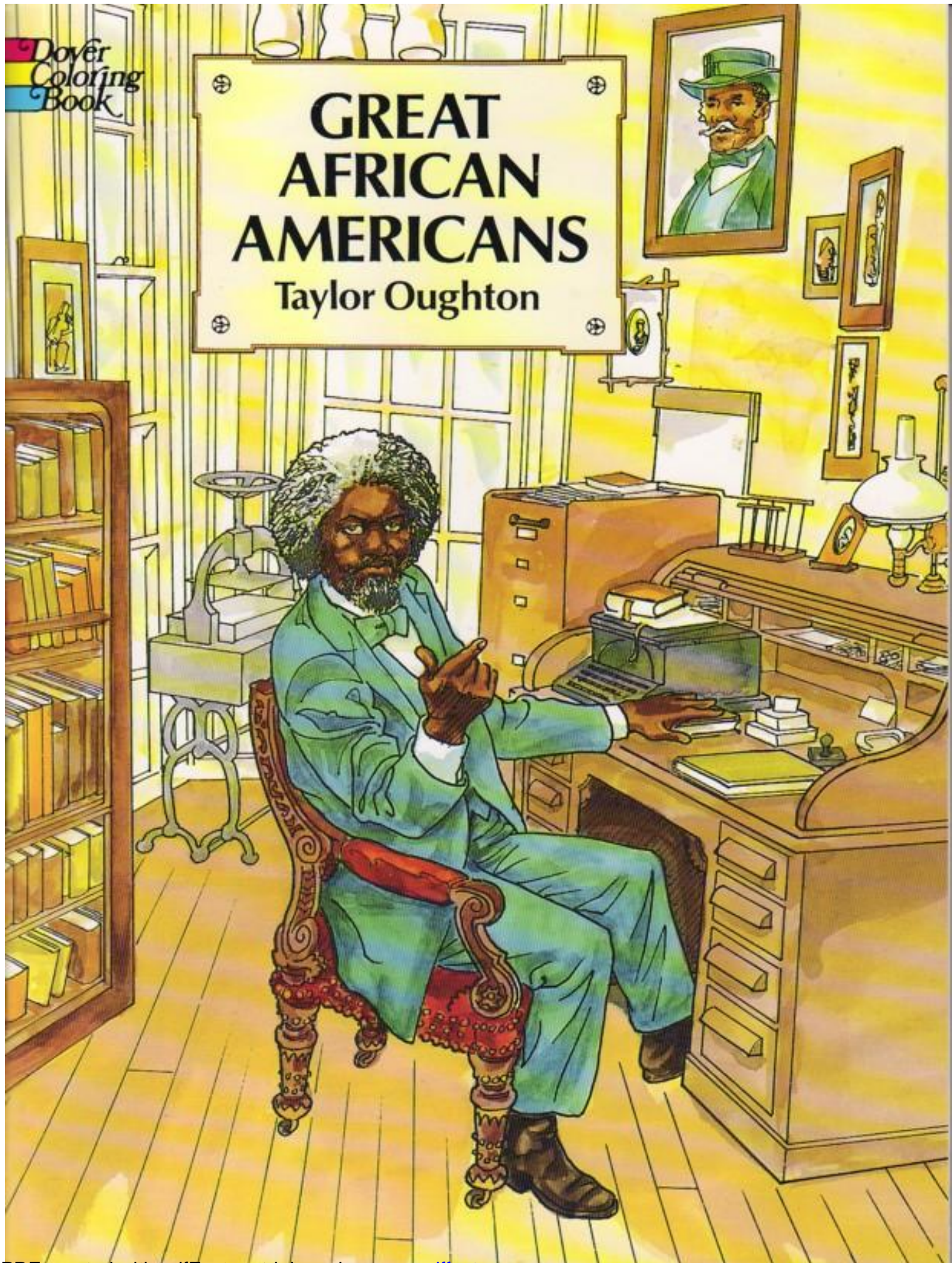
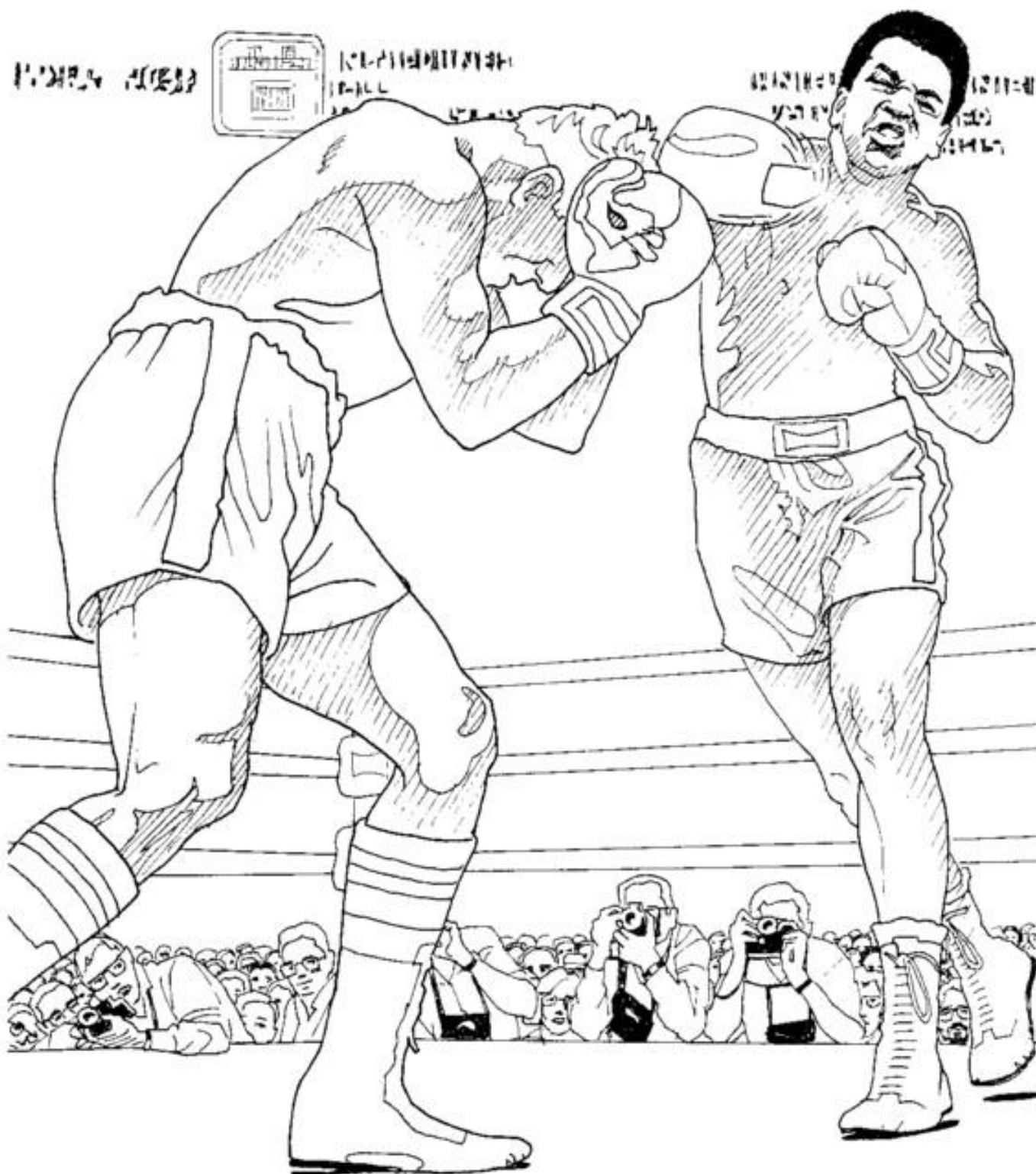


