

Disclaimer

This resource is designed to support teaching on or around enslavement and the transatlantic trade of enslaved people. Please be aware that it may not be appropriate for the children in your class to freely research further into this topic due to the harrowing information and images freely available on the Internet. Know your class: some content may be too upsetting for some children.

Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual event that shines a light on the contributions of Black people to culture and society. It takes place during February in the USA and Canada and is in October in the UK.

The Origins of Black History Month

The idea of setting aside a time to highlight Black history was first introduced in 1926 by an American historian named Carter G. Woodson. Carter is credited with beginning the tradition of a yearly celebration of Black history. He also popularised the long-neglected area of Black studies among scholars and educational institutions. Carter's concept was to showcase the important contributions Black Americans had made; the result of his devotion was the continued celebration of Black history during an annual event that has evolved into the Black History Month of today.

It is believed that Carter selected the month of February for his first celebration of Black history due to it being the month in which Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln were born. These two men were important figures in campaigning and legislating for the freedom of enslaved people.

How Is Black History Month celebrated?

Black History Month is honoured in a wide variety of ways. Many schools, cultural institutions, community organisations and even some retailers plan dedicated events to celebrate Black culture: past, present and future. During Black History Month, children learn about significant Black people and events in school; this may include studying important Black individuals, learning about different cultures or sharing stories of their own family heritage. Many museums install dedicated exhibitions and libraries and community spaces often host all kinds of events and celebrations.

Timeline of Black History

c. AD 900

Construction begins on a large system of walls and moats to mark the boundary of the City of Benin, modern-day Nigeria.

c. mid-1500s

European traders begin to trade in enslaved people on the coast of West Africa. Over the next 300 years, 12 million people will be transported to the Americas and enslaved in this way.

1774

Ignatius Sancho is the first Black person to vote in a British election.

1789

Olaudah Equiano publishes a book about his experiences. It is one of the first books published by a Black author.

1807

Buying and selling enslaved people becomes illegal in the British Empire.

Why Is Black History Month Important?

It is vital that Black History Month is observed because it is a subject that is widely underrepresented across various areas of society, for example in education, museums and cultural monuments. This time is set aside to give greater focus and recognition to the stories of Black people that have been neglected in the past. Black History Month is a celebration of these stories and also an important reminder that they have not always been given the position in history that they deserve.



1834

The Abolition of Slavery Act. It becomes illegal to buy, sell or own enslaved people. Unfortunately, many are forced to continue to work for their former owners.

1835

John Kent becomes the first Black police officer in the UK.

1913

John Archer becomes the Mayor of Battersea; he was the first Black mayor in London.

1948

The Empire Windrush docks in Britain carrying hundreds of people from the Caribbean. They were British citizens who had been invited to live in Britain to help rebuild after the Second World War.

1966

The first Notting Hill Carnival is held to celebrate different cultures and bring communities together.

1987

Bernie Grant, Diane Abbott and Paul Boateng become the first Black British MPs.

Questions

1. Who organised the first Black history celebration? Tick one.

- Abraham Lincoln
- Frederick Douglass
- Carter G. Woodson
- Olaudah Equiano

2. Look at the sentence below and underline one word that tells you that Black studies was not always a popular subject.

He also popularised the long-neglected field of Black studies among scholars and educational institutions.

3. Look at the first paragraph.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'passion'.

4. Fill in the missing words.

Many schools, cultural _____, community organisations and even some retailers plan _____ events to celebrate Black culture: past, present and future.

5. When is Black History Month celebrated in Canada?

6. Why do you think Carter G. Woodson thought a protected time to celebrate Black history was needed?

7. How do you predict Black History Month celebrations will change in the future?

8. Discuss the reasons why Black History Month is important. Use evidence from the text as well as your own ideas.

Answers

1. Who organised the first Black history celebration? Tick one.

- Abraham Lincoln
- Frederick Douglass
- Carter G. Woodson**
- Olaudah Equiano

2. Look at the sentence below and underline one word that tells you that Black studies was not always a popular subject.

He also popularised the long-neglected field of Black studies among scholars and educational institutions.

