Black Culture Quiz

Which African "Freedom Fighters" died in the struggle to free their countries from Portuguese colonial rule?

In early 1970, Eduardo Mondlane, leader of Frelimo (the Mozambique Liberation Front) was killed. In early 1973, Amilcar Cabral, leader of the P.A.I.G.C. (the Party of Independence from Portugal) was assassinated. After Cabral's assassination, the struggle for self - determination was intensified.

Portugal was forced to give up its African colonies i 1975, after nearly 50 years of dictatorial rule, with the overthrow of Marcello Caetano, Guinea - Bissau, Angola, and Mozambique are also now independent nations.

Why does the name of Paul Cuffe stand out in Afro-American history?

Paul Cuffe (1759-1817), son of an African father and Indian mother, started his career as a sailor and eventually became a ship's captain and wealthy owner of a fleet of vessels which engaged in coastal and trans - Atlantic commerce.

In 1815, using his own capital, Cuffe transported 38 free blacks to Africa. It was then that Cuffe conceived his great plan to end slavery by establishing a two-way trade between Africa and America.

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What is the symbolic importance of the old courthouse in St. Louis, Missouri?

It was in the old courthouse that Dred Scott first sued for his freedom. Scott, a fugitive slave, became a *cause celebre* among abolitionist circles for the next ten years.

In 1857, Chief Justice Roger Taney handed down the decision that slaves could not be freed by removing to free territory. Weeks after the decision, Scott was freed by his master; a year later, Scott died.

When were the special colors red, black and green adopted by Afro-Americans and assigned significance?

A convention of Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association adopted these colors on August 13, 1920, as the official colors of the movement for a free Africa under black government: "Red for the blood of the race nobly shed in the past and dedicated to the future; black to symbolize pride in the color of skin; and green for the promise of a new and better life in Africa."

The convention's climactic moment was the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World—a 54-article document setting forth the rights of black people to political and judicial equality and complete self-determination.

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Who led a group of blacks away from Southern oppression into Kansas?

Things were bleak for blacks when Reconstruction ended with the withdrawal of federal troops (1877) from the South, followed by general disfranchisement. Migration was one response by black people. One movement, led by Benjamin "Pap" Singleton of Tennessee, was an exodus to Kansas in 1879.

Whose threatened march on Washington led to the banning of discrimination in defense work?

A. Philip Randolph's threat to lead a march of 100,000 blacks on Washington in 1941 led to President Roosevelt's prohibition of discrimination in defense work.

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James Weldon Johnson

(1871-1938)

Outstanding American poet, author and essayist, his works in the field of literature are world reknown. He was also the first black Executive Director of the N.A.A.C.P.

James was born on June 17, 1871 in Jacksonville, Florida where his father was the headwaiter at a big hotel where James and his brother enjoyed visiting.

His mother was a school teacher in the grammer school for Negro children. The school was very crowded and uncomfortable.

He attended Atlanta University with a foster brother, Ricardo Rodriques Ponce, a young Cuban, who made his home with the Johnson's.

In 1894, after his graduation from Atlanta University, he returned to his alma mater, Stanton, as its principal. He made Stanton a high school for Negro boys and girls to get an education and become professionals.

During this time Johnson was editor of the first Negro daily newspaper in the United States, *The Daily American*. He also began the study of law which interested him at the time.

By reading law books in the office of a young white lawyer, he became the first Negro to appear before the examining board for the Florida bar.

James gave up his legal career in 1901 and moved to New York City with his brother John.

