

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ASSEMBLY



WHAT IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

The dedicated month was envisioned as a way to counter the perceived invisibility of black people and to challenge the negative stereotypes that were often the only manner black people were pictured in popular culture.

Black History Month was first launched in London in 1987 (and in America 20 years earlier) where the aim was for the local community to challenge racism and educate themselves and others about the history that was not taught in schools.

**KIDS
TALK**

**BLACK
HISTORY**

East New York Middle School



BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

WHEN IS IT?

It is **celebrated** in February in the United States and Canada, while in Ireland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom it is observed in October.



WHY IS IT CELEBRATED AT A DIFFERENT TIME IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES?

The US celebrates in February because the birthdays of former US President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass fall within this month.

There are two reasons thought to be behind why *Black History Month* is celebrated in October in the UK.

Traditionally, October is when African chiefs and leaders gather to settle their differences, so Akyaaba chose this month to reconnect with African roots.

Additionally, many thought that since it was the beginning of the new academic year, October would give black children a sense of pride and identity.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Black History Month is a time when people of African ancestry can come together in memory of the rich past, a past that has largely been hidden from us. It is a time when we are given the opportunity to learn about many of our contributions and accomplishments, which have historically been taken for granted.

Black History is a time of rejoicing, celebrating and being thankful for giving us hope or a life lesson that could be used. It's about integrity, leadership, and determination. It's about showing your true character.

The month strives for equality and inclusion.



Learning

TRADITIONS

Celebrations across the country include:

Food festivals

Music workshops

Educational seminars and lectures





BLACK WOMEN YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



- Mary Seacole was born and grew up in Jamaica, but came over to England in 1854.
- She asked the War Office if she could go to help wounded soldiers who were fighting in the Crimean War (1853-1856), but she wasn't allowed.
- So she raised the money herself and travelled to Balaclava, Ukraine. Here, she looked after British soldiers who had been injured.
- Despite all that she did, not many people knew who she was or the amazing work that she had done after she died. Most people remember Florence Nightingale, who helped many people too.

- Evelyn Dove was the daughter of a lawyer from Sierra Leone in Africa and his English wife.
- She was a student at the Royal Academy of Music. While she was there, she performed with some of the world's top black entertainers and went on to become a singing and acting star of the 1920s.
- She became famous all over the world, at a time when black female performers would struggle to get the same recognition as white entertainers because of racial prejudices.



BLACK WOMEN YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



- Lilian Bader was born in 1918 in Liverpool and went on to become one of the very first black women to join the British Armed Forces.
- Starting out as a canteen assistant at an army base in Yorkshire, she eventually trained as an instrument repairer, before becoming a leading aircraftwoman and soon afterwards earning herself the rank of Corporal.
- Three generations of her family served in the armed forces.

- Olive Morris was an important figure in terms of civil rights.
- Black people didn't used to have the same rights as other people, simply because of the colour of their skin - and Olive was one of many people who worked tirelessly to change that.
- She campaigned for the rights of black people in South London and Manchester, and was a founding member of groups like the Organisation of Women of African and Asian Descent (OWAAD) and the Brixton Black Women's Group.
- She passed away at the age of just 27, but even by this age she had contributed an enormous amount to black communities across the country.



BLACK WOMEN YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



- Margaret Busby is an extremely influential name in the world of publishing.
- That's because she was Britain's youngest and first black female book publisher, when she co-founded the publishing company Allison & Busby in 1967, alongside a man called Clive Allison.
- The company didn't *only* publish work by black writers, but it did help to make the names of many black writers more well-known.

- Only recently, Dr Shirley Thompson was named as "one of the most inspirational Black British women" by the newspaper Metro.
- In 2004, she became the first woman in Europe to conduct and compose a symphony within the last 40 years. It was called New Nation Rising, A 21st Century Symphony.
- The piece of music celebrated London's history and was composed to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002.
- She has also written pieces to be used in films, on television, by dancers and on stage.



ROSA PARKS



Called "the mother of the civil rights movement," **Rosa Parks** invigorated the struggle for racial equality when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama.

