



BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

TIMELINE FOR PRIMARY PUPILS: BLACK BRITISH HISTORY – PAST AND PRESENT.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This timeline is intended to provide information about a selection of significant events and people who have impacted on Black British history. You can use this to support different subjects, discuss key people and events, and to encourage independent research. As the timeline does not fully reflect the contribution of the Black diaspora within the UK or throughout the world, we hope that it will inspire you to find out more.

TIMELINE: BLACK BRITISH HISTORY – PAST AND PRESENT.



**10,000
YEARS
AGO**

10,000-year-old skeleton known as Cheddar Cheese Man is unearthed. He is said to have dark skin, blue eyes and curly hair

**253-258
AD**

Aurelian Moors – a part of the Roman Empire – are stationed at Hadrian's Wall. The Moors were from northern Africa

**193-211
AD**

Roman Emperor **Septimius Severus** becomes the first African-born Roman Emperor (now Libya). He led a military campaign in Britain

668 AD

African-born scholar, Hadrian of Canterbury, becomes an abbot

900s



Kingdom of **Benin** is established and by the 1400s it is a wealthy kingdom rich in brass, palm oil and rubber

1200s

The **Mali** Empire is established by King Sundiata Keita. It is central to trade. It is rich in gold dust and salt.

1350

Mani Kongo Diogo mounts defence to stop the Atlantic slave trade

1604

Shakespeare's play Othello is published and performed. The main character is a Black man



Maroons with their leader Queen Nanny – escaped former enslaved Black Jamaicans – force a British governor to sign a peace agreement giving them both land and freedom

Dido Elizabeth Belle (great-niece of Lord Mansfield) is raised as part of an aristocratic family



UK parliament abolish the slave trade

Shaka Zulu – Zulu chief who founded the Zulu empire - conquers areas of southern Africa and quadruples the size of his army

1700s

1739

1761

1789

1807

1818

Asante Empire (now Ghana) is established and becomes successful under Osei Tutu



Olaudah Equiano – a famous Black writer and former enslaved person – has his life story published



1833

1833 UK parliament abolish slavery

1846

Alexandre Dumas (Haitian-born father) published *The Count of Monte Cristo*. He also wrote *The Three Musketeers*

1853

Mary Seacole – a Jamaican born nurse and healer – travelled to England to help in the Crimean War (now part of Ukraine). She helped to nurse sick soldiers on the battlefield

1875

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor – a composer, poet and political activist – studied at the Royal College of Music and wrote *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

1880s

Queen Mother Yaa Asantewaa leads an army of 5,000 in the Ashanti-British War in 1900

1902

JS Risien Russell becomes one of Britain's first Black British consultants and neurologists. He was from British Guiana (now Guyana)





1904

Dr Harold Moody – who came from Jamaica to study medicine and lived in Peckham – forms the League of the Coloured Peoples

John Richard Archer becomes London's first Black Mayor in Battersea

1913

1914-1918

Walter Tull – English professional footballer and British Army Officer – becomes one of the first Black men to command White soldiers in action in WW1

Sir Learie Constantine MBE – famous cricketeer in the Lancashire League – later later becomes the first Black peer

1929

Una Marson – a Jamaican journalist and poet – travels to London and becomes the BBC's first Black producer

1932



1939-1945

World War 2. Troops from the British Empire play a crucial role. Around 2,600,000 men and 100,000 women actively serve in the war. There are 1,200 in the Caribbean regiment; 5,500 in the RAF as ground crew; 300 Africans and Caribbeans in the RAF as air crew; 13 Victoria Crosses are awarded to “colonial soldiers”; and the UK imports huge quantities of grain, tea, fish and other commodities from the British Empire.*

*Source: Black and British: An illustrated history (Macmillan Children's Books) by David Olusoga

The SS Empire Windrush carrying 500 passengers from the Caribbean, docks at Tilbury, Essex



