



**Sarah Breedlove Walker**, known as "Madame C. J. Walker," invented a hair softener and straightening comb. In doing so, Walker became the first African American woman to become a millionaire.

*Sarah Breedlove Walker*

# Black Writers

Maya Angelou became one of America's favorite poets when she read an original poem at former president Bill Clinton's inauguration! Maya Angelou is just one of the many black writers who are introducing new thoughts and ideas to our culture.

Gwendolyn Brooks, W.E.B. Du Bois, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Langston Hughes, and Countee Cullen are other examples of excellent black writers and poets.





**ROSA PARKS (1913– ).** Civil-rights activist. On December 1, 1955, Parks had the courage to refuse to give up her seat to a white person on a crowded bus in Montgomery, Alabama. She

was arrested and tried, triggering the boycott organized by Martin Luther King, Jr. Desegregated service on the bus system began on December 21.



**Harriet Tubman.** Harriet Tubman once said, "I think slavery is the next thing to hell." She herself was a slave who worked hard from the age of six until she was about 28, when she heard that she was to be sold and separated from her family. Tubman ran away, and with the help of willing hands along the Underground Railroad, she traveled north to Philadelphia. In 1850, after the passage of the second Fugitive Slave Act,

Tubman moved to Canada, but she continued to assist fugitive slaves. Rewards of up to \$12,000 were posted in the U.S. for her capture, and Tubman always traveled armed. But she never was captured, and she never lost a "railroad" passenger. Tubman led so many people to freedom along the Underground Railroad that she was compared to the prophet Moses, who led the Jews out of slavery to the Promised Land.

# Thurgood Marshall

Thurgood Marshall was appointed to serve as the first black Supreme Court Justice. He was also a very smart civil rights lawyer.

Thurgood Marshall won many cases that changed the lives of blacks, women, and the poor. America enjoys racial justice today in part because of Thurgood Marshall!



