



1. *Ishango Bone*

Discovered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the 1950s, this 20,000-year-old bone is believed to be the earliest evidence of mathematics. Lines or possible tally marks are carved into the Ishango Bone, which is most likely a mammal's leg bone.



2. *Tree of Life*

The Tree of Life in *Roots of Knowledge* represents the origin of human life. The roots of this rendition feature the face of an African man, signifying humanity's origin in Africa around two million years ago.



3. *Djenné Sculpture*

This terracotta sculpture—made between the 11th and 17th centuries in the Mali city of Djenné—shows a mother and her child. Statues like this are common in many parts of Africa due to the cultural importance of motherhood and childbirth.



4. *Anansi*

Anansi is a character in West African folktales who most frequently took the form of a spider to teach morals. While the stories originated in Africa, they have spread throughout much of the Americas and the Caribbean.



5. *Timbuktu Manuscript*

Timbuktu has been an academic center in West Africa for centuries. During this time, thousands of manuscripts were written on a multitude of subjects. From generation to generation, the manuscripts were preserved by native peoples and are now widely available because of their preservation.



6. *Igbo Ukwu Pot*

This pot was found in modern-day Nigeria, dating back to the 9th century. The Igbo Ukwu pot may have been assembled with up to eight sections of premade bronze pieces, exemplifying the advanced methods of Igbo craftsmanship.



7. Great Mosque of Djenné

The Great Mosque of Djenné is one of the wonders of Africa and is the largest mud-built structure in the world. Each April, the walls of the mosque are reconstructed in a one-day event called the Crépissage, or the plastering.



8. Ethiopian Man

This Ethiopian doctor represents the modern medical practice of inoculation, which was pioneered in his country and nearby parts of Africa in order to prevent smallpox and other fatal diseases.



9. The Haitian Revolution

The Haitian Revolution (1791–1804), was led by General Toussant Louverture. It was the first successful slave revolt at the time, leading to the establishment of Haiti as the first independent Black republic. This revolution inspired liberation movements worldwide.



10. Zora Neale Hurston

American author, anthropologist, and filmmaker Zora Neale Hurston (1891–1960) is most famous for her novel titled *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. She is known for depicting racial struggles of the early 1900s and sharing research on Voodoo culture and practices.



11. Dorothy Vaughan

Dorothy Vaughan (1910–2008) was an American mathematician who worked for NASA as a “human computer,” an advanced mathematician. She also became NASA’s first Black manager, paving the way for people of color and women alike.



12. Ruby Bridges

Born in 1954, six-year-old African American Ruby Bridges attended all-white William Frantz Elementary School and became a significant icon of equal rights for all. To get to school, Ruby was escorted by four federal marshals through crowds of people screaming racial slurs.