



## MINIS AT HOME

volume 1, issue 21

**Greetings kids, parents, grandparents, guardians, friends and neighbors!**

**Welcome to issue 21 of the Minis at Home newsletter.** Each newsletter features a special theme and offers pertinent information, a craft, and recommended reading.

Grownups: please work on projects together with your children. Your pARTicipation is important! We will offer hints and tips for ways to create art as a twosome or a family.

**This week's theme = Black History Month**



Although February is almost over, celebrating the amazing contributions of Black individuals should be an ongoing part of everyone's education all year long. Black History Month was established as a month-long celebration in 1926 by **Carter Woodson**, a Black educator and historian. He chose February because **Abraham Lincoln** and **Frederick Douglass** share birthdays in February. Frederick Douglass was born right here in **Talbot County**. Lincoln and Douglass were very important in our country's history because they helped pave the way for equality among all types of people. These men taught that everyone should be treated fairly. Today, we are still learning how to be kind to each other and how treat everyone with respect, no matter our differences.

One of the best ways to teach people to be kind and fair to others is to learn about other people and cultures. Black History Month celebrates the lives of Black people who have made important contributions to our lives but were not given the chance to be recognized for their important achievements. Black History Month reminds us that diversity of culture and color should be explored and equally represented in our—and our children's—world.

Here are a few amazing Black inventors, scientists, and astronauts that you might not know about:



**Frederick McKinley Jones** invented the refrigerated truck! How would your milk stay cold from the farm to the grocery store? Would your ice cream melt on its way to the freezer in the store? No more!

July 12, 1949.

F. M. JONES  
AIR CONDITIONING UNIT

Filed June 15, 1944

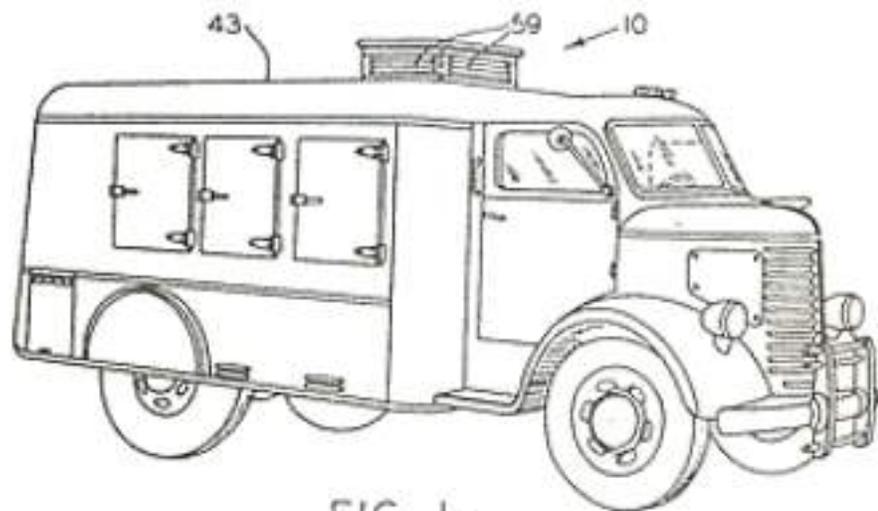


FIG. 1.

Figure 1: A drawing from a patent application by Frederick McKinley Jones

This is a picture of Mr. Jones's truck. What would you want to keep cold inside? What color would you paint this truck? What would you draw on it?



**Dorothy Vaughan** was a scientist and mathematician who figured out how satellites and humans could safely fly in space. She was known as the "human computer." If it weren't for Ms. Vaughan, we wouldn't know as much as we do about space, and astronauts would have had many more problems visiting space.



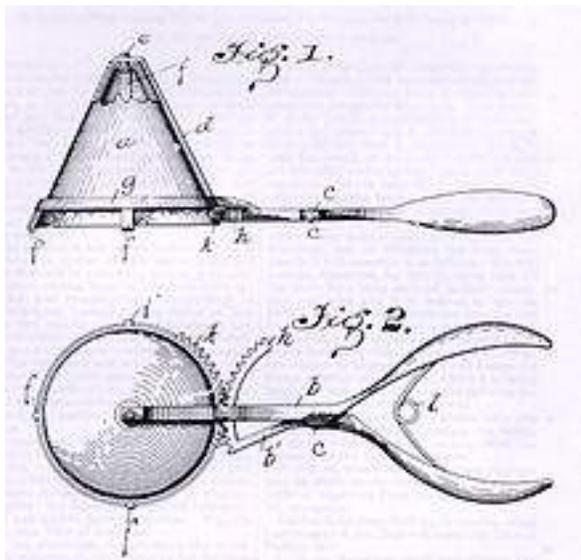
This is a picture of Dorothy Vaughan's workspace. What would you put in your workspace? Art materials? A favorite toy?