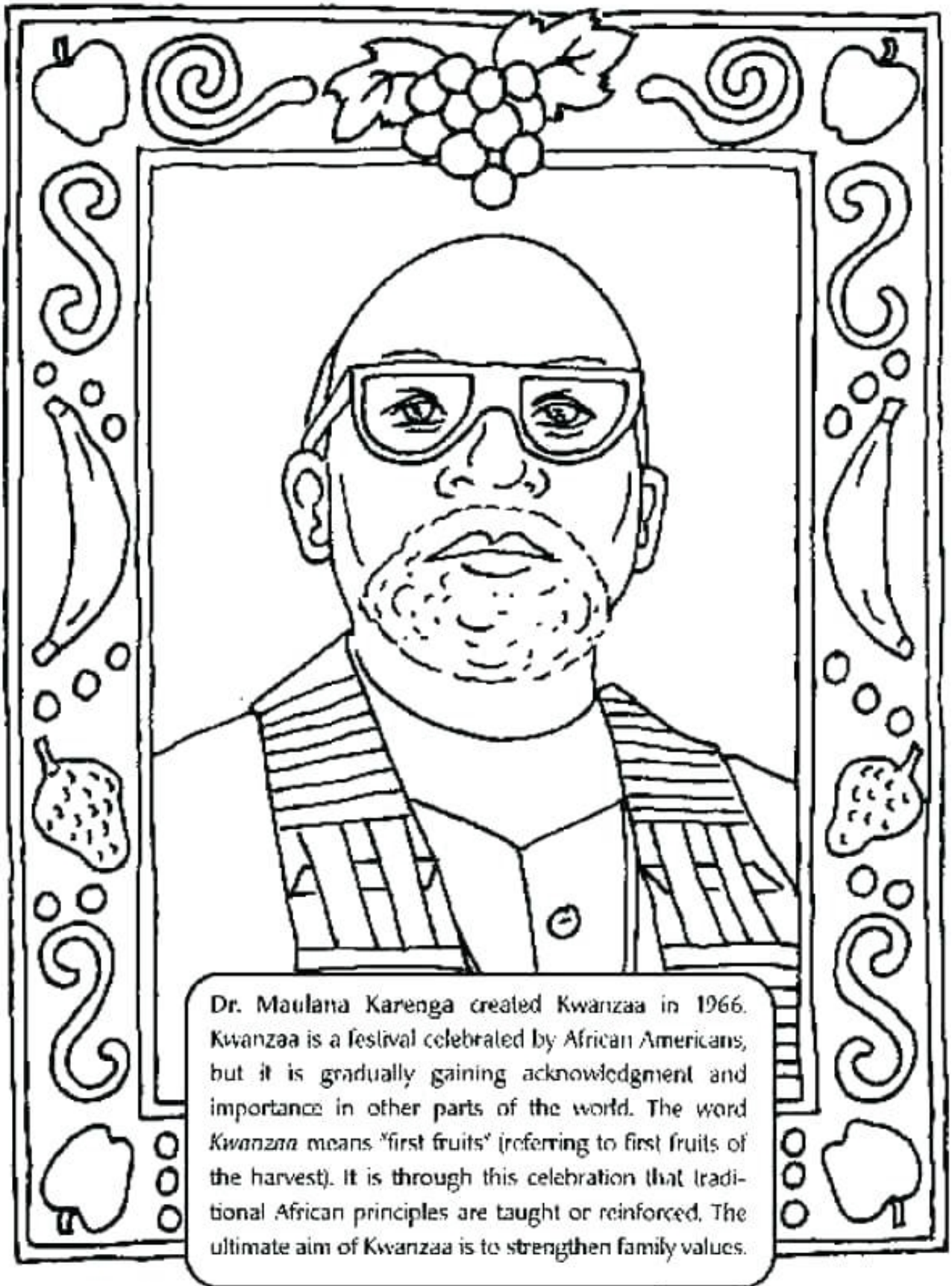




**Henry "Box" Brown.** Henry Brown, a Virginia slave, decided that because he was considered a "white man's property" he would, in his escape attempt, travel as a piece of property. He persuaded a carpenter to build him a box lined with fabric, just long enough for Brown to sit in. Then, with a small supply of biscuits, water, and a small hand drill, he got into the box and had himself

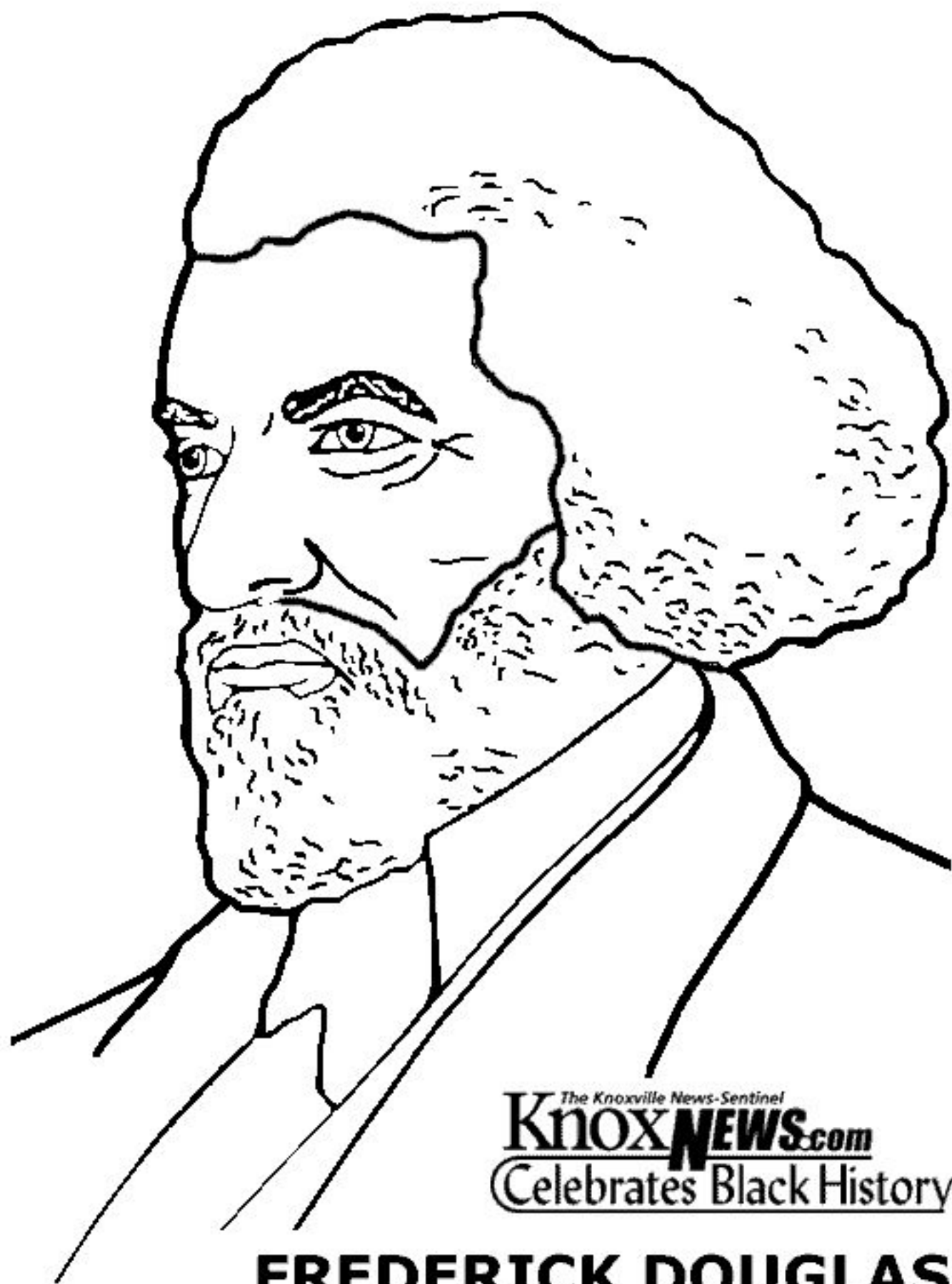
sealed and shipped to Philadelphia. It was a long, uncomfortable trip, but the crate was eventually delivered to the Anti Slave Society 26 hours later. When the lid was pried off the box, Henry Brown stiffly rose to his feet, saying, "How do you do, gentlemen?" From that day on he was known as Henry "Box" Brown, a hero to the anti-slavery cause.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