3. Look at the first paragraph.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'passion'.

devotion

4. Fill in the missing words.

Many schools, cultural **institutions**, community organisations and even some retailers plan **dedicated** events to celebrate Black culture: past, present and future.

5. When is Black History Month celebrated in Canada?

Black History Month is celebrated in February in Canada.

6. Why do you think Carter G. Woodson thought a protected time to celebrate Black history was needed?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Carter G.Woodson thought that a protected time to celebrate Black history was needed because it was an important aspect of history that had been ignored for too long. I also think he recognised that it was important for Black people to embrace their own heritage.

7. How do you predict Black History Month celebrations will change in the future?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I predict that Black History Month celebrations will continue to be important but that they will change to reflect how Black culture evolves in the future. This could mean a greater focus on social media and online events or even celebrations about people that we don't even know are historically significant yet!

8. Discuss the reasons why Black History Month is important. Use evidence from the text as well as your own ideas.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Black History Month is important because it is a time when Black history is given focused attention. It gives people the opportunity to better understand their own history and culture or those of someone else. It is important that we use this time to learn about Black history because it is an area that is not always given the acknowledgment it deserves.

Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual event that shines a light on the contributions of Black people to culture and society throughout history. It takes place during February in the USA and Canada and is in October in the UK.

The Origins of Black History Month

The idea of setting aside a time to highlight Black history was first introduced in 1926 by a historian named Carter G. Woodson. Carter is credited with beginning the tradition of a yearly celebration of Black history. Carter's concept was to showcase the important contributions Black Americans had made; the result of his devotion was the continued celebration of Black history during an annual event that has evolved into the Black History Month of today. Furthermore, he popularised the long-neglected field of Black studies among scholars and educational institutions.

It is believed that Carter selected the month of February for his first celebration of Black accomplishments due to it being the month in which two important figures were born: Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, both of whom were instrumental in campaigning and legislating for the freedom of enslaved people. Over the years following Carter's first Black history celebration, the concept was adopted in many schools and universities. In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially adopted Black History Month as a recognised annual celebration and designated February as Black History Month.

How Is Black History Month celebrated?

Black History Month is honoured in a wide variety of ways. Many schools, cultural institutions, community organisations and even some retailers plan dedicated events to celebrate Black culture: past, present and future.

Timeline of Black History

c. AD 900

Construction begins on a large system of walls and moats to mark the boundary of the City of Benin, modern-day Nigeria.

c. mid-1500s

European traders begin to trade in enslaved people on the coast of West Africa. Over the next 300 years, 12 million people will be transported to the Americas and enslaved in this way.

1774

Ignatius Sancho is the first Black person to vote in a British election.

1789

Olaudah Equiano publishes a book about his experiences. It was one of the first books published by a Black author.

1807

Buying and selling enslaved people becomes illegal in the British Empire.

Black History Month

1834

The Abolition of Slavery Act. It becomes illegal to buy, sell or own enslaved people. Unfortunately, many are forced to continue to work for their former owners.

1835

John Kent becomes the first Black police officer in the UK.

1913

John Archer becomes the Mayor of Battersea; he was the first Black mayor in London.

1948

The Empire Windrush docks in Britain carrying hundreds of people from the Caribbean. They were British citizens who had been invited to live in Britain to help rebuild after the Second World War.

1966

The first Notting Hill Carnival is held to celebrate different cultures and bring communities together.

1987

Bernie Grant, Diane Abbott and Paul Boateng become the first Black British MPs.

2020

The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement spreads across the world with renewed vigour in response to the death of George Floyd. This, along with other similar incidents, sparks mass protests and demonstrations about racism across the USA and the world.

Why Is Black History Month Important?

It is vital that Black History Month is observed because it is a subject that is widely underrepresented across various areas of society, for example in education, museums and cultural monuments. This designated time is set aside to give greater focus and recognition to the stories of Black people that have been neglected in the past. Black History Month is a celebration of these stories and also an important reminder that they have not always been given the position in history that they deserve.



