VPR and Vermont PBS Announce Free Black History Month Learning Resources for Vermont Families

Films, activities and more for children and teens age preschool through high school

Colchester, Vt., February 1, 2022 – In honor of Black History Month, VPR and Vermont PBS have assembled a wide range of activities and lessons from within the PBS Parents and PBS Learning Media (PBSLM) environments to deepen children’s understanding of Black history. Available free to families and teachers, the resources support at-home or classroom learning for children of all ages and are part of an on-going partnership between Vermont PBS and the Vermont Department of Education.

“This collection of films, activities, and resources about Black History Month gives parents the support to start important conversations with their kids,” said Scott Finn, president and CEO of VPR and Vermont PBS. “These topics are important throughout the year, and with kids of every age. And many, like the writing prompt, are great for adults, too.”

For young children, the collection Vermont PBS has assembled includes the “I have a dream” vision board activity from PBS Parents and a PBSLM writing prompt inspired by an interview with Patricia and Frederick McKissack.

For children in middle school, VPR’s Timeline podcast connects to Florence Price’s story about the Great Migration to Chicago and Harlem. And on February 17 at 8:00 pm, Vermont PBS’ Made Here will broadcast Legacy of Love, a film that brings to light the mostly unknown story of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott. The story focuses on their formative years in 1950’s Boston where they met as students, fell in love, overcame the odds, and started on the road to becoming worldwide leaders and iconic symbols for the civil rights of people all over the world.

For high school students and adults, on February 8 at 9:00 pm, Vermont PBS will broadcast Marian Anderson: The Whole World in Her Hands from American Masters, about the international singer who captivated royalty in Europe and defied the conscience of 1939 America. Then on February 10 at 8:00 pm, Made Here will air The Price of Safety, which explores conversations of over-policing and racial bias as they unfold in Vergennes, Vermont. And on February 15 at 9:00 pm, watch The American Diplomat from American Experience and discover how three Black diplomats broke racial barriers at the US State Department during the Cold War.

Teachers can explore more ways to incorporate PBS programming on Black history using these guides from the Vermont Department of Education on Incorporating American Experience into
Your Classroom, Incorporating American Masters into Your Classroom and American Masters – Programming and Resources.

PBS Parents offers a wide variety of videos, readings, suggested questions to discuss, and more for parents to explore as they celebrate and teach Black history. Available to both parents or teachers, PBS Learning Media provides recommended collections for PreK-12 resources for in-person or remote instruction, either with or without internet access. These are anytime, anywhere resources.

For more Black History Month programming on Vermont PBS, visit vermontpbs.org/blackhistorymonth.

About VPR & Vermont PBS
VPR & Vermont PBS merged in July 2021 to become Vermont’s unified public media organization, serving the community with trusted journalism, quality entertainment, and rich educational programming that is accessible and inclusive to all. Its statewide radio and TV networks reach all of Vermont, as well as parts of New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts and Quebec, Canada. More information about programs, stations and services are available at VPR.org and vermontpbs.org.

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