



Department of
**Social Studies
& Civics**

Caption by Walter D. Greason

Art by C.A.P. Ward

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Stories of the Global
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HIDDEN
VOICES
**OCTAVIA
BUTLER**

Octavia Butler was born in Pasadena, California, and raised by her grandmother and mother. Growing up shy, she lost herself in books despite having dyslexia. Her mother could not afford new books, but brought home those she could find at her jobs, later saving to buy Butler a typewriter. Butler's first novel, *Patternmaster*, was published in 1976, and only three years later, she published her most popular novel, *Kindred*. She followed with many more books that employed speculative fiction to hold a mirror to our society. In 1995, Butler won a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, the first science fiction writer to receive the award. Of her power to fix the omission of Black women in science fiction, Butler once said, "I wrote myself in, since I'm me and I'm here ... I can write my own stories and I can write myself in."

C.A.P. WARD