GREAT AFRICAN AMERICANS

Taylor Oughton







MUHAMMAD ALI (Cassius Clay; 1942–). Prizefighter. Having won the Golden Gloves and the light-heavyweight championship at the 1960 Olympics, Ali turned professional. He won the heavyweight title from Sonny Liston in 1964. Although Ali was barred from the ring and stripped of his title because he was a

conscientious objector (having become a Black Muslim), he staged a comeback, regaining the championship from George Foreman in 1974. Losing the title to Leon Spinks in 1978, he regained it later that year before retiring. Ali then devoted himself to a variety of causes, including the fight against racism.



MARIAN ANDERSON (1902–1993). Singer. After early work in church choirs, Anderson studied formally and launched a successful concert career in Europe. Returning to the United States in 1935, she triumphed in a tour as one of the great contraltos of the age. In 1939 the D.A.R. prevented her from appearing on the stage of Washington's Constitution Hall

because of her race. With the backing of Eleanor Roosevelt, she gave a concert in front of the Lincoln Memorial that stands as a landmark in the struggle for equal rights. In 1955 Anderson became the first African-American to sing at the Metropolitan Opera. She later served on diplomatic missions and was a delegate to the United Nations.



LOUIS "SATCHMO" ARMSTRONG (1900-1971). Musician. Having learned to read music and play the cornet at the Negro Waifs Home in New Orleans, he was taught to play the trumpet by King Oliver, a leading figure in Dixieland jazz. Armstrong first performed in New Orleans, followed Oliver to Chicago in 1922 and took a job in New York two years later. In 1925,

playing and singing in his unique, gravelly voice, he began his "five golden years," which jazz aficionados value as being his finest work. Armstrong subsequently became more famous as a personality and goodwill ambassador for the United States and also enjoyed a career in film.



CRISPUS ATTUCKS (1723–1770). Patriot. The son of a native African and a Native American, Attucks escaped a life of slavery and went to sea. Becoming literate, he was concerned with the iniquities of slavery and the unjust rule of Britain over her North

American colonies. The first to fall in the Boston Massacre (March 5, 1770), Attucks was hailed as a martyr in the cause of liberty.



JAMES BALDWIN (1924–1987). Author. Born into poverty in Harlem, Baldwin cultivated his abilities while taking on odd jobs, moving to Greenwich Village. In 1948 he went to Paris on a Rosenwald fellowship, remaining there for ten years. In a series of highly regarded novels, essays and plays (*Go Tell It on the*

Mountain, 1953; *Notes of a Native Son*, 1955; *Giovanni's Room*, 1956; *Nobody Knows My Name*, 1960; *The Fire Next Time*, 1963), Baldwin established himself as an influential commentator on race relations in the United States and a powerful exponent of civil rights.



ROMARE BEARDEN (1912-). Artist. Bearden studied at N.Y.U., Columbia University, Pittsburgh University and the Art Students League, where he was a pupil of George Grosz. During a stay at the Sorbonne in Paris, he became aware of the work of the Cubists and Picasso and experimented with photomontage.

Bearden created covers for leading magazines and his work is in the collections of major museums, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, The Museum of Modern Art and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.



MARY McLEOD BETHUNE (1875–1955). Educator. The child of slaves, Bethune founded a school for black women at Daytona Beach, Florida, in 1904. In 1923 it became Bethune-Cookman

College, with Bethune acting as president until 1947. A special adviser to Franklin Roosevelt on minority concerns, she was the first African-American to head a federal office.



EUBIE (James Hubert) BLAKE (1883–1983). Composer. Having begun his career as a performer at the age of 17, in 1915 Blake began working with singer Noble Sissle, creating many popular

songs. The team produced many musicals on Broadway in the twenties, following the success of *Shuffle Along* in 1921. He is perhaps most famous for his compositions in ragtime.



GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (1864–1943). Botanist. Born into slavery, Carver obtained a high-school education in his twenties and received a degree in agricultural science in 1894. He followed it with a master's in 1896, the year in which he went to Alabama to head the department of agricultural science at the Tuskegee Institute. Carver held that the racial situation would be corrected through education rather than political action, and

saw agriculture as a means of bettering the condition of rural African-Americans. He urged the cultivation of legumes, most notably the soybean and peanut, for restoring the fertility of soil that had been exhausted by years devoted to the growth of cotton. In doing this he revolutionized the agriculture of the South.



FREDERICK DOUGLASS (1817–1895). Abolitionist, humanitarian. In 1838 Douglass escaped slavery, fleeing to the North, where he supported himself by manual labor. In 1841 he spoke at an Abolition rally in Nantucket. The impression he made was so forceful that he immediately became a major spokesman in the battle against slavery. Having completed a two-year tour of

Great Britain and Ireland, he returned to the United States and founded his own newspaper, the *North Star*. During the Civil War, Douglass was a special consultant to Lincoln. He later served in many public positions, and was active in the women's rights movement.



