

**Southern University Ag Center and College of Agricultural,  
Family and Consumer Sciences**

**Middle School Black History Quiz Bowl Championship  
Study Guide**

Tuesday Feb.27, 2024

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Southern University: Steward Hall

Prepared by

SU AG Center Staff

**Registration Deadline: Friday, February 16, 2024**

**Teams (4 members plus one alternate)**

**Email Team Rosters to [owusu.banede@gmail.com](mailto:owusu.banede@gmail.com)**

Note: This guide includes questions and answers from previous quiz bowls with some updates. They will be reworded this year. Recent current events questions will also be added.

## Middle 1

1. What is the full name of the SNCC? Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.
2. What name is given to members of SNCC and others who attempted to integrate bus seating in the South? Freedom Riders
3. \*\*\*Who invented the Super Soaker and what was his other place of employment? Lonnie Johnson; NASA (National Aeronautics Space Administration)
4. \*\*Who is the only African American in the U.S. Congress from Louisiana and who previously held that position? Troy Carter, Cedric Richmond
5. Who assisted Malcolm X in the writing of his autobiography? Alex Haley
6. Southern University and Grambling meet each November in what historical football game? Bayou Classic
7. \*\*\*\*Who were the Southern 16 and what happened to their case? They were arrested for conducting a sit-in demonstration in downtown Baton Rouge in 1960; They won their case at the Supreme Court
8. \*\*\*What was the Plessy vs. Ferguson case about? Homer Plessy was arrested for sitting in a “Whites only” section on a train in Louisiana. The case went to the Supreme Court in 1896. The court ruled against Plessy and thus legalized segregation.
9. What action was taken this year concerning Homer Plessy? He was posthumously (after death) pardoned by Governor John Bel Edwards
10. \*\*\*In what year did Southern University open and in what city was the university founded? New Orleans, 1881
11. \*\*\*Who was the lead actor in the movie “The Black Panther”, and in what mythical country did it take place? Chadwick Boseman, Wakanda
12. \*\*Who played Jackie Robinson in the movie of his life, and what was Jackie Robinson’s historical significance? Chadwick Boseman; Robinson was the first African American player to play major league baseball.
13. In what league did African American players play before they were allowed to play major league baseball? Negro Baseball League
14. Alicia Garcia, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi were cofounders of what organization? Black Lives Matter
15. \*\*\*\*What two cities have the highest number of African Americans in the U.S. New York, Chicago

## Middle 2

1. \*\*\*What important Supreme Court decision was decided in 1954 and what African American lawyer from the NAACP argued the case in the court? Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education case, Thurgood Marshall
2. What was the importance of the Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education case? It outlawed segregation in public schools
3. For decades there were demonstrations around the world protesting apartheid in South Africa. What was apartheid? Segregation of the races
4. \*Who was the first Black African to be elected president of South Africa and in what year was he elected? Nelson Mandela, 1994
- 5.
6. How many years was Nelson Mandela imprisoned before his release in 1990? Twenty-seven. He was imprisoned for fighting against apartheid from 1963-1990
7. \*\*\*What type of company was Motown and who founded it? Music production, Barry Gordy
8. \*\*\*In what city and state was Motown started? Detroit, Michigan
9. New Orleans, Louisiana, Detroit, Michigan and Flint, Michigan are all cities with substantial Black populations. They all share what problem with water supplies. Unsafe concentrations of lead
10. In 1983, he became the first African American mayor of Chicago. Name him. Harold Washington; Lori Lightfoot
11. \*\*\*In what year did the Baton Rouge Bus Boycott take place and who was its leader? 1953, T.J. Jemison
12. What is Frederick Douglass' famous quote about progress? "If there is no struggle, there is no progress".
13. \*\*She founded a historically Black college in Florida. Name her and the college. Mary McCloud Bethune, Bethune Cookman College
14. He served as acting governor in Louisiana during Reconstruction. P.B.S. Pinchback
15. Governor John Bel Edwards has been accused of being part of the cover-up of the murder of what individual who was killed by Louisiana state police? Ronald Green

