Granville T. Woods, often called the “Black Edison”, was an inventor who collected more than 60 patents in his lifetime. His first patent was for a steam boiler furnace. He also received a patent for inventing the telephone transmitter and the induction telegraph system.

Sarah Breedlove, known as Madam C. J. Walker was an entrepreneur, philanthropist and activist who created a successful line of hair care products. She rose from poverty in the South to become one of the wealthiest African American women of her time.
Patricia Bath is the first African American to complete a residency in ophthalmology. She is also the first African American female doctor to receive a medical patent. In 1986, she invented the Laserphaco Probe for cataract treatment.

Robert L. Johnson is an American entrepreneur best known as the founder of the BET channel and as the country's first African-American billionaire.
Black History Month:

FYI

Jack Johnson became the first African American world heavyweight boxing champion in 1908 and remained the champion for seven years.

Althea Gibson became the first black player allowed to compete at the U.S. National Championships in 1950, and the first black player to compete at Wimbledon in 1951. On May 26, 1956, she became the first African American player to win a major tennis title when she defeated Angela Mortimer with a score of 6-0, 12-10 to claim the French championships. She also broke racial barriers in professional golf.
Garrett Morgan was an inventor known for his patents, which included a hair-straightening product, a revamped sewing machine, a breathing device and an improved traffic signal.

At the very first Grammy Awards in 1958, Ella Fitzgerald won her first two Grammy's--making history as the first African American woman to win the award--for best individual jazz performance and best female vocal performance for the two songbook projects "Ella Fitzgerald Sings the Duke Ellington Song Book" and "Ella Fitzgerald Sings the Irvin Berlin Song Book," respectively.

Garrett Morgan
(1877-1963)

Ella Fitzgerald
(1917-1996)
Actress and radio performer Hattie McDaniel was the first African American to win the Academy Award for best supporting actress, which she earned for her role as Mammy in “Gone with the Wind” (1939).

Oscar Micheaux is regarded as the first major African American feature filmmaker. His movies were known as “race” films — made by black filmmakers, with an all-black cast. Some of his movies include, 1920s “Within Our Gates,” 1925’s “Body and Soul” and 1931’s “The Exile.”
Simone Manuel made history at the 2016 Summer Olympics by becoming the first African American swimmer to win an individual gold medal.

Kenneth Chenault Named chief executive of American Express in 2001, Kenneth Chenault is one of the first African Americans to lead a Fortune 500 company.
Lonnie G. Johnson is a former Air Force and NASA engineer who invented the Super Soaker water gun.

Lonnie G. Johnson
(1949-)

Percy Julian was a chemist and pioneer in the chemical synthesis of medicinal drugs from plants (cortisone, steroids, and birth control pills).

Percy Julian
(1899-1975)