W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt) Du Bois (1868–1963). Author, educator. Educated at Fisk and Harvard, Du Bois taught Greek, Latin and sociology. Highly critical of the accommodationist policies of such leaders as Booker T. Washington, he was a founder of the Niagara Movement and the N.A.A.C.P. He later developed an increased interest in Pan-Africanism and

Marxism, visiting Russia in 1926 and joining the Communist Party in 1961. Bitterly disillusioned, he renounced American citizenship and moved to Ghana, where he died. Among his highly influential works are *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903) and *Dusk of Dawn* (1940).



KATHERINE DUNHAM (1910–). Dancer, choreographer. Majoring in anthropology at the University of Chicago, Dunham developed an interest in ethnic dances, particularly those of Africa and the Caribbean. She organized the first African-

American dance troupe, and her tours of the United States and Europe met with acclaim. She also choreographed musicals and motion pictures.



"DUKE" (Edward Kennedy) ELLINGTON (1899–1974). Jazz musician and composer. Noted as a band leader, Ellington performed at the famous Cotton Club in Harlem from 1927 to 1932. In the 1940s he developed increasingly ambitious compositions,

some of which were presented in programs at Carnegie Hall. The 1950s were a period of extensive international touring. Famous Ellington compositions include "Mood Indigo" and "Black, Brown and Beige."



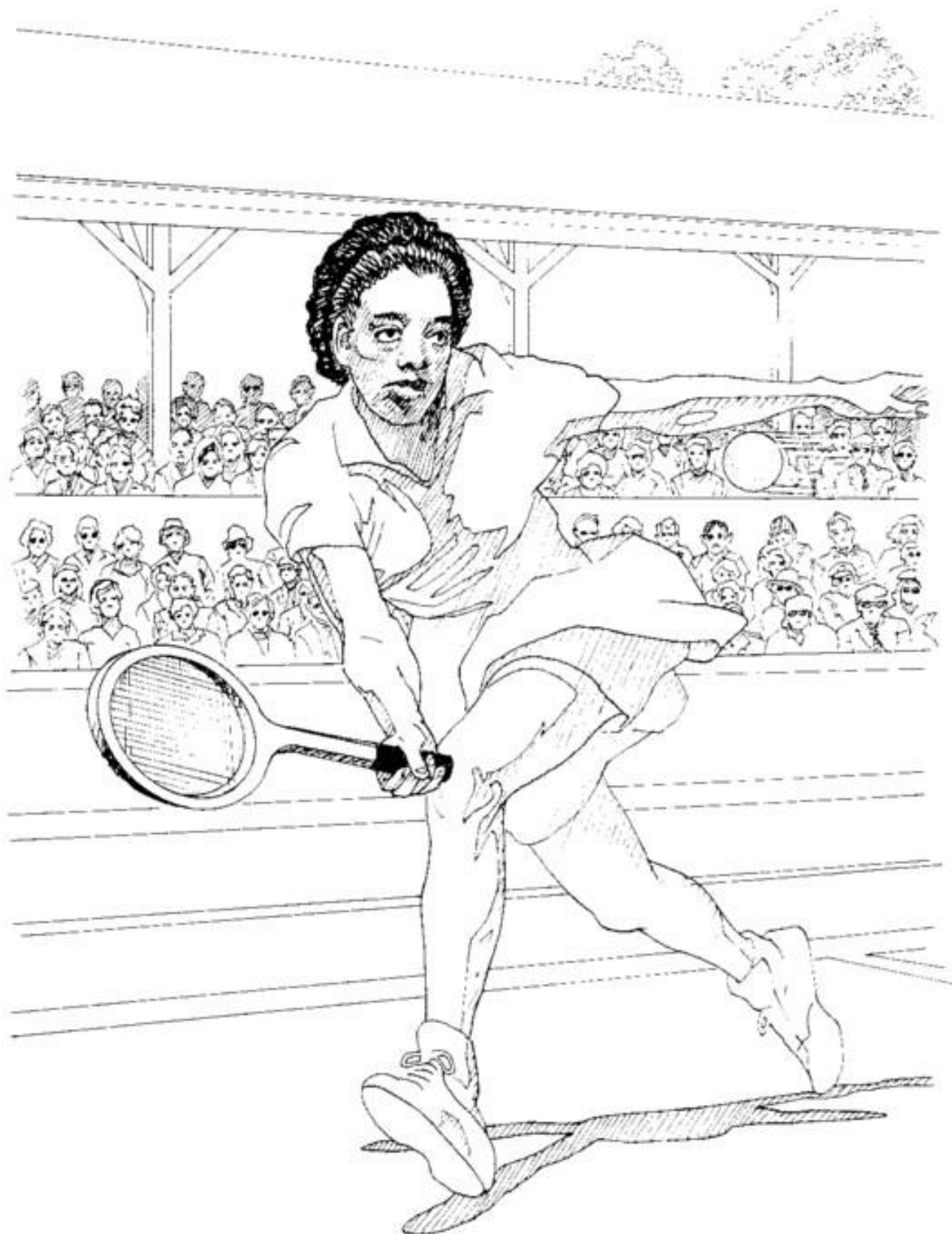
RALPH ELLISON (1914–). Writer. Having left Tuskegee Institute in 1936 before graduating, Ellison went to New York, where he edited the *Negro Quarterly* (1942–43). His 1952 novel

Invisible Man brought him great success. He later taught in the United States and Europe.



MARCUS GARVEY (1887–1940). Black-nationalist. Born in Jamaica, Garvey traveled through Central America and lived in London, coming to New York in 1916, where he established a branch of his Universal Negro Improvement Association (U.N.I.A.) to promote the cause of black separatism. By 1920 the organization was widespread, and an international convention, attended by delegates from 25 countries, was held in

Harlem. Garvey's philosophy of racial purity brought him against such leaders as W. E. B. Du Bois, and dubious business practices resulted in a five-year conviction for mail fraud. Garvey was pardoned after two years and deported to Jamaica. He spent his last years in London. His philosophy of black separatism regained influence in the 1960s and 70s.



