What is the importance of a well rounded education? A well rounded education helps one understand various aspects in what may appear to be a specific field and understand how different disciplines work together. In the health sciences world recent news tells of the first baby born that was fertilized in vitro and screened for a specific cancer antigen. This was done in the United Kingdom and is called pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD), where the doctors select an embryo that was screened for a gene that is linked with breast cancer called BRCA1. To pull this feat off, work had to be done by biomedical researchers, geneticist, in vitro fertilization specialist, and Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN) doctors. The birth of this baby is a medical feat but it brings up ethical issues that need to be discussed.

So not only are biology and chemistry involved but the field of bioethics is necessary in new scientific developments like this one. Bioethics is a field of study relating to the ethics and philosophical implications of certain biological and medical procedures, technologies, and treatments, as organ transplants, genetic engineering, and care of terminally ill. People have had strong reactions to this story. Some view it as a medical triumph. It increases parental choice and decreases future “suffering” for families. Techniques like this one are supposed to be about making it easier for children to be healthy and decreasing their chances for disease. Some individuals however, view it as the first step towards eugenics the study of or the belief in the possibility of improving the qualities of the human species or a human population, especially by such means as “discouraging reproduction by persons having genetic defects or presumed to have inheritable undesirable traits.” This may lead to “unjust discarding of embryos that could potentially be healthier then those selected due to bias research.”

Studies and discoveries like this one show the depth and the interdisciplinary aspect of the health sciences field. In order to advance, one must “stand on the shoulder of giants” and build on previous work that have been done by scientists. It is important to maintain and enhance your skills in English, Math and the Sciences. You need to keep an open mind to all aspects of education. This can help you to determining the various contributions you can make to the advancement of science.

The History of Black History

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." What you might not know is that black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

Blacks Absent from History Books

We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. The scholar was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population—and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

Established Journal of Negro History

Woodson, always one to act on his ambitions, decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history. Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.


Important Days in Black History:

- January 24, 1865 - Congress passes the 13th Amendment which abolished slavery in America.
- February 12, 1909 - NAACP founded in New York City.
- April 10, 1947 - Brooklyn Dodger Jackie Robinson becomes first African American to play major league baseball.
- January 20, 2009 - Barack Hussein Obama II becomes the first African American US President.