

Celebrating Black History: Contributions and Achievements

Learning objective: To recognise the significant contributions of Black individuals to British and global history, and to understand why we celebrate Black History Month.

Use your knowledge of history and the key terms below to answer the following questions. Think about the impact individuals have made on society, science, and culture.

Black History Month is an annual observance that provides an opportunity to reflect on the achievements, struggles, and ongoing influence of Black people throughout history. It is a time to move beyond well-known narratives and explore the diverse stories of scientists, authors, activists, and inventors who have helped shape the world we live in today. By celebrating these contributions, we promote a more accurate and inclusive understanding of our shared history.

Word bank: Diversity · Inclusion · Pioneer · Legacy · Contribution · Equality · Human Rights · Inspiration

1. Why is it important to learn about the achievements of Black individuals during Black History Month rather than just once a year? (2 marks)

2. Choose one person from history who has made a positive contribution to society. Explain who they were and why their actions are considered a 'legacy'. (3 marks)

3. Ellie the elephant is studying history and says that 'diversity makes a community stronger.' In your own words, explain what she means by this. (2 marks)

4. Max the monkey is looking at a timeline. If a pioneer fought for equality in the 1950s, how many years ago did their work begin? Show your calculation. (2 marks)

5. How can learning about the struggles and successes of others help us to be kinder, more inclusive members of our own school community? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a person you have learned about during Black History Month. ____
Around your portrait, draw symbols or pictures that represent their greatest achievements or the field they worked in (e.g., science, art, or social justice).



Extension challenge: Research a 'hidden figure'—someone who made a major discovery or contribution but is not often mentioned in textbooks. Write a short paragraph explaining why they deserve to be remembered today.