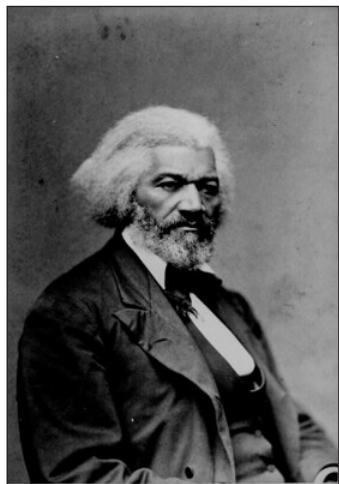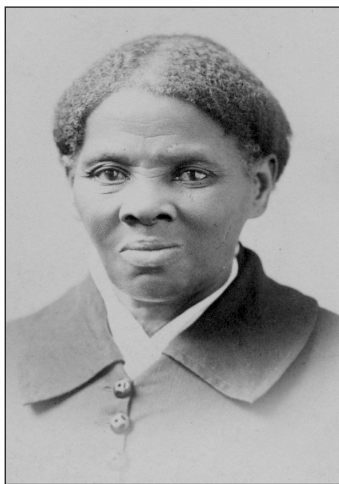# America's Leaders in the Journey to Racial Justice
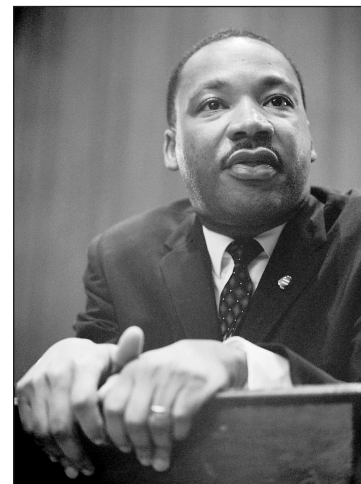

1845
Frederick Douglass

American social reformer, writer, statesman, and abolitionist. Douglass became the national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York after escaping from slavery in Maryland.

1849
Harriet Tubman

American abolitionist and political activist born into slavery. Tubman escaped, and made approximately 13 missions to rescue about 70 enslaved people including groups of friends, and families. Tubman freed slaves by using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroads.

1955 - 1968
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

American minister and activist that became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement from 1955 to 1968 when he was assassinated.

1967 - 1991
Thurgood Marshall

American lawyer and civil rights activist who served as associate. Justice of Supreme court of the United States from October 1967 to 1991. Marshall was also the Court's first African American justice.
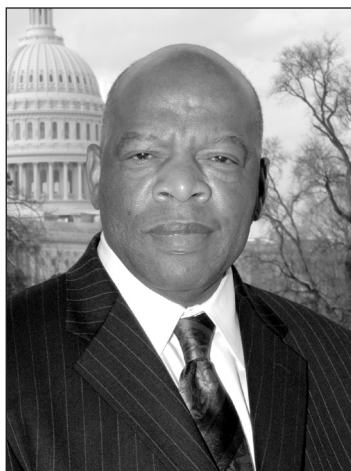
1963
Medgar Evers

American civil rights activist in Mississippi, the state's field secretary for the NAACP.

1955
Rosa Park

An American activist in the civil rights movement known mostly for her boycott in the Montgomery bus. She was referred to as "the first lady of civil rights," and "the mother of the freedom movement" by the United States Congress.

1963 - 1966
John Lewis

American statesman and civil rights leader who served in the United States House of Representatives for Georgia's 5th congressional district from 1987 until his death in 2020.

1969
Maya Angelou

American poet, and civil rights activist She worked with other activists on the front lines of the Civil Rights Movement, participating in demonstrations and marches.

2009 - 2017
Barack Obama

American politician and attorney who served as the 44th president of the United States from 2009-2017. A member of the Democratic party, Obama was the first African American president of the United States of America.

2020
George Floyd

African American man who died after being arrested by police outside the shop in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the age of 46.