ALTHEA GIBSON (1927–). Athlete. As a tennis amateur, Gibson won Wimbledon (Women's Singles) in 1957 and 1958, and the U.S. Women's Singles Championship the same two years. She

turned professional in 1959, becoming world champion in 1960 and, in 1963, became a professional golfer. Gibson remains the greatest black female tennis player in the history of the sport.



"MOTHER" (Clara M.) HALE (1905–1992). Orphaned at 16 and left a widow at 27, Hale became a licensed foster parent to maintain her own family of three children. She took her job extremely seriously, nurturing the children who were entrusted to her care. In 1969 her daughter brought her the baby of a drug

addict, and her program was extended to the children of the addicted; later to babies afflicted with AIDS. She established Hale House in Harlem with a budget that expanded to \$3.5 million during her life. In 1985 President Reagan called her an "American heroine."



W. C. (William Christopher) HANDY (1873–1958). Musician, composer. Despite his parents' disapproval, Handy learned to play the cornet and performed in various bands. His "Memphis Blues" (1912), the first published blues composition, marked a

departure from the rags that were dominating the period's popular music. For this and other compositions, including "St. Louis Blues" and "John Henry Blues," Handy earned the sobriquet "Father of the Blues."



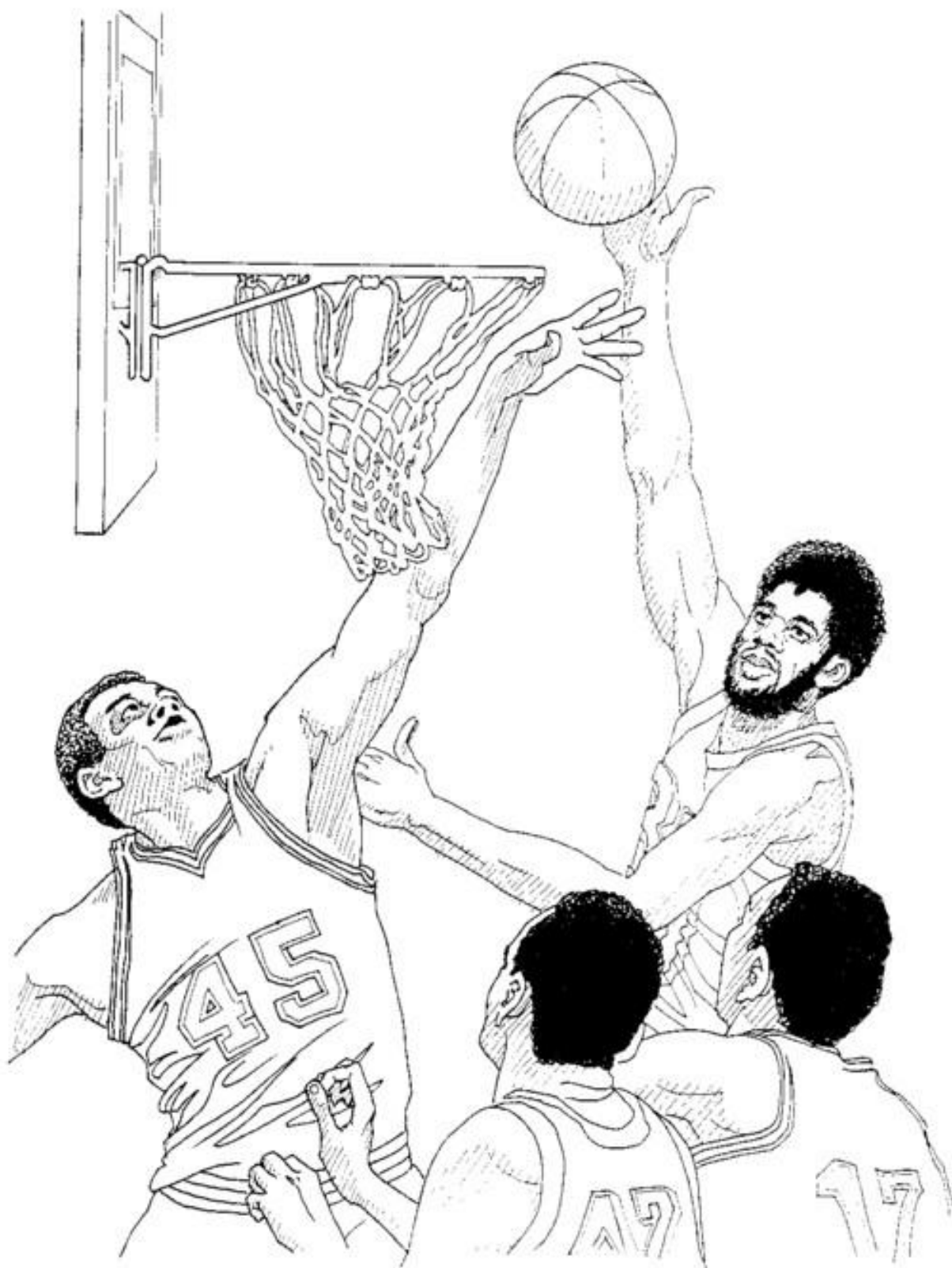
CHARLES HOUSTON (1895–1950). Lawyer. Having received his law degree from Harvard, Houston went into partnership with his father. He taught at Howard University, served on the Board of Education of the District of Columbia and was appointed to a

government position by President Truman. Although he was active in many organizations, it was as counsel for the N.A.A.C.P. that he waged some of his most effective attacks against discrimination.



LANGSTON HUGHES (1902–1967). Poet and writer. After two years at Columbia University, Hughes traveled and wrote poetry. He was discovered by Vachel Lindsay while he was a busboy in a Washington hotel. Hughes returned to school,

receiving his degree from Lincoln University. His works, both in poetry and prose, won him an international readership. Hughes is noted as the creator of the character Jesse B. Semple, a hardworking inhabitant of Harlem.



KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR (Lew Alcindor; 1947-). Athlete. Towering 7'3", Jabbar was one of the most successful basketball players in the history of the game. As a high-school student, he showed such promise that over 100 colleges offered him scholarships. He went to U.C.L.A., and was responsible in large part for winning three consecutive N.C.A.A. championships. As a

professional, he played for the Milwaukee Bucks, and was the highest scorer in the N.B.A. in the 1970-71 and 1971-72 seasons. With the Los Angeles Lakers he contributed to five N.B.A. championships. He is the all-time N.B.A. leader in most games played, with 1,560.



