The Gift Of Black Folk: The Negroes In The Making Of America

W. E. B Du Bois

In the "Forethought" of *The Souls of Black Folk*, Du Bois provides an overview of the organization of the essays in this book. Teachers can follow Du Bois's guidance for assigning groups of chapters from the text, as the themes of each chapter often overlap or build on each other. It startled the nation to hear a Negro advocating such a programme after many decades of bitter complaint; it startled and won the applause of the South, it interested and won the admiration of the North; and after confused murmur of protest, it silenced if it did not convert the Negroes themselves (p. 41).
The Souls of Black Folk (1903) made his name, in which he urged black Americans to stand up for their educational and economic rights. Du Bois was a founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and edited the NAACP's official journal, "Crisis," from 1910 to 1934. Du Bois turned "Crisis" into the foremost black literary journal. The black nationalist expanded his interests to global concerns, and is called the "father of Pan-Africanism" for organizing international black congresses.