Questions

1. When were the first Black MPs elected in the UK? Tick one.

- 1926
 1987
 1948
 1966

2. Draw **four** lines and match each person to their achievement.

John Kent

Olaudah Equiano

Ignatius Sancho

Carter G. Woodson

author of one of the first books by a Black writer

founder of Black history celebrations

the first Black British police officer

first Black man to vote in a British election

3. Look at the section called **How Is Black History Month celebrated?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'history'.

4. Carter G. Woodson chose to celebrate Black history in February because it is when **two** important people were born.

Name them.

• _____

• _____

5. Fill in the missing words.

This _____ time is set aside to give greater focus and recognition to the stories of Black people that have been _____ in the past.

6. Why do you think it is important to observe Black History Month?

7. How have the lives of Black people changed since the first Black history celebration in 1926?

8. How do you predict Black History Month will change in the future?

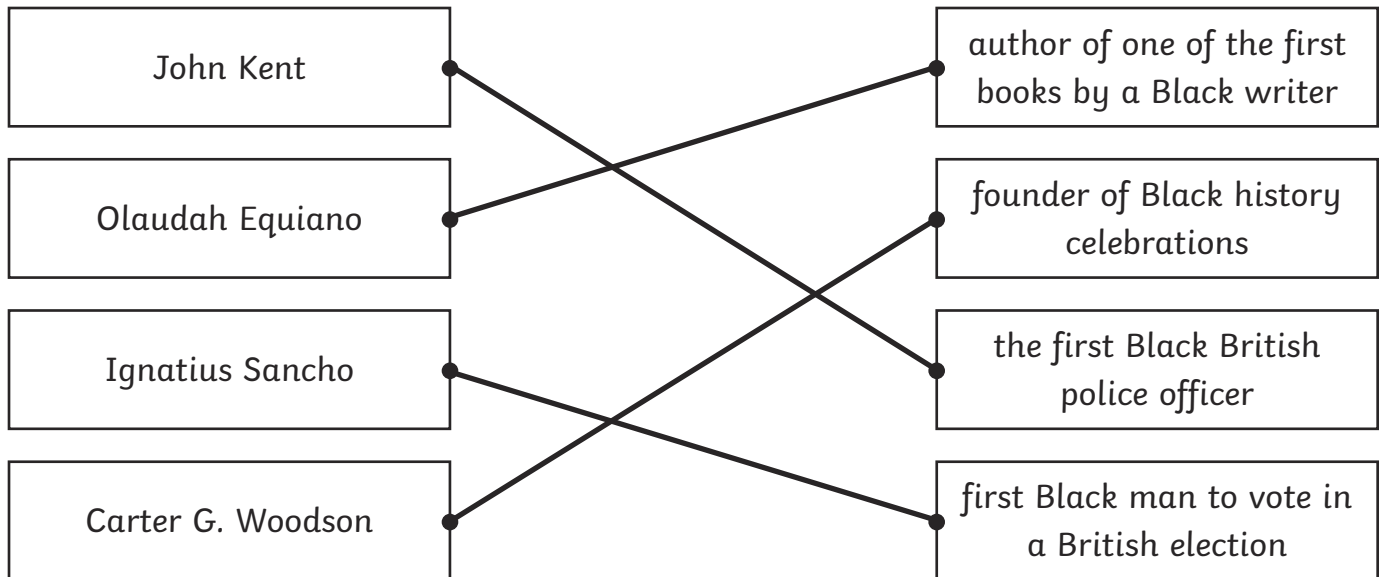
9. Discuss ways in which Black History Month could be marked in your community.

Answers

1. When were the first Black MPs elected in the UK? Tick one.

- 1926
 1987
 1948
 1966

2. Draw **four** lines and match each person to their achievement.



3. Look at the section called **How Is Black History Month celebrated?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'history'.

heritage

4. Carter G. Woodson chose to celebrate Black history in February because it is when **two** important people were born.

Name them.

- **Frederick Douglass**
- **Abraham Lincoln**

5. Fill in the missing words.

This **designated** time is set aside to give greater focus and recognition to the stories of Black people that have been **neglected** in the past.

6. Why do you think it is important to observe Black History Month?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that it is important to observe Black History month because it is a time devoted to the celebration and acknowledgement of Black history. Often, history lessons and other areas of society have ignored Black history and the event is a time to try to correct this.