### Middle 3

1. The airport in Jackson, Mississippi is named after what civil rights activist? Medgar Evers
2. \*\*\*What civil rights organization did Evers belong to and why was he murdered? NAACP; he was murdered because of his work in trying to get voting rights for African Americans
3. \*\*\*\*\*Give the full name of the NAACP as well as the year in which it was founded. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 1909
4. Who was the first African American man to serve as attorney general during the Obama years? Eric Holder
5. Elisha "E.J." Williams stars as Dean Williams in what new television series based on an old series that featured a White family. *The Wonder Years*
6. \*\*\*A group of northern Africans conquered and ruled a European country from 711 AD until 1492 and greatly influenced the culture there. Name the group and the European country that they conquered. Moors, Spain
7. \*\*\*Who became mayor of Baton Rouge in 2016, and who did she appoint as police chief? Sharon Weston Brome, Murphy Paul
8. \*\*\*Name the enslaved African who led a successful revolt on a slave ship and what was the name of that ship. Cinque, Amistad
9. How was Cinque able to return to Africa.? He won his case before the Supreme Court because the Atlantic slave trade was illegal at that time
10. Last year, this Southern University graduate and former wide receiver was inducted into the NFL Pro Football Hall of Fame. Harold Carmichael
11. Who started Negro History Week, later to become Black History Month? Carter G. Woodson
12. \*\*\*What honorary title was given to Carter G. Woodson and what organization did he establish? Father of Black History; Association for the Study of African American Life and History
13. In spite of evidence and proof to the contrary, many Whites spread the false rumor that Barack Obama was born in what country? Kenya
14. What is the capital of Kenya? Nairobi
15. In 2018, in the U.S. Open tennis championship, Naomi Osaka, defeated what great tennis player? Serena Williams

## Middle 4

1. What position does educator Dennis Shields hold? President of Southern University
2. Who has been selected to replace Dr. Belton when he retires? Dr. Dennis Shields
3. \*\*\*Who is the best known African American astrophysicist and what recommendation did he make concerning the solar system? Neil deGrasse Tyson; Pluto is no longer a planet
4. How many African American women are currently in the U.S. Senate? None
5. The former mayor of Newark, New Jersey is now a U.S. Senator. He also was a presidential candidate in the 2016 election. Name him. Corey Booker
6. \*\*\*\*This physician has been called the true father of medicine. Name him and the area of Africa where he lived. Imhotep, Egypt
7. What other skills did Imhotep possess in addition to medical knowledge? Designer of pyramids
8. During the 1920s and 1930s a period of great music, art, and writing took place, centered in New York. By what name is the period known? Harlem Renaissance
9. What man is considered by many to be the most famous poet of the Harlem Renaissance? Langston Hughes
10. \*\*\*\*The leader of an African country proclaimed 2019 as the year of the return. Name the country and the purpose of the year of the return. Ghana; encouraged African Americans to reconnect with their African roots by visiting Ghana
11. What is the significance of the 13<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment? Abolished slavery except for punishment of a crime
12. What movie depicted the life of Solomon Northup? 12 Years A Slave
13. \*\*\*One was a minister and a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SNCC). The other was a young Black Panther leader who was assassinated by law enforcement officials in Chicago. They both share the same first name: Fred. Name them. Fred Shuttlesworth; Fred Hampton
14. Leonard Julien received a patent for what type of agricultural machine? Sugar cane planter
15. Name one student leader in South Africa who was killed for fighting against apartheid. Steve Biko
16. How many NBA championships did the Boston Celtics win while Bill Russell was their center? 11
17. Viola Davis won an Academy Award for her performance in what movie? Fences
18. The movie "Fences" was based on a play with the same title. Who wrote the play? August Wilson
19. This former Southern University athlete has coached the University of Alabama men's basketball team and is now a sports commentator on CBS. Avery Johnson,
20. He escaped enslavement by hijacking a Confederate ship and sailing into waters controlled by the Union army. He later was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Robert Smalls
21. \*\*\*\*One was a member of SNCC and a freedom rider. The other led a popular all-girls singing group. They both share very similar first names (Diane and Diana). What is the full name of each? Diane Nash, Diana Ross