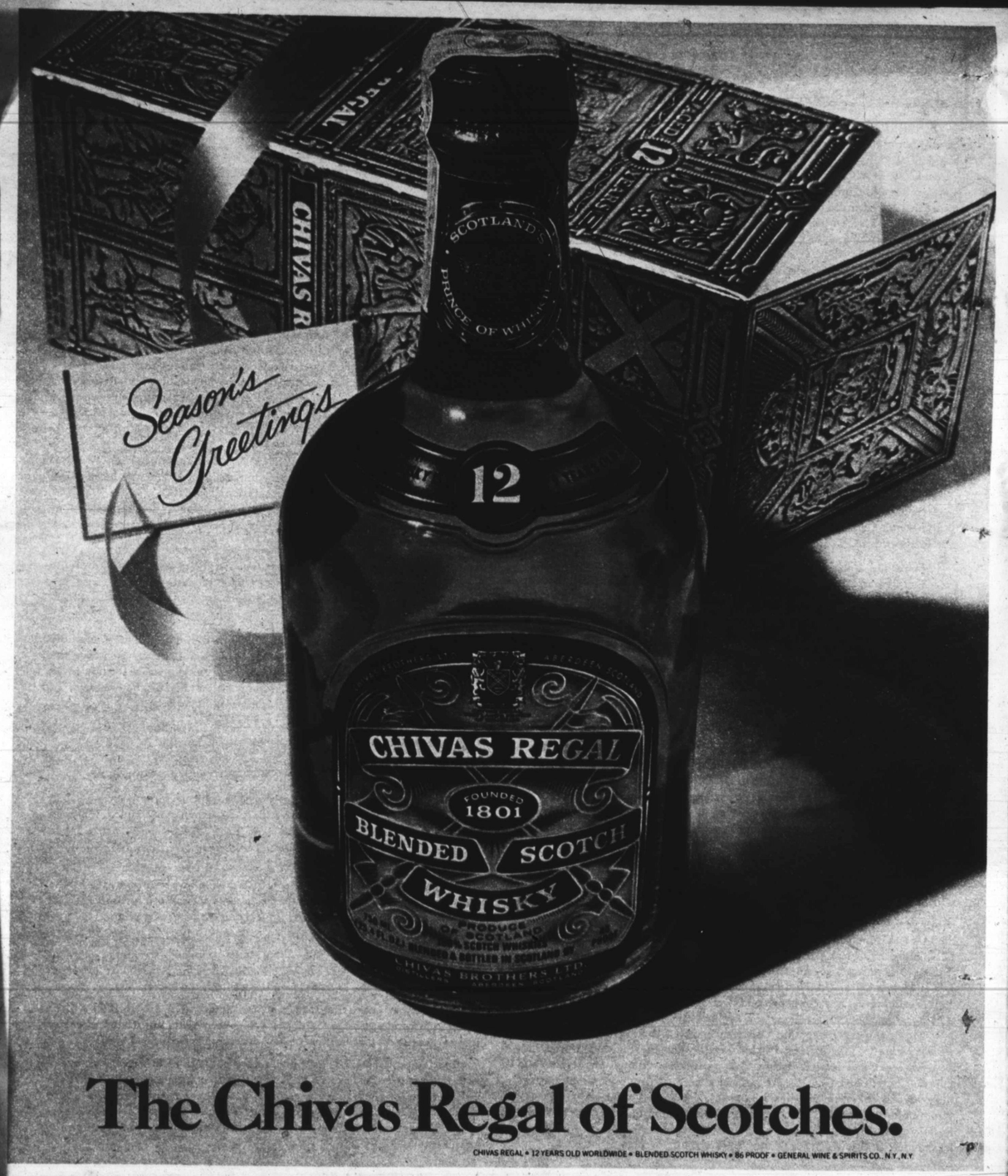
They began looking for someone to collaborate on a light opera they had written and found Bob Cole, a young Negro singer.

President Theodore Roosevelt enjoyed his writing. To give him more time for his writing, he appointed him Consul to Puerto Cabello, in Venezuela.

Johnson's formal association with the N.A.A.C.P. began in 1916. In 1920 he was appointed by the Board of Directors as Executive Director.

He saw the grim struggle for existence that was the real behind the scenes story of New York City's Harlem. The job market was just not suited for the Negro skills and there were no jobs available.

Johnson made a lasting impression on America with *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*, the *Book of American Negro Poetry* and *Black Manhattan*.



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