

Celebrating Black History Month

Learning objective: To understand the purpose of Black History Month and recognise the contributions of Black individuals to British history.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Think about why it is important to celebrate the achievements of people from all backgrounds.

Every October, the United Kingdom celebrates Black History Month. This is a special time dedicated to remembering and honouring the many contributions that Black people have made to British society throughout history. While it is important to learn about these stories all year round, October is a dedicated moment for schools and communities to highlight achievements that may have been overlooked in the past. From scientists and doctors to artists and civil rights campaigners, Black individuals have helped shape the world we live in today. Learning about these figures helps us understand the true, diverse history of our country. It is also a chance to celebrate the different cultures that make our communities vibrant and unique. By studying these stories, we can gain a broader perspective and ensure that everyone's voice is heard. Whether it is discovering a new invention or learning about a person who fought for fairness, Black History Month reminds us that history belongs to everyone. It encourages us to look at the past with curiosity and to build a future where everyone is respected and celebrated for who they are.

Word bank: contribution · diversity · heritage · achievement · inspiration · perspective

1. During which month does the United Kingdom celebrate Black History Month? (1 mark)

2. List three types of roles or careers mentioned in the text that Black individuals have held. (2 marks)

3. Why does the author suggest that it is important to learn about these stories even though they happen 'all year round'? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'overlooked in the past' suggest about how history has been taught previously? (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is important for schools to have a specific month to focus on Black history? Explain your answer using your own ideas. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a 'History Hero' you have learned about, or imagine a statue of someone who has made a positive change in the world.



Extension challenge: Choose one Black individual from history. Conduct research to find three interesting facts about them and write a short poem or a 'fact file' paragraph about why they are an inspiration to others.