Can you see Dorothy Vaughan's special ID card? An ID card is a card that has your name and sometimes your picture that shows where you work. Your grownup may have one depending on where they work. Ask to see it.

Could you make up your own ID card? Draw a picture of yourself on a piece of card stock and punch a hole at the top. Add some yarn so that you can wear it.



**Alfred L. Cralle** invented the ice cream scoop, which is very important for making ice cream cones. Without a scoop, it would be hard to fill an ice cream cone with a perfect little ball!



This is a picture of Mr. Cralle's scoop.

What is your favorite ice cream flavor? Can you draw a picture of a scoop of ice cream?



*Yum!*



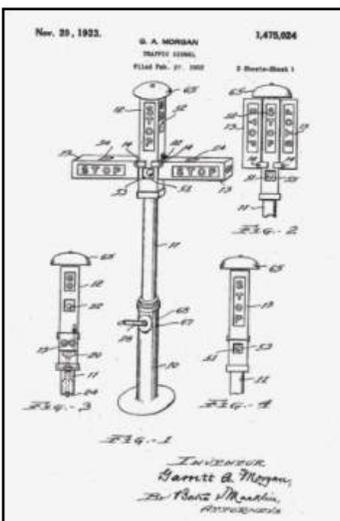
**Mae C. Jemison** was the first Black astronaut to go into space. She is not only a great astronaut but also a dancer, scientist and doctor. She began college when she was only 16 years old. If you could be three different things, what would you be?

Here is a picture of Dr. Jemison in space.

Can you see that she is not standing on the floor? Did you know that when you are not on the Earth, there is no **gravity**? That means you float in the air! You can't float in the air when you're on the Earth. Try jumping up: you'll see that you fall right back down. Imagine what it would be like to float. Would you like that? It might be complicated when you have to use the toilet!!



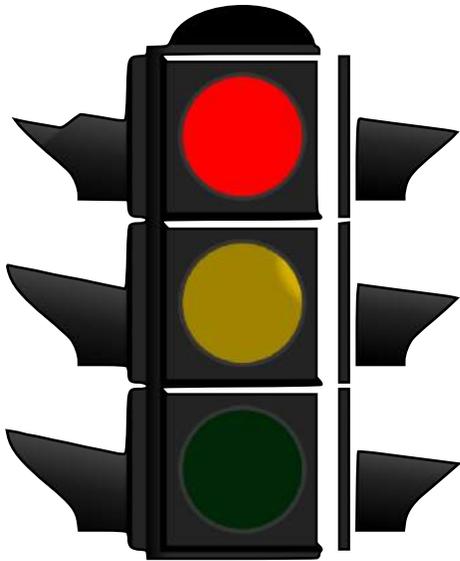
**Garrett Morgan** invented the first 3-signal traffic light in 1923. While driving one day, he saw people not slowing down when coming to an intersection and getting into car accidents. At that time, traffic lights only had red and green options. Mr. Morgan thought that the light needed a yellow warning light that would tell drivers to be careful, slow down and get ready to stop. Do you know what the traffic light colors mean?



This is a picture of Mr. Morgan's traffic light. The traffic light was designed after railroad signals.

Why were the colors **red**, **yellow** and **green** chosen for a traffic light? Red was chosen as the "Stop" color because red has a longer wavelength than green. That means that the color and light travels faster to your eyes, so you can see red sooner when coming to an intersection. The sooner you see the red light, the sooner you can get ready to put on the brakes!

Did you know that people used to sit in booths and actually change the light signals? Depending on the traffic, a man would flip a switch to change the lights from red to green.



The traffic light colors are red on the top, yellow in the middle (thanks to Mr. Morgan) and green on the bottom. Sometimes you may see traffic lights that are mounted horizontally on a pole.

In countries where people ride their bikes everywhere, the bike travel lanes have their own traffic lights. Sometimes you will see arrows or person icons used for the lights. This usually means you can turn or walk.

Next time you're out in a car, look at the traffic lights you see around you. Notice when drivers stop and go and when they slow down.

### Activity: **Craft**

#### Paper Traffic Light Collage



#### Materials:

The bottom (or lid) of a shoe box to use as your traffic light (or you can just use a piece of black construction paper for your background if you don't have a shoe box)

Green, red, and yellow construction paper or old magazines and catalogues with these colors

1 sheet of white construction paper or card stock for tracing 3 circles (about 3" in diameter)

Black construction paper or black paint to cover the bottom and outer sides your shoe box so it is black

Tape

Glue stick

Scissors

**Procedure:**

Trace or draw 3 large circles about 3" in diameter on white paper or card stock.

If using a shoe box, cover the bottom and outer sides of box in black paper or paint it all black.