JESSE JACKSON (1941–). Politician. An ordained Baptist minister, Jackson was a disciple of Martin Luther King, Jr. He directed Operation Breadbasket, which promoted business and job opportunities for African-Americans in Chicago. Heading

many programs aimed at the elimination of racism and poverty, Jackson twice sought the Democratic nomination for the Presidency (1983 and 1987). He is the president of the National Rainbow Coalition.



JOHN H. JOHNSON (1918–). Publisher. After study at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, Johnson worked on a house organ at the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance

Company. In 1942 he established *Negro Digest*, the first of many publications, including *Ebony* and *Jet*, that made him a leading African-American publisher.



SCOTT JOPLIN (1868–1917). Composer. Joplin began his career in music while he was still in his teens, playing in St. Louis and other towns along the Mississippi. He organized his first band in Chicago in 1893, and studied music formally. Joplin is called the “King of Ragtime” for his development of that popular form of

music. In 1899 he published his first (and most popular) piece, “The Maple Leaf Rag.” His aspirations to grand opera were frustrated during his lifetime, but in the 1970s, when ragtime gained renewed popularity, his opera *Treemonisha* was produced with great success.



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (1929–1968). Civil-rights leader. The son of an influential Atlanta Baptist minister, King was a promising student, influenced by many authors, including Thoreau and Gandhi. Ordained for the ministry, he became active in the civil-rights movement during the Montgomery bus boycott, which ended that city's policy of segregated public transportation. King developed his nonviolent campaign against segregation, becoming a moving force behind the 1964 Civil

Rights Act and gaining international attention. His 1963 March on Washington, which attracted 250,000 people, was highlighted by his famous "I have a dream" speech. The next year he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Continuing his battle, he was about to lead the Poor People's March on Washington when he was assassinated, April 4, 1968. King is acknowledged as one of the great Americans; his birthday is a federal holiday.



JOE LOUIS (1911-1981). Prizefighter. After success as an amateur, Louis began his professional career in 1934. Of 71 bouts, Louis won 68, retiring as world heavyweight champion in 1949, after an unusually long tenure of the title, since 1937. Among his most memorable fights were his two victories over

Billy Conn in the 1940s. The "Brown Bomber," who continued to make public appearances, was one of the most beloved and respected American sportsmen. Boxing fans love to speculate over who would have won a "dream match" between Louis and Ali.



MALCOLM X (Malcolm Little; Al Hajj Malik Al-Shabazz; 1925–1965). Civil-rights leader. Convicted of burglary in 1946, he served seven years of a ten-year sentence and became a Black Muslim, following the leadership of Elijah Muhammad. He soon distinguished himself by his platform abilities, condemning the white race and urging racial separation. This approach was modified after Malcolm X made a pilgrimage to Mecca,

when he conceived of the possibility of peaceful coexistence between races. In general, his approach stood in marked contrast to the nonviolence advocated by Martin Luther King, Jr., and as such, held considerable appeal to young blacks, who were increasingly frustrated by a lack of progress in racial problems. He was assassinated in Harlem in 1965.



THURGOOD MARSHALL (1908–1993). Jurist. Receiving his law degree from Howard University, Marshall entered private practice, but became involved with civil-rights cases. In 1938, Marshall succeeded Charles Houston as special counsel for the N.A.A.C.P. He won many cases, the most famous being *Brown*

vs. Board of Education of Topeka (1954) which marked the beginning of desegregation of public schools. He served on the U.S. Court of Appeals, was U.S. Solicitor General and, in 1967, was appointed by President Johnson as the first African-American associate justice of the Supreme Court.



ELIJAH MCCOY (1843–1929). Inventor. Born in Canada, McCoy early developed an interest in mechanical work; by the time he had settled in Ypsilanti in the 1870s, he had focused on the aspect of invention that was to concern him for most of his life: the automatic lubrication of machinery, which allowed

machines to receive a steady supply of lubrication without being stopped. His inventions were used in locomotives, steamships and transatlantic liners. In 1920 he founded the Elijah McCoy Manufacturing Company in Detroit.



TONI MORRISON (1931-). Writer. Educated at Howard University and Cornell, Morrison went on to a teaching and publishing career. She received the Pulitzer Prize in 1987 for

Beloved, and is recognized as one of America's major literary figures.



JESSE OWENS (1913–1980). Athlete. A star in track-and-field events, Owens established many impressive records: the 220-yard dash in 20.3 seconds; the 220-yard low hurdles in 22.6 seconds and the long jump at 26'5½". He is most famous for his stellar performance at the 1936 Olympic Games, held in Berlin,

when he triumphed over German competitors, dramatically exploding the theory of Aryan supremacy and infuriating Hitler, who was in attendance. In later years Owens served in various public positions, including a stint as goodwill ambassador to India and the East.



GORDON PARKS (1912–). Photographer, film director. Turning to photography after he dropped out of high school, Parks first won recognition with his series on the South Side slums of

Chicago. He was a staff photographer for *Life* magazine and directed some of the most important commercial films devoted to blacks in the 1970s (*Shaft*, *Flavio*). He is also an author.



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.



COLIN POWELL (1937–). Army officer. Having received a B.S. and M.B.A., Powell followed a military career, rising to the rank of general in 1989. His many positions included Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (1987–89). Powell

was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Persian Gulf War, playing a crucial role in the successful conclusion of the war.



LEONTYNE PRICE (1927–). Opera singer. Having graduated from the Juilliard School of Music and taken private lessons, Price first came to public notice in a revival of *Porgy and Bess*. After extensive concert engagements, she appeared in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* in San Francisco. Her Metropolitan Opera debut in 1961, as Leonora in *Il Trovatore*, made headlines.

Recognized as one of the greatest Verdi sopranos of the age, she performed all over the world and had an extensive recording career. In 1966 she was accorded the honor of opening the new Metropolitan Opera House in Lincoln Center, starring as Cleopatra in Samuel Barber's *Antony and Cleopatra*, in which role she is shown here.