## Middle 5

1. Give the popular name for the Southern University marching band. Human Jukebox
2. In 1831, He carried out a slave revolt in Southampton, Virginia. Nat Turner
3. \*\*\*Name two other leaders of slave revolts that took place in the U.S. Denmark Vesey, Gabriel Prosser
4. What does HBCU stand for? Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
5. In addition to Southern University in New Orleans name another HBCU in New Orleans. Dillard or Xavier University
6. \*\*\*\*Name two African American quarterbacks who led their teams to Super Bowl victories. Doug Williams, Russell Wilson, Patrick Mahomes
7. \*\*\*\*Doug Williams played for a legendary coach who won over 400 games. Name him and the team that he coached. Eddie Robinson, Grambling State University
8. She came from a family of sharecroppers to become a leader in the struggle for voting rights in Mississippi. Fannie Lou Hamer
9. \*\*\*\*What organization did Fannie Lou Hamer help start and why was this organization started? Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party; The Democratic Party in Mississippi would not allow Blacks to join and vote
10. What was Fannie Lou Hamer's most famous quote? "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired".
11. What is the significance of the 14<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment? All persons born or naturalized in the U.S. are citizens; also calls for equal protection of the law.
12. What political position does LaToya Cantrell hold? Mayor of New Orleans
13. \*\*\*Name the first African American woman and the first African American man to win a tennis championship at Wimbledon, England. Althea Gibson, Arthur Ashe
14. \*This young reverend was present at the assassination of Dr. King. Name him and his famous three-word quote. Jesse Jackson, "I am somebody."
15. \*\*\*Name two of the three great ancient kingdoms of Africa. Ghana, Mali Songhai
16. er
17. What did the Central Park 5 and the Groveland 4 have in common? They were both groups of young Black men accused of violent crimes who were later exonerated.
18. \*\*This series is about an African American family that owns a sugar cane farm in Louisiana. Name the series along with the director who created it. *Queen Sugar*, Ava Duvernay
19. \*\*\*Ava Duvernay also directed one film about an historic civil rights march. She also directed a series about the Central Park Five, and another series about an NFL athlete. Name any two of these films. *Selma*, *When They See Us*, and *Colin in Black and White*.

## Middle 6

1. \*\*Name the player who holds the record for most points scored in an NBA game as well as the number of points that he scored. Wilt Chamberlain, 100-point
2. Born in Baltimore County, Maryland, this surveyor, mathematician and astronomer helped to layout the boundaries of the new city of Washington, D.C. Benjamin Banneker
3. \*\*\*Give two other notable achievements of the creative Mr. Benjamin Banneker. Invented a clock from all wooden parts; wrote an almanac
4. \*\*\*Who was called “the Moses of her people” and why? Harriet Tubman; she made numerous trips South to lead enslaved people out of the South by way of the Underground Railroad
5. \*\*\*\*\*In 1893, he performed an amazing medical operation. Name him and describe the operation that he successfully performed. Daniel Hale Williams, open heart surgery
6. \*\*\*One was the author of an autobiography entitled *Becoming*. Another wrote her autobiography entitled *Just As I Am*. Name the two authors. Michelle Obama, Cicely Tyson
7. \*\*\*\*African Americans disproportionately suffer from these two diseases, both of which can be worsened by poor diet and lack of exercise. Hypertension, diabetes
8. \*\*\*In 1964, this armed group was formed in a small Louisiana town. Name the group and the town where it was founded. Deacons For Defense, Jonesboro
9. What was the purpose of the Deacons for Defense? To protect students and civil rights workers from violent attacks from the Ku Klux Klan
10. What role did Janette Houston Harris play in the civil rights struggle? She participated in the sit-in demonstration in 1960 in Baton Rouge (She went on to earn a Ph.D. from Howard University after her expulsion from Southern University because of her participation in demonstrations).
11. \*\*\*She came very close to being elected governor in 2018 and is running for governor again this year. Name her and the state in which she is running. Stacey Abrams, Georgia
12. \*\*\*Name the National Black Anthem and tell who wrote the words. Lift Every Voice and Sing, James Weldon Johnson
13. What university once sold 272 enslaved people to raise money for that school? Georgetown University
14. “Up From Slavery” is an autobiography of what famous person? Booker T. Washington
15. What is Ralph Ellison’s most famous book? “Invisible Man”
16. “Dear Mama Don’t you know I love you. Dear Mama, place no one above you.” What rapper included those words in a song about his mother? Tupac Shakur
17. Why are schools closed in Berkeley, California on May 19? Birthday of Malcolm X
18. Who wrote “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings”? Maya Angelou
19. The title “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” is based on a poem title by what writer? Paul Lawrence Dunbar
20. Regina King won an Oscar for her role in what movie? *If Beale Street Could Talk*.
21. *If Beale Street Could Talk* is based on a book by the same name written by what author? James Baldwin
22. \*\*What African American was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2020 and in what state was that election held? Raphael Warnock, Georgia