1948

1957

Notting Hill Carnival is founded by Claudia Jones who broadcasts the first indoor Caribbean carnival



1959

1963

Olympics, **Tommie Smith and John Carlos** give the Black power salute to highlight the need for Black coaches, as well as their disapproval of apartheid

1968

1970s

Althea Gibson becomes the first Black Wimbledon champion. She also won the French Open (1956) and US Open (1957-58)

Fela Kuti – a Nigerian musician – studies at Trinity College (London) and later creates a modern afro-beat and style which achieves international success

Bristol Bus Boycott takes place. It is organised by 4 men (Stephenson, Henry, Hackett and Evans) who challenge the ban on 'coloured' people becoming conductors and drivers

Bob Marley – a Jamaican-born singer – becomes an international star. He mixes politics and reggae.



Arthur Ashe becomes the first Black male Wimbledon champion. He also won the US Open (1968) and the Australian Open (1970)

1975

Moira Stuart becomes the first female African-Caribbean newsreader

1981

3 Black MPs – Bernie Grant, Paul Boateng and Diane Abbott – are elected to parliament.

1987

Laurie Cunningham becomes the first Black footballer to play for England in a competitive international match

1979

Paul Ince becomes the first Black captain of the senior men's England football team

1993

Stephen Lawrence is murdered, and his parents (Baroness Doreen Lawrence and Neville Lawrence) and family begin a campaign for justice

Chris Ofili wins the Turner prize (a prestigious award for British artists)

1998



2002

Paul Boateng becomes the first Black British cabinet minister

2004

Wangari Maathai
– Kenyan environmentalist – becomes the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize

2008



Lewis Hamilton wins his first Formula One title. He was honoured as a Sir, owns the F1 record for career race victories and became the first Black driver to win the F1 world drivers' championship

2013

Malorie Blackman becomes the UK's children's laureate

2014

Steve McQueen wins Best Picture at the Oscars

2018



Sheku Kanneh-Mason MBE – first Black winner of the BBC Young Musician award in 2016 - performs on the cello at the Royal wedding of Harry and Meghan

Stormzy becomes the first Black UK rapper to headline Glastonbury's Pyramid Stage

May 2020 George Floyd is murdered in the USA. His death sparks the Black Lives Matter movement which has worldwide impact and leads to activism across the UK



October 2021 The **Welsh government** become the first UK nation to make the teaching of Black, Asian and minority ethnic histories and experiences mandatory

June 2022 A National **Windrush monument** is unveiled at Waterloo Station

2019

2020

2021

2022



June 2020 Edward Colston's statue is toppled in Bristol



SUGGESTED KS1 AND KS2 ACTIVITIES.

GO FURTHER: LEARN MORE

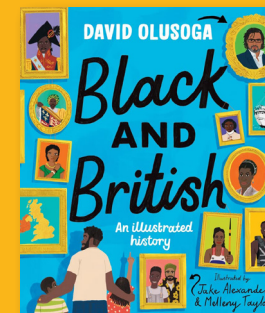
1. Look into the **Kingdom of Benin** and create your own fact file.
2. Be inspired! Choose a figure from the timeline to find out about. Publish your research (drawing, cartoon, speech, report, fact file or blog) to inspire others.
3. Write a poem celebrating what you have learned about Black history.
4. Create your own wordsearch or quiz using key figures from the timeline.
5. Identify key figures from the timeline that could be included in displays in your school.
6. Discuss: which of the events on the timeline should be celebrated? Why?

TIME TO #ACT:

Using your knowledge about Black history, inform and inspire your friends and family.

EAGER TO FIND OUT MORE? TRY...

- Black and British: An illustrated history by David Olusoga
- Little Leaders series by Vashti Harrison
- Exceptional Men in Black History
- Bold Women in Black History
- Visionary Women Around the World
- Influential Black Britons Book (UK Parliament September 2020)



Black and British,
An Illustrated History © 2021
David Olusoga – Macmillan
Children's Books