PAUL ROBESON (1898–1976). Actor and singer. Robeson distinguished himself as an All-American football player while studying at Rutgers, but after graduation turned his back on professional sports to get a law degree from Columbia. He entered the theater, creating a tremendous impression in the title role of O'Neill's *The Emperor Jones*, which he played in New York and London. The possessor of a fine singing voice, he recorded spirituals, popular songs and classical music and

appeared in many stage and screen musicals, particularly *Show Boat*. A fine Shakespearean, he was famous for his interpretation of Othello, shown here. Increasingly resentful of the racial discrimination he ran up against in the United States, Robeson visited the U.S.S.R. and became allied with left-wing causes. His passport was revoked in 1950, and he was on the infamous "black list." He left for Europe, returning only for reasons of ill health.



JACKIE ROBINSON (1919–1972). Baseball player. Robinson distinguished himself as a college athlete while he was at U.C.L.A. He was scouted by the Brooklyn Dodgers and, after an apprenticeship in the minors, moved up to the majors in 1947, becoming the first African-American to be signed by a major-league team. Rookie of the Year in 1947 and Most Valuable

Player in the National League in 1949, Robinson was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962. After retirement, he filled several executive positions, including a vice-presidency at Chock Full O'Nuts. A fiery competitor and a particularly fierce baserunner, he was a key player on the 1955 Dodgers team that beat the Yankees, to win Brooklyn's only series victory.



DRED SCOTT (ca. 1795–1858). Slave. Scott had been taken from Missouri (a state in which slavery was legal) to Illinois (a free state), later going on to the Minnesota Territory (also free). In 1846, aided by antislavery lawyers, Scott sued for his freedom in the Missouri state courts, holding that he was free by virtue of his residence in a free state and territory. This the court did not uphold, and the case eventually found its way to the U.S.

Supreme Court, which ruled against Scott in 1857. According to the court, a slave was not a citizen and did not possess a citizen's rights; residence in a free state was not a determining factor in establishing freedom; the Missouri Compromise of 1820 was unconstitutional. Although Scott was emancipated later that year, the case was another step toward the Civil War.



SOJOURNER TRUTH (ca. 1797–1883). Abolitionist. Born Isabel van Wagener, a slave, in New York, she obtained her freedom when the state declared emancipation in 1827. Having experi-

enced religious visions, Truth traveled and preached. In 1843 she became a powerful speaker in the cause of abolition, and later extended her efforts to women's rights.



HARRIET TUBMAN (ca. 1820–1913). Abolitionist. In 1849, Tubman escaped slavery in Maryland, and found her way North through the Underground Railroad, a secret organization that aided the escape of slaves. She returned to the South the next year

and, through her courage and talents as a leader, was able to conduct over 300 slaves to freedom in 19 trips. She has been called “the Moses of her people.”



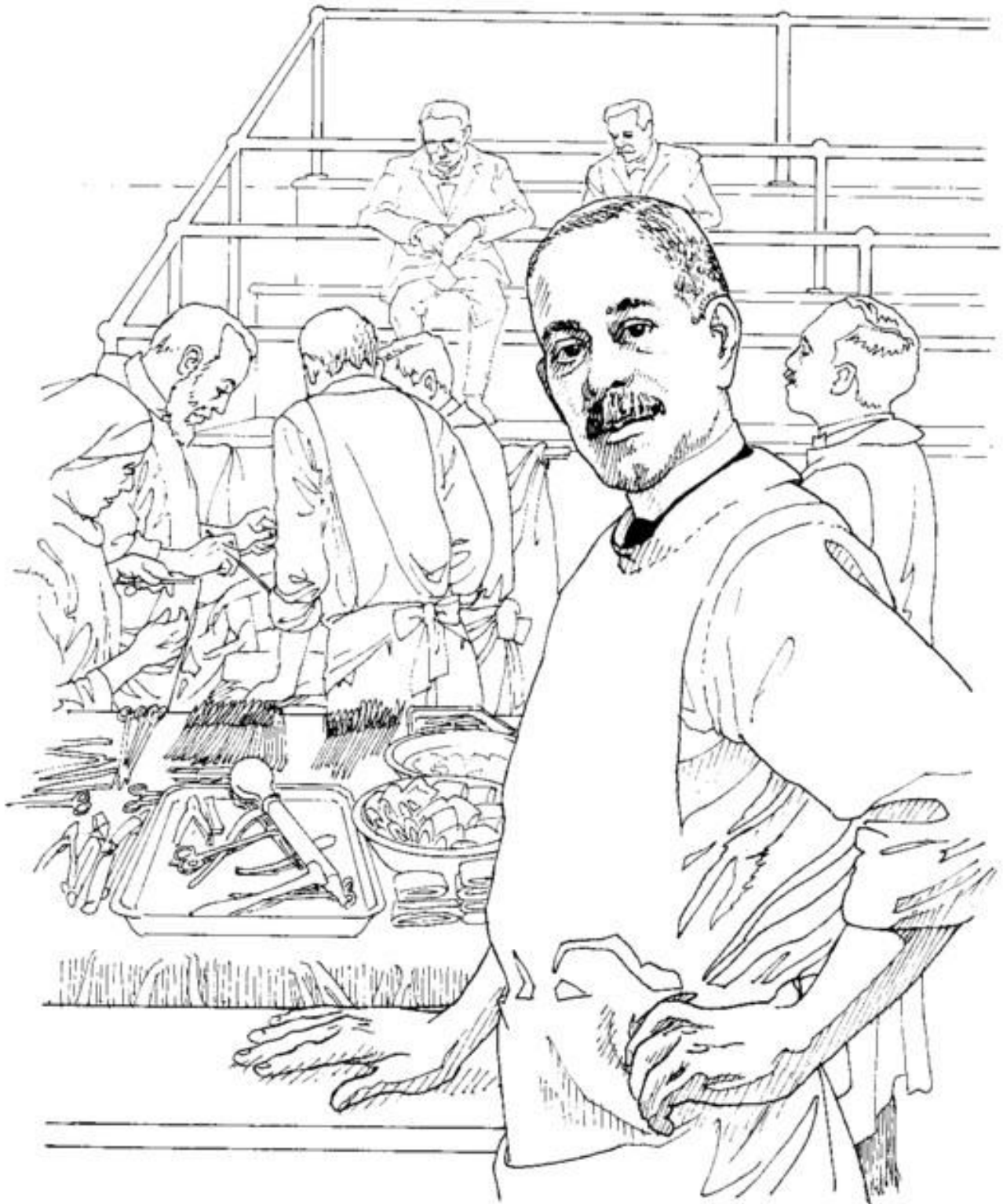
MADAME C. J. WALKER (maiden name Sarah Breedlove; 1867–1919). Business executive. Beginning as a door-to-door salesperson of cosmetic products, by 1910 Walker had begun her own cosmetics empire, opening a factory in Indianapolis. She established a school for cosmeticians involving the use of her products, and founded a chain of beauty parlors. Having

amassed a huge fortune, Walker built lavish town houses in Indianapolis and New York, and owned a luxurious estate on the Hudson River. She was deeply concerned with the condition of African-Americans, and in her will she left millions to charities and educational institutions.