Parks' arrest on December 1, 1955 launched the Montgomery Bus Boycott by 17,000 black citizens.



ROSA PARKS

HISTORY TIMELINE



FRESBERG

MICHELLE OBAMA



Michelle Obama is an American attorney and author who was the first lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017.

She is married to the 44th president of the United States, Barack Obama. She was the first African-American first lady.

As first lady, Obama served as a role model for women and worked as an advocate for poverty awareness, education, nutrition, physical activity, and healthy eating.



BLACK MEN YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

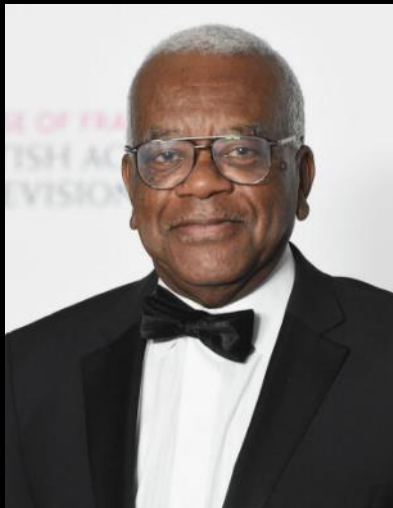


- Ira Aldridge was an extremely important actor in plays at the theatre.
- He was one of the highest paid actors in the world at a time when black actors did not have the same opportunities as white actors.
- He was born in New York, but moved to the UK because he wouldn't have been able to achieve his acting goals in America.
- He became well-known across Europe as a brilliant actor of Shakespeare plays.

- John Edmonstone was a very important figure in the world of scientific research.
- He was born into slavery, but when he gained his freedom, he moved to Scotland where he met a man called Charles Waterton, who taught him the skill of taxidermy. This is the practice of stuffing animals after they have died.
- After this, he became a teacher at Edinburgh University, where he taught Charles Darwin.



BLACK MEN YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



- You may have seen his face on the television before, as Sir Trevor MacDonald is one the most well-known presenters on TV in Britain.
- He was born in Trinidad where he worked in the media, but came over to Britain in the late 1960s to work for the BBC in London.
- He later moved to a different organisation called ITN and went on to become one of the most successful journalists in the country.
- In 1999, he received a knighthood from the Queen for his work.

- Lennox Lewis is one of the most successful British sportsmen of all time and his name is known all over the world.
- He was a boxer who won 41 of his 44 professional fights, which is a pretty amazing record.
- He announced his retirement from the sport in 2004



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR



Martin Luther King, Jr was a social activist and Baptist minister who played a key role in the American civil rights movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968.

King sought equality and human rights for African Americans, the economically disadvantaged and all victims of injustice through peaceful protest.

He was the driving force behind watershed events such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the 1963 March on Washington, which helped bring about such landmark legislation as the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.



