **1841:** First African Baptist Established
6. **1844:** Robert Lumpkin Operated Slave-Trading Complex
7. **1849:** Henry 'Box' Brown Mailed Himself To Freedom
8. **1850:** Fugitive Slave Act Passed
9. **1854:** Trial of Anthony Burns
10. **1863:** Emancipation Proclamation
11. **1871:** Jackson Ward Established
12. **1882:** Virginia State University Chartered
13. **1884:** John Mitchell Jr. "The Fighting Editor" Took Over The Richmond Planet Newspaper
14. **1888:** First Black-Owned Bank Established
15. **1891:** Evergreen Cemetery Company Established
16. **1893:** New Navy Hill School Built
17. **1895:** Leigh Street Armory Completed
18. **1895:** St. Emma Industrial & Agricultural School Opened
19. **1895:** Richmond Mother's Club Established in Jackson Ward
20. **1896:** Plessy v. Ferguson
21. **1897:** East End Cemetery Established
22. **1894:** True Reformer's Acquired Land in Westham for Home for the Elderly
23. **1899:** Virginia Union University Formed
24. **1899:** Maggie L. Walker Took Over St. Luke's
25. **1899:** St. Francis de Sales School Opened
26. **1902:** Medical and Chirurgical Society founded in Jackson Ward
27. **1903:** Maggie L. Walker Chartered The St. Luke Penny Savings Bank
28. **1904:** Miller's Hotel Opened in Jackson Ward
29. **1904:** Streetcar Boycott Organized To Fight Segregation
30. **1908:** Virginia Randolph Named First Henrico County Jeanes Industrial Teacher
31. **1914:** Hippodrome Theater Built
32. **1918:** Baker Street School Converted to Hospital For African Americans
33. **1920:** St. Philip Hospital Opened
34. **1939:** Armstrong-Walker Classic Played For The First Time
35. **1947:** Sister Rosetta Tharpe Moved To Richmond
36. **1948:** Oliver Hill Elected to Richmond City Council
37. **1956:** Richmond Crusade for Voters Founded

38. [1956](#): Barky's Record Shop Opened

## Black History Month Events List from Richmond History Timeline, page 2

39. [1960](#): Richmond 34 Protested Thalhimer's
40. [1960](#): Richmond Public Schools Began Integration
41. [1968](#): Richmond Reacted To King Assassination
42. [1968](#): Larry Bland Began as Creative Director for Richmond's Volunteer Choir
43. [1972](#): Richmond Mailman Began Giving Away Money
44. [1973](#): Bill "Bojangles" Robinson Honored with Statue
45. [1976](#): Whole Darn Family Band Released 7 Minutes of Funk
46. [1977](#): Henry L. Marsh, III Elected First Black Mayor
47. [1978](#): Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site Established
48. [1980](#): Abner Clay Park Dedicated
49. [1981](#): Black History Museum And Cultural Center Of Virginia Opened
50. [1988](#): 2nd Street Festival Began
51. [1990](#): Capital City Kwanzaa Festival Held
52. [1993](#): Soul Santa Visits Began
53. [1994](#): Human Remains Found At VCU Construction Site
54. [1996](#): VSU and VUU Played First Freedom Classic
55. [1996](#): Arthur Ashe Statue Dedicated on Monument Avenue
56. [1998](#): Richmond City Council Slave Trail Commission Established
57. [2004](#): L. Douglas Wilder Elected Mayor
58. [2008](#): Civil Rights Memorial Dedicated On Capitol Square
59. [2017](#): Maggie Lena Walker Memorial Plaza Dedicated
60. [2019](#): Boulevard Renamed For Arthur Ashe
61. [2019](#): Rumors of War Unveiled on Arthur Ashe Boulevard
62. [2021](#): Emancipation and Freedom Monument Unveiled On Brown's Island

**\*\*This is an incomplete list of Black History in Richmond. We add entries to the Richmond History Timeline every month and will update this list periodically. If your students want to research a Black History moment for the timeline please contact [education@thevalentine.org](mailto:education@thevalentine.org). We would be happy to work with your class to create timeline entries.**