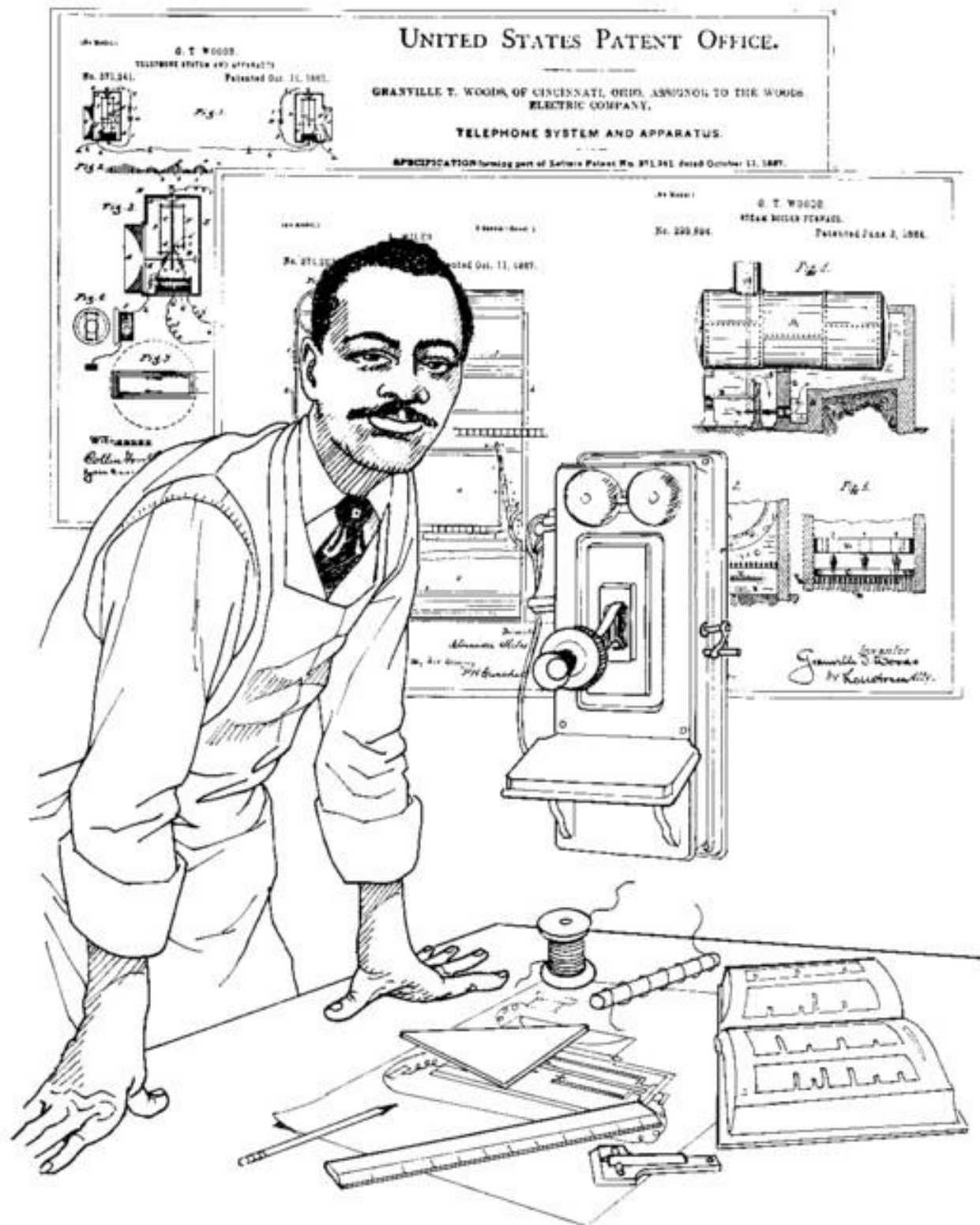
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON (1856–1915). Educator. Born into slavery, Washington managed to obtain an education at Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute and went on to teach. In 1881 he became the head of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, which he developed into a major institution. It was Washington's opinion that African-Americans

would do best for themselves through a policy of accommodation. This drew the criticism of many contemporaries, including W. E. B. Du Bois. Washington filled the gap in African-American leadership that existed after the death of Frederick Douglass.



DANIEL HALE WILLIAMS (1856–1931). Surgeon. Williams received his degree in medicine from Chicago Medical College in 1883, and subsequently did considerable work in that city. In 1891, frustrated by the conditions under which African-Americans with a vocation to medicine had to labor, he founded Provident Hospital, where African-American doctors and nurses were able to provide high-quality care to African-American

patients. In 1893, responding to a request by President Cleveland, he became surgeon-in-chief at the Freedmen's Hospital in Washington. That same year he became the first surgeon to perform successful open-heart surgery. Returning to the Chicago area, he continued to practice, taught and created a profound example for others to follow.