H
HISTORY

H SUBSCRIBE

NELSON MANDELA

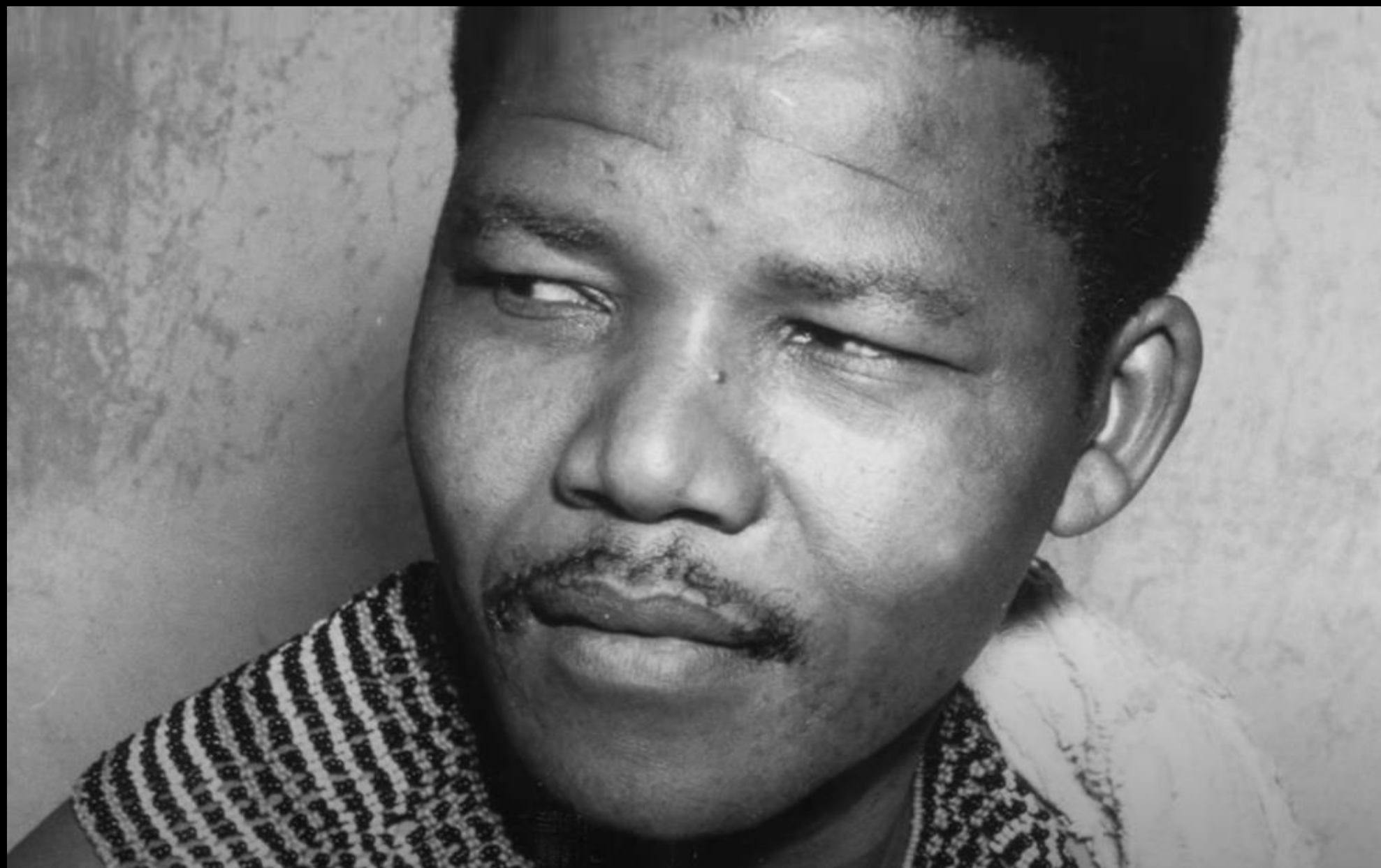


Nelson Mandela was a social rights activist, politician and philanthropist who became South Africa's first Black president from 1994 to 1999.

After becoming involved in the anti-apartheid movement in his 20s, Mandela joined the African National Congress in 1942.

For 20 years, he directed a campaign of peaceful, nonviolent defiance against the South African government and its racist policies.

He was hailed as a global symbol of reconciliation. He was a master in communication and negotiation which led to his release, the end of apartheid and the dawn of democracy in South Africa. He was the first black president democratically elected in South Africa



HOW CAN I CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

- Raise money for a good cause
 - [Stop Hate UK](#)
 - [UK Black Pride](#)
 - [Keash Salon Hardship Fund](#)
 - [Crisis Funding for Inclusive Publishers](#)
 - [Black Minds Matter](#)
 - [Black Lives Matter UK](#)
- Read a book or watch a movie by a black author/director
- Eat culturally significant food
- Listen to music by black artists
- Educate yourself on black history
- Visit a museum or exhibition
- Talk to someone in your community
- Challenge discrimination in your school



REFLECTION

- What does black history month mean to you?
 - Why is it important to recognise and celebrate black history month?
- How can you challenge discrimination?
 - How can you make a difference?

THE ASSEMBLY STORE

*thank
you*

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