

Name: _____


Date: _____

Black History Month: Modern Influencers

Directions: Black History Month is an excellent time to learn about the history of this community and the influential figures who have broken barriers and created change. However, there are many modern influencers who are making changes in our world. First, spend some time defining and thinking about what an influencer is. Then, read about each of the modern influencers and reflect on how they use their voices to spark progress.

 **In your own words, define what an “influencer” is.**

 **How can an influencer impact the people who listen to them?**

 **If you could be an influencer, what would you try to change or “influence?” Who would you try to influence? Why?**


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Black History Month: Modern Influencers

Directions: Read the short biographies about Ketanji Brown Jackson and Kimberlé Crenshaw. Each of these women can be considered powerhouses and changemakers. After you read, you'll compare and contrast each woman's story. Don't forget to use close reading strategies, answer all questions in complete sentences, and proofread your writing.

Ketanji Brown Jackson	Kimberlé Crenshaw
<p>Ketanji Brown Jackson is a Black American lawyer and the first Black woman to serve as a Supreme Court Justice. The Supreme Court has a lot of power in America. There are a total of nine judges who work together to make big decisions.</p> <p>Jackson has had influence as a judge by making decisions about immigration laws, environmental protection, and the treatment of prisoners.</p> <p>Jackson has strong skills in debate. She joined her Miami high school's Debate Team, where she advanced her skills in arguing. In her early career, she also worked as a writer for a magazine.</p>	<p>Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw is a Black American civil rights advocate.</p> <p>Crenshaw is the person who introduced the idea of "intersectionality" to the public. This word helps people understand that the parts of a person's identity can impact their experiences. For example, the combination of a person's race, gender, or other characteristics can have an influence on their experiences. In particular, Crenshaw has written and spoken about the experiences of women of color.</p> <p>Crenshaw has reflected that her parents always kept her engaged in conversations about the world around her.</p>

 **Question:** Now that you know about Jackson and Crenshaw, explain their influence on the lives of others. Which groups of people can they influence? Why?


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Black History Month: Modern Influencers

Directions: Read the short biographies about Victor Glover Jr. and Jerome Foster II. Each of these men can be considered influencers in their different fields. After you read, you'll compare and contrast each man's story. Don't forget to use close reading strategies, answer all questions in complete sentences, and proofread your writing.

Victor Glover Jr.	Jerome Foster II
<p>Victor Glover Jr. is a Black American astronaut.</p> <p>As a young man, Glover was inspired by his father, who was an engineer, and his grandfather, who flew planes during the Korean War.</p> <p>Glover first worked for the Navy and has flown over 3,000 flight hours. He is the first Black American to live at, not just visit, the International Space Station (ISS). While there, he worked with other astronauts to make repairs and upgrades to keep the ISS in good working condition.</p> <p>In 2025, Glover will pilot the Artemis II mission, which will fly past the moon, a mission that hasn't happened since 1972.</p>	<p>Jerome Foster II is a Black American environmental activist. He is the youngest person ever to advise the White House on environmental policy.</p> <p>He has participated in numerous events, rallies, and protests to bring awareness to the public about the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>When he was in high school, he created virtual reality environments so his peers could experience environmental simulations. Additionally, he started a digital newspaper called <i>The Climate Reporter</i>, to inspire his peers to become more educated about climate change. He has also been working with a local Board of Education, offering his voice on a number of matters to help current students.</p>

 **Question:** Now that you know about Glover and Foster, explain their influence on the lives of others. Which groups of people can they influence? Why?

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Black History Month: Modern Influencers

Directions: Choose your own “Modern Influencer” for Black History Month. Conduct some simple research and/ or add details about what you know and write a short biography about that person’s life and accomplishments. You can use the questions below as a guide. For your “Modern Influencer,” you can choose a politician, scientist, teacher, artist, writer, athlete, or someone else who you find inspirational and influential.

Modern Influencer Details

Name: _____

Where is this person from?

What are their accomplishments?

Who do they influence and how do they influence them?