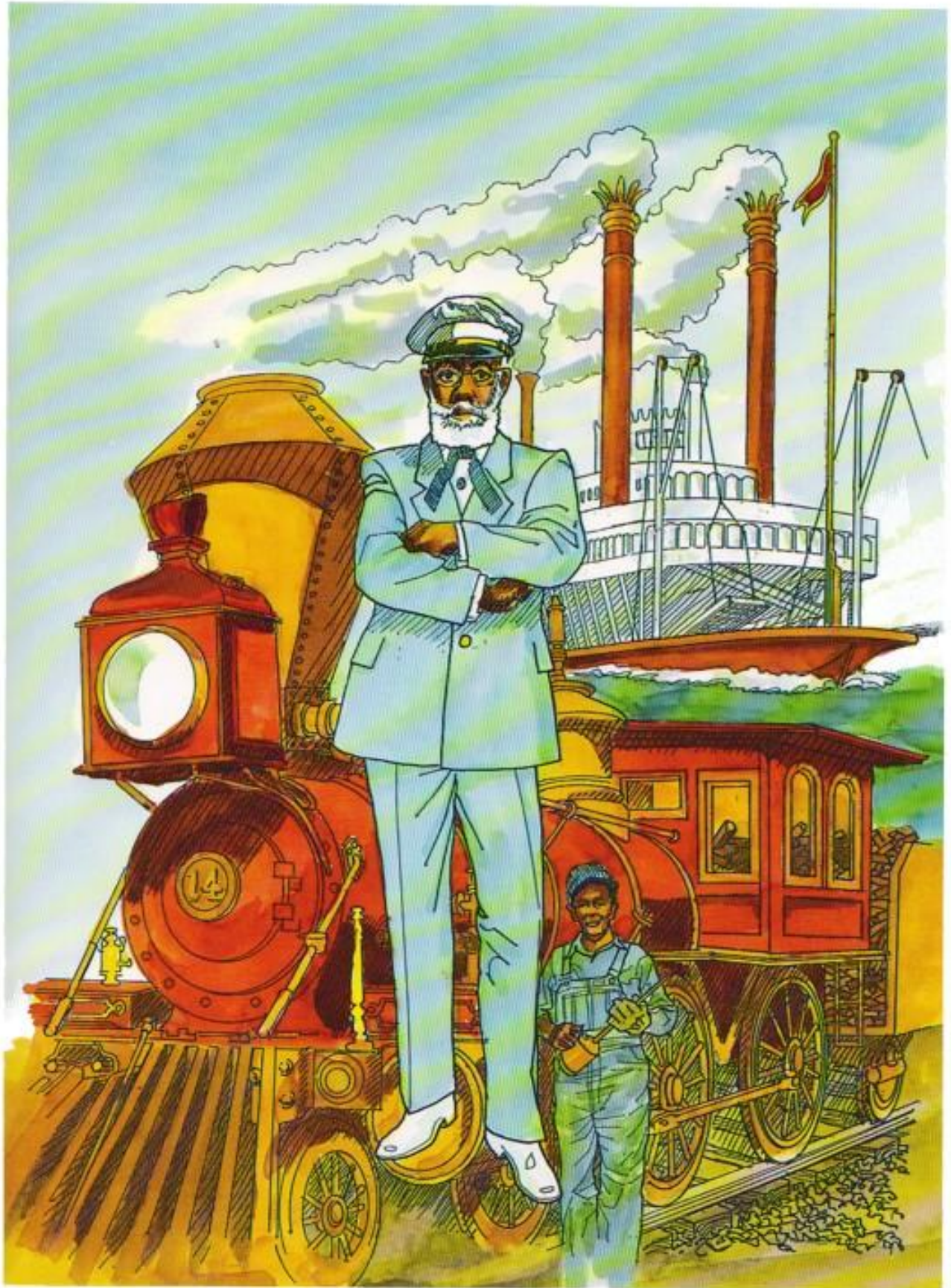
GRANVILLE T. WOODS (1856-1910). Inventor. With a background as a blacksmith and machinist, Woods learned electrical and mechanical engineering. His patent for a telephone trans-

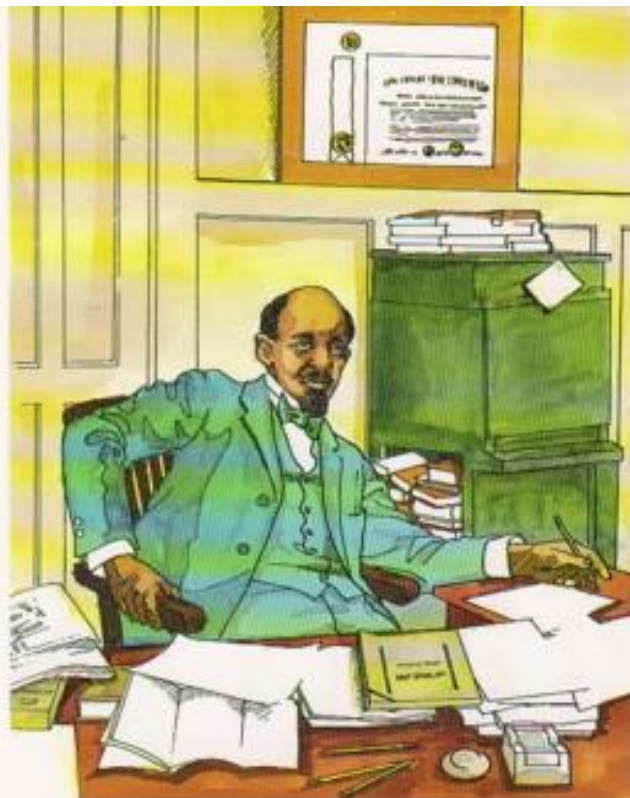
mitter (1885) was bought by Bell Telephone. Founding the Woods Electric Company, Woods specialized in material for telephone, telegraph and other electrical instruments.



RICHARD WRIGHT (1908–1960). Author. Raised in poverty, Wright was shunted from relative to relative, winding up in Chicago, where he was able to write for the Federal Writers' Project. He went to New York in 1937, becoming the Harlem editor for the Communist *Daily Worker*. His novel *Native Son*

(1940), expressing the growing anger and frustration of Northern African-Americans, established his reputation and is generally regarded as his masterpiece. His autobiography, *Black Boy*, appeared in 1945. In 1946 he left for Paris, where he spent the rest of his life.





GREAT AFRICAN-AMERICANS

Coloring Book

Taylor Oughton

The lives and achievements of notable African-Americans spring to life in this carefully researched and finely rendered coloring book. Spanning over 150 years of American history, the volume pays tribute to high achievers in civil rights, music, sports, politics, literature, government and other areas.

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W. E. B. Du Bois	Richard Wright	Leontyne Price
Rosa Parks	Duke Ellington	Althea Gibson
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