



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## What is Black History Month?

It is an annual monthly celebration of the achievements of Black communities and the remembrance of Black history across the world. It was first celebrated in the UK in 1987 and takes place throughout October. It is an opportunity to raise awareness of Black history, traditions and contribution through celebration, events and education.

### Suggestions to help you use this month to grow your school's knowledge of people of colour/BAME:

- **Engage with and listen** to parents/pupils/staff/governors from BAME backgrounds. What do they think about your school? How would they like BHM to be recognised and celebrated in your school?
- **Find out about your local area**, the skills and talents of BAME people both past and present. Help your students to understand their contribution to where they live.
- **Read extracts/stories** by BAME writers.
- **Stock your library** with books written by and about BAME people, especially those featuring central BAME characters who have agency and do not reflect negative stereotypes.
- **Explore topics** in assemblies/circle/tutor/PSHE time that relate to and affect BAME people.
- **Research and plan** ways in which your school's curriculum can better represent and reflect BAME people, the contribution they have made to world history, scientific and technological advancements, art and music, sport and literature. Ensure that this time is protected and staff are able to spread good practice and report on their achievements and successes.

### Some key figures to get you started!

- **Aurelian Moors** – African soldiers in the Roman army
- **Toussaint L'Ouverture** – a leader of a successful slave revolt; Haitian revolution
- **Nanny the Maroon** – Jamaican leader of the undefeated maroons (formerly enslaved people)
- **Mary Prince** – first published account of a Black woman in Britain
- **Fanny Eaton** – a mixed race Victorian model
- **Dr Harold Moody** – a Jamaican born doctor and activist
- **Walter Tull** – a WW1 Black British soldier
- **Katherine Johnson** – a NASA mathematician
- **Dr Mae Jemison** – an astronaut, physician and engineer
- **Dr Paul Stephenson** – civil rights pioneer; leader in the Bristol Bus Boycott
- **Sam King** – the first Black mayor of London borough of Southwark
- **Garrett Morgan** – the inventor of the traffic light warning system

- **Wole Soyinka** – a Nigerian playwright, novelist and poet
- **Marie Van Brittan Brown** – an inventor of the first home security system
- **Diane Abbott** – the first black woman elected to the House of Commons; former shadow Home Secretary
- **Chris Ofili** – a British Turner Prize winner
- **Steve McQueen** – a British filmmaker (first Black filmmaker to win the Academy Award)
- **Chimamanda Ngozie-Adichie** – an author and feminist activist
- **Kadeena Cox** – a Paralympian gold medallist
- **Ade Adepitan** – a TV presenter and wheelchair basketball player
- **Lewis Hamilton** – a British racing driver born in Stevenage!
- **Akala** – author, rapper, poet and activist

### KS1 and 2 Texts

- 'I Know a Lot' by Stephen Krensky
- 'Anna Hibiscus' by Atinuke
- 'The Proudest Blue' by Ibtihaj Muhammad
- 'Sofia the Dreamer and Her Magical Afro' by Jessica Wilson
- 'Little Leaders' by Vashti Harrison—'Exceptional Men in Black History' and 'Bold Women in Black History'

### KS3 and 4 Texts

- 'Black and British' by David Olusoga
- 'Young Gifted and Black' by Jamia Wilson
- 'The Other Side of Truth' by Beverley Naidoo
- 'The Enigma Game' by Elizabeth Wein
- 'I Am Malala' by Malala Yousafzai
- 'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman
- 'Teacher's Dead' by Benjamin Zephaniah
- 'The Hate U Give' by Angie Thomas

### Teacher Resources:

- 'Anti Racist Ally' by Sophie Williams
- 'Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People about Race' by Reni Eddo-Lodge
- 'Natives' by Akala
- 'White Fragility' by Robin DiAngelo
- 'The Good Immigrant' Edited by Nikesh Shukla
- 'How to be an Antiracist' by Dr Ibram X Kendi

### Avoid doing this!

- Relying on stereotypes of BAME people
- Focusing on slavery/the slave trade
- Focusing solely on key African American figures
- Presenting black people as needing to be saved

### Useful websites to visit:

- [bbc.co.uk/cbbc/curations/black-history-month](http://bbc.co.uk/cbbc/curations/black-history-month)
- [blackhistorymonth.org.uk](http://blackhistorymonth.org.uk)
- [hertsmemories.org.uk/content/category/herts-history/topics/black-history-month](http://hertsmemories.org.uk/content/category/herts-history/topics/black-history-month)
- [herts.ac.uk/about-us/equality-and-diversity/black-history-month/black-history-month-event](http://herts.ac.uk/about-us/equality-and-diversity/black-history-month/black-history-month-event)

### Things to do during October 2021 for BHM:

- Visit Beacon Books in Finsbury Park – [newbeaconbooks.com](http://newbeaconbooks.com)
- Educational film screenings [bfi.org.uk/news/steve-mcqueen-small-axe-special-weekend-bfi-southbank](http://bfi.org.uk/news/steve-mcqueen-small-axe-special-weekend-bfi-southbank)
- Support Black-owned businesses (restaurants, shops etc).
- Visit Nubian Jak Plaques—The Black Plaque Project [blackplaqueproject.com](http://blackplaqueproject.com)
- Visit the Black Cultural Archives in Brixton [blackculturalarchives.org](http://blackculturalarchives.org)
- Visit the African Centre in Southwark [africacentre.org.uk](http://africacentre.org.uk)