

Trailblazers of History: Celebrating Black British Heritage

Learning objective: To understand the significant contributions of individuals of Black heritage to British history and society.

Read each flashcard carefully. Use the front side to prompt your memory and the back side to check your understanding of these influential historical figures and concepts.

Who was Mary Seacole?

A Jamaican-Scottish businesswoman and nurse who set up the 'British Hotel' behind the lines during the Crimean War to provide food and medical care for wounded soldiers.

What was the Windrush generation?

The group of people who arrived in the UK from Caribbean countries between 1948 and 1971 to help rebuild Britain after the Second World War.

Who was Olaudah Equiano?

An author and abolitionist who was enslaved as a child, bought his own freedom, and wrote a powerful autobiography that helped the British public understand the cruelty of the slave trade.

Why is Walter Tull significant in British history?

He was one of the first Black professional footballers in Britain and became the first Black officer to lead white British soldiers into battle during the First World War.

What does the term 'Abolitionist' mean?

A person who works to end a system or practice, specifically used for those who campaigned to end the transatlantic slave trade in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Who was Claudia Jones?

A journalist and activist who helped found the first major Black newspaper in Britain and played a key role in starting the Notting Hill Carnival to celebrate Caribbean culture.

What is meant by the term 'Legacy'?

Something handed down from the past, the lasting impact or influence that a person leaves behind for future generations.

Who was John Edmonstone?

A freed enslaved person who taught taxidermy in Edinburgh; he is famously known for teaching his skills to a young Charles Darwin before Darwin set sail on the HMS Beagle.

Why was the 'British Nationality Act 1948' important?

It gave citizens of the British colonies the right to live and work in the UK, which encouraged many people from the Caribbean to move to Britain to help with post-war recovery.

Who was Ignatius Sancho?

A writer, composer, and shopkeeper who was the first person of African descent known to have voted in a British parliamentary election.

Define 'Resilience'.

The ability to recover quickly from difficulties or to keep going despite facing prejudice or hardship.

What is the importance of commemorating Black history?

To ensure that the diverse contributions of all people to British society are recognised, valued, and understood as part of our shared national story.