7. How have the lives of Black people changed since the first Black history celebration in 1926?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the lives of Black people have changed significantly since 1926. We have elected our first Black MPs and had the first Notting Hill Carnival. While there have been some significant steps forward towards a more equal society, there is still much work to be done.

8. How do you predict Black History Month will change in the future?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I predict that Black History Month celebrations will continue to be important but that they will change to reflect how Black culture evolves in the future. This could mean a greater focus on social media and online events or even celebrations about people that we don't even know are historically significant yet!

9. Discuss ways in which Black History Month could be marked in your community.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think we could have a Black History Month event or visit a local museum that is having a special event. Each class at my school could make a presentation or short film about a different significant person or event from Black history. We could speak to a local expert on Black history to find out more about Black culture over the years in our area.

Black History Month

Black History Month (BHM) is an annual event to remember and celebrate the contributions of Black people to global culture and society throughout history. It takes place during February in the USA and Canada and is in October in the UK.

The Origins of Black History Month

The idea of setting aside a time to highlight Black history was first introduced in 1926 by a historian named Carter G. Woodson. Carter's concept was to showcase the important contributions Black Americans had made; the result of his devotion was the continued celebration of Black history during an annual celebration, which then evolved into the Black History Month event of today. As well as popularising the long-neglected field of Black studies among scholars and educational institutions, he is also recognised as the founder of an annual week-long celebration of Black history.

It is believed that Carter selected the month of February for his first celebration of Black accomplishments due to it being the month in which two important figures were born: Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, both of whom were instrumental in campaigning and legislating for the freedom of enslaved people. Over the years following Carter's first Black history celebration, the concept was adopted in many schools and universities. In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially adopted Black History Month as a recognised annual celebration in the USA and designated February as Black History Month. It would not be until 11 years later, in 1987 that the first BHM took place in the UK. It was initiated by Ghanaian-born Akyaaaba Addai-Sebo, a special projects officer at the Greater London Council.

Timeline of Black History

c. AD 900

Construction begins on a large system of walls and moats to mark the boundary of the City of Benin, modern-day Nigeria.

c. mid-1500s

European traders begin to trade in enslaved people on the coast of West Africa. Over the next 300 years, 12 million people will be transported to the Americas and enslaved in this way.

1774

Ignatius Sancho is the first Black person to vote in a British election.

1789

Olaudah Equiano publishes a book about his experiences. It was one of the first books published by a Black author.

1807

Buying and selling enslaved people becomes illegal in the British Empire.



Black History Month



Carter G.
Woodson

Carter Goodwin Woodson (1875 - 1950) was a prominent American scholar and historian who is responsible for forging the initial channels towards the celebration of Black history.

He dedicated his career to securing appropriate recognition for the historic contributions of Black people. Aside from the rightful acknowledgement of Black people's achievements, he was also passionate about young Black Americans being acutely aware of their heritage. In 1915, he founded the Association for the Study of Black Life and History to foster and encourage the detailed study of Black history. Throughout his life, he also published many journals and periodicals on the topic and began a six-volume reference book project called 'Encyclopaedia Africana'.

How Is Black History Month Celebrated?

Black History Month is celebrated in a wide variety of ways. While Black history is an important topic that is addressed in many ways throughout the year, BHM is a time to give particular focus to the rich history of Black people. Many schools, cultural institutions, community organisations and even some retailers plan dedicated events to observe, commemorate and champion Black culture: past, present and future.

During BHM, children learn about significant Black people and events in school; this may include studying important Black individuals, learning about different cultures or sharing stories of their own family heritage. Many museums install dedicated exhibitions and libraries and community spaces often host all kinds of events and celebrations.

1834

The Abolition of Slavery Act. It becomes illegal to buy, sell or own enslaved people. Unfortunately, many are forced to continue to work for their former owners.

1835

John Kent becomes the first Black police officer in the UK.

1913

John Archer becomes the Mayor of Battersea; he was the first Black mayor in London.

1948

The Empire Windrush docks in Britain carrying hundreds of people from the Caribbean. They were British citizens who had been invited to live in Britain to help rebuild after the Second World War.