Have your child tear or cut the green, red and yellow paper into small pieces (great scissors and fine motor work!) Older children can hunt through magazines or catalogues to find the red, yellow and green colors in the pictures and photographs, cut out bits and collage them onto their circles.

Have your child sort and glue each color onto its own circle. Make sure your child overlaps the paper scraps and the circle edges so that there is no white showing through.

Once the circles are covered in paper scraps, help your child trim the edges around each circle.

You may choose to cut out 3 black half circles to glue over each light as "hoods." Make sure you fold the straight edge of the half circle enough to be able to make it stick out over each "light."

Glue each "light" onto the shoe box: red on top, yellow in middle and green on bottom.

**Activity: Sing**

**See the Traffic Light** (adapted from [preschoolrainbow.com](http://preschoolrainbow.com))  
(Sung to the tune of *I'm a Little Teapot*)

See the traffic light  
hanging in the air?  
When the light is **RED**  
You must STOP right there!

See the traffic light  
hanging in the air?  
When it turns **YELLOW**  
Move slowly and with care!

See the traffic light  
hanging in the air?  
When the light turns **GREEN**  
You may GO from there!

**Activity: Game**

Have you ever played **Red Light, Green light, 1–2–3**? Here are the rules:

**Number of players:** 3 or more

**Recommended Age:** 3+ years

**Equipment needed:** None: just a large, open space for the players to run in.

One person volunteers or is chosen to be “It” (the traffic light), and they stand a good distance away from the other players (about 20–25 feet) with their back to them. The other players stand in a line facing It.

It calls out “Green Light” and the other players move ahead until It spins around, calling out “Red Light” at the same time. As soon as everyone hears the red light command, they freeze on the spot. Anyone caught moving must return to the starting line. Everyone must remain frozen until It calls out ‘Green Light’ again.

Play continues until one of the runners reaches and tags It. The tagger becomes the new It and the game begins again. (Rules adapted from <https://childhood101.com/games-for-kids-red-light-green-light/>)

You can watch some kids playing Red Light, Green light, 1–2–3 here:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFNvvna6WZw>



**RECOMMENDED BOOKS, continued**

***The Crayon Box that Talked*** by Shane Derolf

***Change Sings*** by Amanda Gorman (to be released in September)

***Curls*** by Ruth Forman

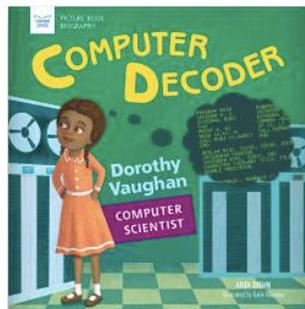
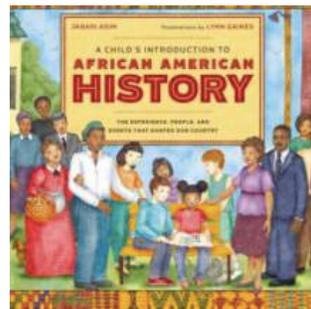
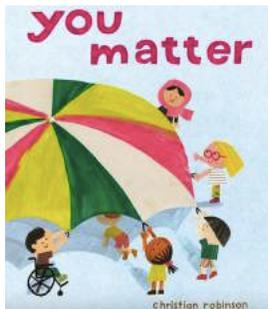
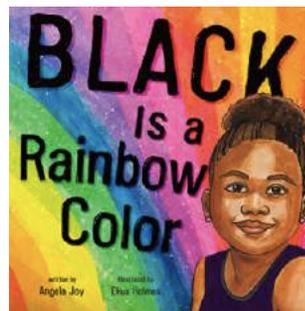
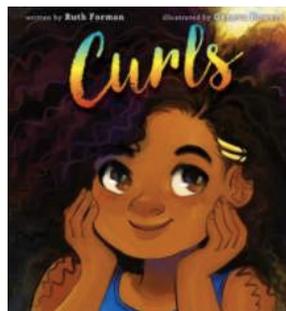
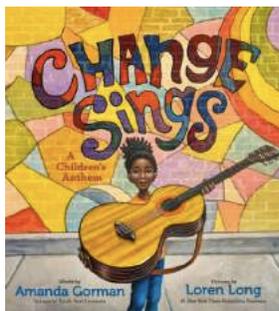
***Black Is a Rainbow Color*** by Angela Joy

***Dream Big, Little One*** by Vashti Harrison

***You Matter*** by Christian Robinson

***A Child's Introduction to African American History*** by Jabari Asim

***Computer Decoder: Dorothy Vaughan, Computer Scientist*** by Andi Diehn



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See you next week with issue 22 of **Minis at Home!**

Share your work on <https://www.instagram.com/minimastersaam/>

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