



The New Jersey Amistad Commission invites 4th and 5th grade students to take part in a special statewide contest celebrating African American history in New Jersey!

Students will research and present stories that highlight the contributions and achievements of African Americans connected to our state's rich history.

This project gives students the opportunity to:

- 🔍 Practice being historians – Ask questions, find facts, and tell true stories.
- 💬 Build important skills – Strengthen public speaking, confidence, and critical thinking.
- 📚 Connect learning – Link classroom lessons to Social Studies and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

This contest supports the Amistad Mandate by engaging younger students in historical research and inquiry while preparing students for future opportunities, such as National History Day.

Project Information & Categories

Students will develop a research project on a famous African American with ties to New Jersey

Students may participate individually or in teams of 2–4 in one of the following categories:

- 🖼️ Exhibit Poster, 📝 Essay (Paper), or
- 🎭 Performance (poetry, dance, song, skit)

Process Paper (Required for All Categories)

- Each entry 100–300-words
- Explains your research process
- Describes why you chose this person
- Cites all sources used in your work

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Regional Presentation Dates

Northern Region

📍 **William Paterson University**

📅 **Saturday, February 14th, 2026**

❄️ **Snow Date:** February 21st, 2026

Counties: Bergen, Essex, Hunterdon, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, Warren

Southern Region

📍 **Pleasantville High School**

📅 **Saturday, January 31st, 2026**

❄️ **Snow Date:** February 7th, 2026

Counties: Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Burlington, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Salem

Please visit: njamistad.com for more details or contact us at amistadsp@doe.nj.gov

Pictured above from left to right: Eloise Alma Flagg, Jacob Lawrence, Marion Thompson Wright, Paul Robeson, Althea Gibson