

## Bessie Coleman

(1892-1926)

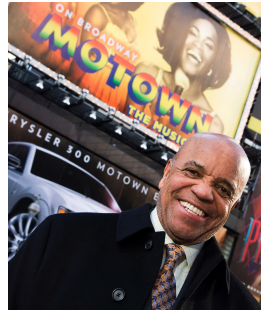


Bessie Coleman was the first black woman to earn a pilot's license. Because flying schools in the United States

denied her entry, she taught herself French and moved to France, earning her international license from France's well-known Caudron Brother's School of Aviation in just seven months. In 1922, aviator Bessie Coleman became the first African American woman to stage a public flight in America. Her high-flying skills always wowed her audience.

## Berry Gordy Jr.

(1929-)



Berry Gordy Jr. founded Motown Records, the most successful black owned music company in the history of the United States. Born in 1929 in Detroit, Berry Gordy Jr. founded Motown Records in 1959. The 1960s and '70s saw popular artists who Gordy developed—including the

Supremes, the Jackson 5, Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye—dominate the music scene. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame that same year.

## Jocelyn Elders

(1933-)

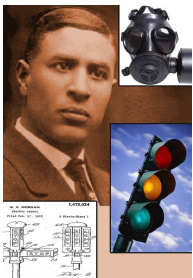


Jocelyn Elders, the first person in the state of Arkansas to become board certified in pediatric endocrinology, was the sixteenth

Surgeon General of the United States, the first African American and only the second woman to head the U.S. Public Health Service. Long an outspoken advocate of public health, Elders was appointed Surgeon General by President Clinton in 1993.

## Garrett Morgan

(1877-1963)



With only an elementary school education, Garrett Morgan, born in Kentucky on March 4, 1877, blazed a trail for African-American inventors by patenting several inventions, including an improved sewing machine and traffic signal, a

hair-straightening product, and a respiratory device that would later provide the blueprint for WWI gas masks.

## Madam C.J. Walker

(1867-1919)



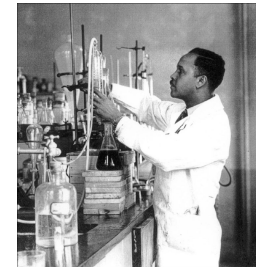
Madam C.J. Walker was born Sarah Breedlove on December 23, 1867, near Delta, Louisiana. After suffering from a scalp ailment that resulted in her own hair loss, she invented

a line of African-

American hair care products in 1905. She established Madame C.J. Walker Laboratories to manufacture cosmetics and train sales beauticians. She was one of the first American women to become a self-made millionaire.

## Dr. Percy Julian

(1899-1975)



African-American chemist Percy Julian was a pioneer in the chemical synthesis of medicinal drugs such as cortisone, steroids and birth control

pills. Born in Alabama in 1899, pioneering chemist Percy Julian was not allowed to attend high school but went on to earn his Ph.D. Although his race presented challenges at every turn, he is regarded as one of the most influential chemists in American history.