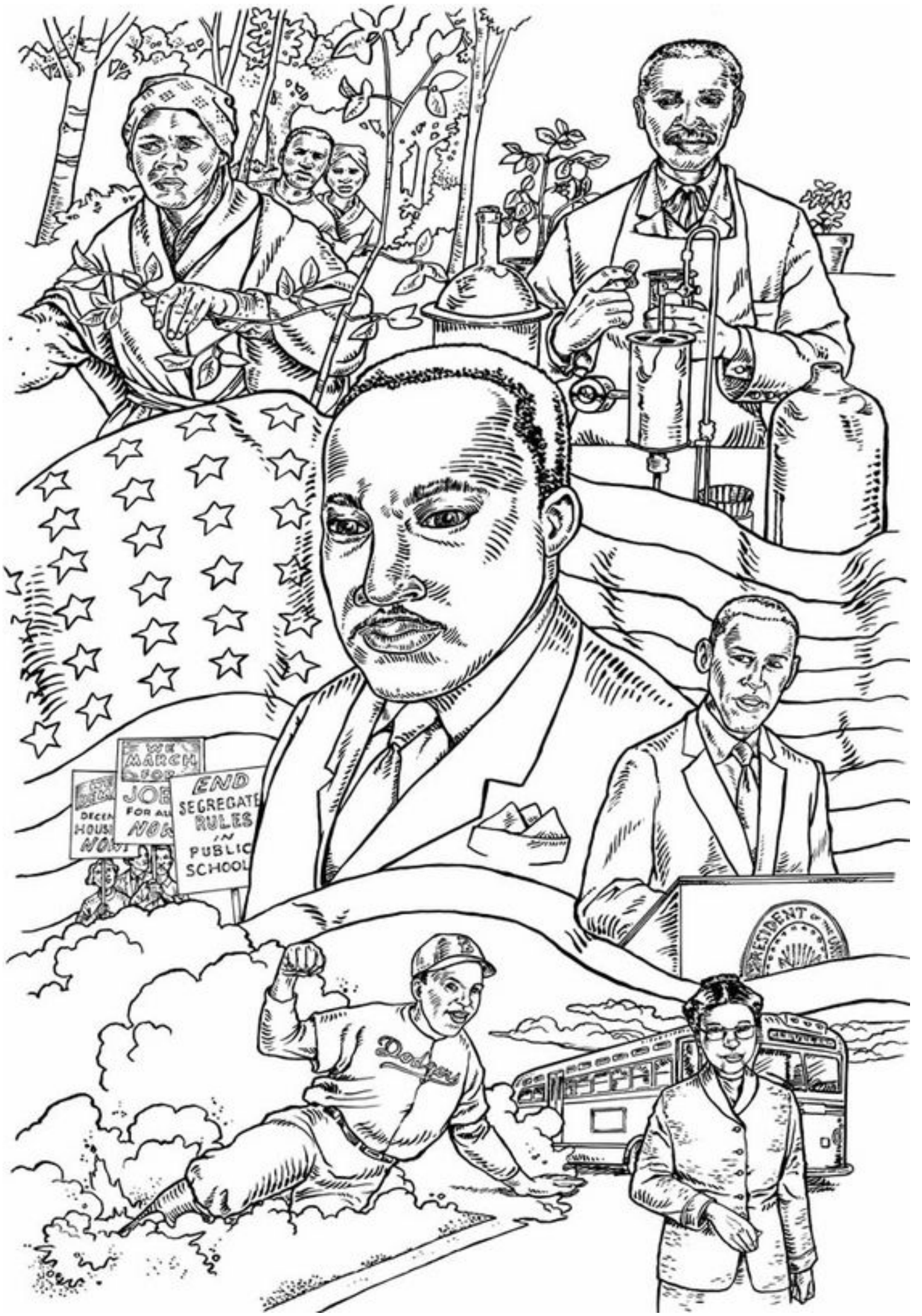
*Dr. Maulana Karenga*

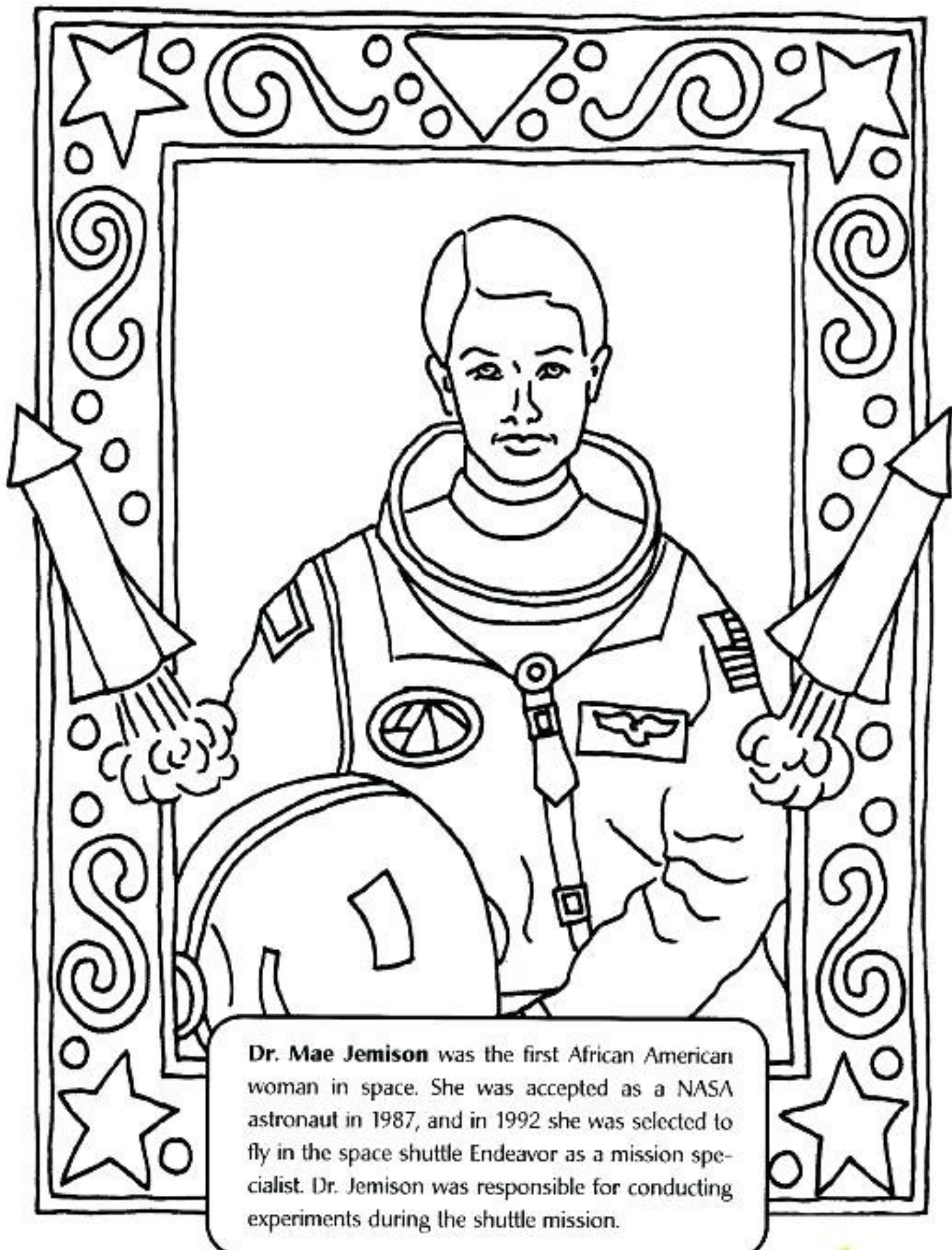




The Knoxville News-Sentinel  
**KNOXNEWS.com**  
Celebrates Black History

**FREDERICK DOUGLAS**





**Dr. Mae Jemison** was the first African American woman in space. She was accepted as a NASA astronaut in 1987, and in 1992 she was selected to fly in the space shuttle Endeavor as a mission specialist. Dr. Jemison was responsible for conducting experiments during the shuttle mission.



**Booker T. Washington (1850-1915) born a slave, founded the Normal and Industrial Institute at Tuskegee to teach skills and practical knowledge.**

**He soon became the foremost black educator in the country.**