1966

The first Notting Hill Carnival is held to celebrate different cultures and bring communities together.

1987

Bernie Grant, Diane Abbott and Paul Boateng become the first Black British MPs.

Black History Month

2020

The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement spreads across the world with renewed vigour in response to the death of George Floyd. This, along with other similar incidents, sparks mass protests and demonstrations about racism across the USA and the world.

Why Is Black History Month Important?

It is vital that Black History Month is observed because it is a subject that is greatly underrepresented across various areas of society, for example in education, museums and cultural monuments. This designated time is set aside to give greater focus and recognition to the stories and accomplishments of Black people that have been ignored or marginalised in the past. BHM is a celebration of these stories but also an important reminder that they have not always been given the position in history that they deserve.

Questions

1. Who was born in February? Tick **two**.

- Abraham Lincoln
- Carter G. Woodson
- Frederick Douglass
- Gerald Ford

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Diane Abbott became one of the first Black British MPs.
- John Kent became the first Black British police officer in the UK.
- Ignatius Sancho is the first Black person to vote in a British election.
- Olaudah Equiano published a book about his life.

3. Look at the section called **The Origins of Black History Month**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'making laws'.

4. Fill in the missing words.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially _____ Black History Month as a recognised annual celebration in the USA and _____ February as Black History Month.

5. When was Carter G. Woodson born?

6. Why is it important to have a dedicated time to focus on Black history?

7. Summarise the information you have learnt about Carter G. Woodson in 35 words or fewer.

8. How do you think the first Black History celebration compares to the Black History Month of today? How do you think they are similar and different?

9. Discuss the ways in which Black History Month could be marked in your school or community.

10. Complete the table below giving one piece of evidence for each statement.

Statement	Evidence
Black History is an important time in the school calendar.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
The heritage of Black people is undervalued.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Answers

1. Who was born in February? Tick **two**.

- Abraham Lincoln**
- Carter G. Woodson
- Frederick Douglass**
- Gerald Ford

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 4** Diane Abbott became one of the first Black British MPs.
- 3** John Kent became the first Black British police officer in the UK.
- 1** Ignatius Sancho is the first Black person to vote in a British election.
- 2** Olaudah Equiano published a book about his life.

3. Look at the section called **The Origins of Black History Month**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'making laws'.

legislating

4. Fill in the missing words.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially **adopted** Black History Month as a recognised annual celebration in the USA and **designated** February as Black History Month.

5. When was Carter G. Woodson born?

Carter G. Woodson was born in 1875.

6. Why is it important to have a dedicated time to focus on Black History?

Pupils' own responses, such as: It is important to give dedicated time to focus on Black history because it has been ignored in most school curriculums and society in general for many years.

7. Summarise the information you have learnt about Carter G. Woodson in 35 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Carter was an American historian who first had the idea of celebrating Black history. He dedicated his career to raising the profile of Black history and ensured Black people could embrace their own heritage.

8. How do you think the first Black history celebration compares to the Black History Month of today? How do you think they are similar and different?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the very first celebrations of Black history were probably quite different to those we have today because at the time many of the improvements in equality had not taken place. However, I think there were also similarities because the initial celebrations had the same goal as today; to increase the profile and understanding of Black history.

9. Discuss the ways in which Black History Month could be marked in your school or community.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think there are many ways in which Black history could be celebrated in my community. Libraries could hold special events to showcase Black authors. Schools could celebrate the culture of their local community and children could learn about significant people and events in Black history.

10. Complete the table below giving one piece of evidence for each statement.

Statement	Evidence
<p>Black History is an important time in the school calendar.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Many schools, cultural institutions, community organisations and even some retailers plan dedicated events to observe, commemorate and champion Black culture: past, present and future. 2. During Black History Month, children learn about significant Black people and events in school; this may include studying important Black individuals, learning about different cultures or sharing stories of their own family heritage.
<p>The heritage of Black people is undervalued.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is vital that Black History Month is observed because it is a subject that is greatly underrepresented across various areas of society, For example in education, museums and cultural monuments. 2. Black History Month is not only a celebration of the stories and accomplishments of Black people but also an important reminder that they have not always been given the position in history that they deserve.