## Middle 7

1. \*\*\*Name one current and one former leader of the Nation of Islam. Elijah Muhammad, Louis Farrakhan
2. What medical technology was discovered by Dr. Charles Drew? A better way to store blood plasma that is used in blood transfusions
3. What institute of higher learning was founded by Booker T. Washington? Tuskegee Institute or University
4. Who was Tuskegee University's most famous scientist? Dr. George Washington Carver
5. \*\*\*Give two crops for which Dr. Carver found many uses. Sweet potato, peanuts
6. \*\*\*Give two practices advocated by Dr. Carver that are used by organic farmers today. Crop rotation, composting, and planting cover crops to decrease erosion
7. This "small farm guru" was a professor at Southern University and then at Tuskegee. He encouraged small farmers to plant and sell fruits and vegetables rather than cotton and soybeans because profits could be greater on small farms. Dr. Booker T. Whatley
8. This lady headed the National Council of Negro Women for over 40 years. Dorothy Height
9. Until last year, which NBA star holds the record for most points scored over his 20 year playing career, and who now holds that record? Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Lebron James
10. By what name is the period from 1865-1877 known? Reconstruction
11. \*\*\*These two men were U.S. Senators from Mississippi during Reconstruction. Name them. Hiram Revels, Blanche Bruce
12. \*\*\* Who was the first and second African American to serve as Secretary of State? Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice
13. \*\*\*What militant organization was founded in 1966 and in what city was it founded? Black Panther Party, Oakland, California
14. \*\*\*Name two early leaders of the Black Panther Party. Huey Newton, Bobby Seale, Eldridge Cleaver
15. He was one of the very first explorers to reach the North Pole. Matthew Henson
16. He received the Sports Illustrated Muhammad Ali Legacy Award in 2017 and the Amnesty International Ambassador of Conscience Award in 2018. Colin Kaepernick
17. \*\*How did Colin Kaepernick protest and what is the reason for that protest? Not standing during the National Anthem; Unfair treatment of African Americans and people of color
18. What price has Colin Kaepernick paid for demonstrating against racial injustices? He has not been allowed to play in the NFL.

Middle 8

1. Scientist Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, and Dorothy Vaughn all worked for what United States agency? National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
2. W.E.B. DuBois was a founding member of the NAACP in 1909. What was his most famous book? The Souls of Black Folk
3. His brutal murder in Money Mississippi in 1955 sparked many to join the fight against racism and racial violence Emmett Till
4. \*\*\*Who initiated the Million Man March, and in what year did it take place? Louis Farrakhan, 1995
5. \*\*\*Give two practical inventions of Garrett Morgan. Traffic Light, Gas Mask
6. \*\*Name the two Southern University hurdlers who both won Olympic gold medals. Rodney Davenport, Rodney Milburn
7. Who was the first African American to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court? Thurgood Marshall
8. Frederick Douglass established what abolitionist newspaper? The North Star
9. What African American currently serves on the U.S. Supreme Court? Clarence Thomas
10. In 1960, four students from what HBCU conducted a sit-in demonstration at a lunch counter? North Carolina A and T
11. Before there were similar government programs, this organization started a free breakfast program for children before they went off to school. Black Panther Party
12. What is the significance of the 15<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment? No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, or previous conditions of servitude.
13. How were African Americans kept from voting in spite of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment? Violence, fear of losing jobs, unfair literacy tests, poll tax, unconstitutional grandfather clause.
14. White Republican lawmakers in several states have recently passed laws that make it difficult for African Americans to vote. Describe two provisions found in these laws. Closing voting polling places in Black communities; very strict voter identification requirements; discontinuing Sunday voting (Many Black churches have voting drives on Sundays).
15. Bessie Coleman was the first African American women to earn what type of license? Pilot license

