

# TIMELINE FOR SECONDARY 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.



Roman Emperor
Septimius Severus
becomes the first

becomes the first
African-born Roman
Emperor (now Libya).
He led a military
campaign in Britain
which included
Hadrian's Wall

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

The Mali Empire is established by King Sundiata Keita as a trading empire which flourishes in West Africa until the 1500s due to its gold dust and salt deposits

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



253-258 AD

193-211 AD 668 AD

900s

**1200**s

1350

1604

10,000-year-old skeleton known as Cheddar Cheese Man is unearthed. He is said to have dark skin, blue eyes and curly hair Aurelian Moors – a part of the Roman Empire – are stationed at Hadrian's Wall. The Moors were from 'Mauretania' which means they came from northern Africa (now Morocco and Algeria) African-born scholar, Hadrian of Canterbury, becomes an abbot



Mani Kongo Diogo mounts defence to stop the Atlantic slave trade





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



Alexandre Dumas (Haitian-born father) published The Count of Monte Cristo. He also wrote The Three Musketeers Mary Seacole – a
Jamaican born nurse
and healer – travelled
to England to help in
the Crimean War
(now part of Ukraine).
Following refusal by
the British War Office,
she made her own way
to nurse sick soldiers
on the battlefield



Queen Mother Yaa Asantewaa becomes the gatekeeper of the "golden stool" and leads an army of 5,000 in the Ashanti–British War in 1900 JS Risien Russell becomes one of Britain's first Black British consultants and neurologists. He was from British Guiana (now Guyana) and during the 19th and 20th century he was viewed as a pioneering figure in neurology

1833

1846

1853

1875

1880s

1902

1833 UK parliament abolish slavery



Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

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





John Richard Archer becomes London's first Black Mayor in Battersea Sir Learie
Constantine MBE
– famous cricketeer
in the Lancashire
League – later
becomes a statesman,
the first Black peer
and the author of
Colour Bar

Una Marson -

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



1904

1913

1914-1918

1929

1932

1939-1945

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

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



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.\*

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



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



Olympics, Tommie Smith and John Carlos

give the Black power salute to highlight the need for Black coaches, as well as their strident disapproval of apartheid

1948

1957

1959

1963

1968

1970s

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

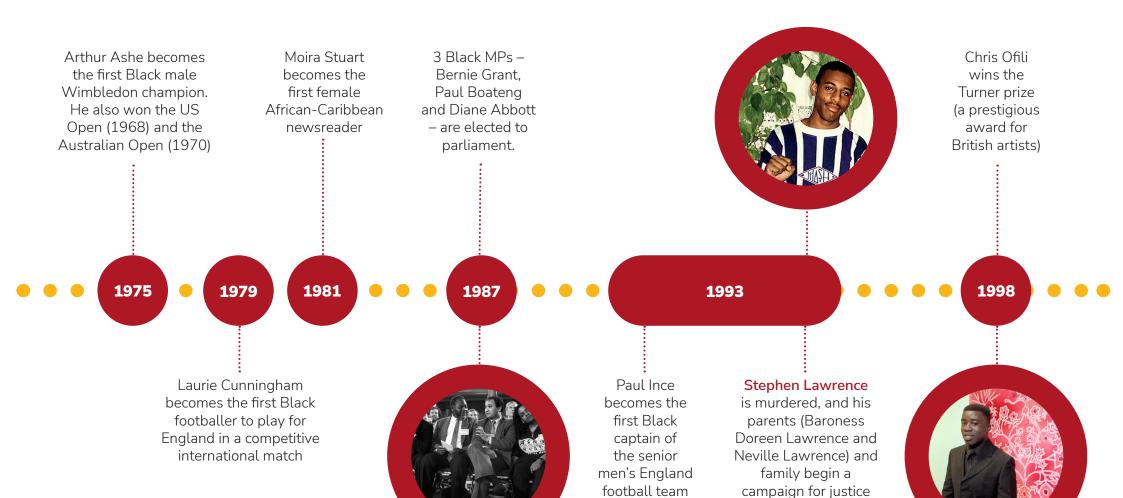
Fela Kuti – a Nigerian musician – studies at Trinity College (London) and later creates a modern afro-beat and style which achieves international success

**Bristol Bus Boycott** 

takes place, organised by Stephenson, Henry, Hackett. Evans and Brown to challenge the union's decision to ban 'coloured' people from becoming conductors and drivers

Bob Marley – a Jamaican-born singer and songwriter achieves success as a politically-infused reggae star. He becomes an international star







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

Malorie Blackman becomes the UK's children's laureate 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

2002

2004

2008

2013

2014

2018

Paul Boateng becomes the first Black British cabinet minister Wangari Maathai

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



Steve McQueen wins Best Picture at the Oscars; he later develops a mini-film series, Small Axe, about Black resilience and triumph



#### 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 KS3 AND KS4 ACTIVITIES.

#### **GO FURTHER: LEARN MORE**

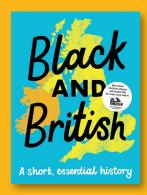
- **1.** Look into ancient African kingdoms. You can choose from: Asante, Benin, Songhay, Kongo, and Dahomey and Oyo. Find out why they were successful, what they achieved and why they are no longer in existence.
- **2.** Find out about the **Bristol Bus Boycott**. What was the significance of Roy Hackett's role in the Bristol Bus Boycott? What are the similarities and differences between this event and Rosa Parks' actions?
- **3.** In preparation for the **75th anniversary of Windrush** 2023, learn about post-war migration to the UK here.
- **4.** Research Steve McQueen, Malorie Blackman or Wangari Maathai. What can you celebrate about each of their lives? How can their stories and achievements inspire you?
- **5.** Create an online quiz using key figures from the timeline. Publish it on your school's: website, twitter or newsletter.
- **6.** Take inspiration from John Agard's poem Checking Out Me History and write your own.
- **7.** Create your own timeline celebrating key events in your lifetime. Compare and contrast with your peers.
- **8.** Research migration into your local area. Find out how it has positively impacted on the local community.

#### **#TIMETOACT**

What actions can you take to continue to increase empowerment, knowledge and understanding about Black history?

# EAGER TO FIND OUT MORE? TRY...

- Black and British: A Short Essential History by David Olusoga
- 100 Great Black Britons by Patrick Vernon and Angelina Osborne
- Homecoming: Voices of a Windrush Generation by Colin Grant



Black and British, A Short Essential History © 2021 David Olusoga – Macmillan Children's Books