Middle 9

1. Most White voters in Louisiana voted for him for governor in 1991. Only the heavily African American vote kept this white supremacist and former Klansman from becoming governor. David Duke
2. \*\*\*\*Tarana Burke is one of the founders. Name this organization and its purpose. Me Too Movement, to combat sexual harassment and violence
3. What team did basketball star Anthony Davis join after leaving the New Orleans Pelicans? Los Angeles Lakers
4. This outstanding pitcher was one of the very few women in the Negro Baseball League. Mamie Johnson
5. Who was Henry “Box” Brown? He escaped slavery by having himself shipped in a box to Philadelphia
6. His death in Minnesota at the hands of police led to worldwide protests. George Floyd
7. Who was nominated for an Academy Award for the movie “Mudbound”? Mary J. Blige
8. What is the shortened name for the Congress of Racial Equality? CORE
9. Name a current or former basketball coach for Georgetown University. John Thompson Sr, John Thompson Jr, Patrick Ewing
10. This former member of the U.S. House of Representatives who is a practicing Muslim is now Attorney General in Minnesota. Keith Ellison
11. He established the Legacy Museum in 2018 in Montgomery, Alabama. Bryan Stevenson
12. Part of the Legacy Museum contains 800 jars of soil. What is the significance of those jars of soil? The samples are from sites where African Americans were lynched. (There were over 4,000 reported lynchings in the U.S. from 1877-1950.)
13. Bryan Stevenson is also the founder of an organization that advocates for prison reform and has assisted several wrongfully convicted inmates in obtaining freedom. Name the organization. Equal Justice Initiative
14. \*\*Bryan Stevenson’s work to free an innocent prisoner was featured in a movie entitled *Just Mercy*. Name the two stars of that movie. Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Fox
15. \*\*She was killed in Louisville, Kentucky while he was killed in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Both were innocent citizens killed by police executing “no knock” warrants. Breonna Taylor, Amir Locke

## Tossups

1. Until this year, he held the record for most points scored in his career. Name him and the player who now holds that record. Kareem Abdul
2. Her hits include “Girl On Fire”, “If I Ain’t Got You” and “No One”. Alicia Keys
3. Todd Bowles and Mike Tomlin both hold what positions in the NFL? Coaches
4. Ghana is now a country, not an empire. What great African American is buried there? W.E.B. Dubois. His wife Shirley is also buried there
5. \*\* One was an outstanding jazz singer, and the other was an adviser to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Name the two Ellas. Ella Fitzgerald, Ella Baker
6. \*\*\*\*He was named Southwestern Athletic Conference Coach of the Year. Name him and the team that he coached. Deion Sanders, Jackson State
7. What Louisiana native currently serves as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations? Linda Thomas Greenfield
8. She graduated from Southern University and went on to become the first African.
9. American woman to earn a PhD in political science. She has been called “The Mother of Black Political Science”. Dr. Jewel Prestage
8. Isabella Baumfree is known by what other name? Sojourner Truth
9. \*\*\* Sojourner Truth spoke out about several issues of her time. Name two of those issues. Abolition of slavery; women’s rights
10. In 1968, athletes John Carlos and Tommy Smith won 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 200-meter dash in the Olympic Games. During the awards, they both protested the treatment of African Americans. How did they carry out their protest? By raising their fists.
11. The Student Union at Southern University is named the Smith-Brown Memorial Union after Denver Smith and Leonard Brown. What were the circumstances of their deaths in 1972? They were killed by police during a peaceful student demonstration.
12. In May 1970 police opened fire on anti-war demonstration at an HBCU. One college student and one high school student were both killed, and several others injured. This occurred at an HBCU? Jackson State University
13. What female activist and college professor is the author of “If They Come in the Morning”? Angela Davis
14. This athlete helped open the I Promise Public School in Akron, Ohio. He has also won three NBA basketball championships. Lebron James
15. This tennis great has helped to build schools in Jamaica and Africa. Serena Williams