

Black History Month



Black History Month is celebrated each year in **October**. It is a chance to celebrate the **achievements** of Black people in the past and present.

It is celebrated in **schools, museums, universities** and lots of other places. People learn about important Black people and the impact they have had on **society**.

Black History Month was first celebrated in the UK in the **1980s**.

Did You Know...?

In the USA, Black History Month is celebrated in **February** each year.

Why Do We Have Black History Month?



Black people have been an **important part of society** for a long time. Even though many Black people have achieved important things, they weren't often mentioned in history books, television shows about the past or even in school history lessons.

This meant that lots of people didn't know about all the amazing things that they had done. We have Black History Month so that people can learn about the **important achievements of those people.**

Do you know who any of these people are?



**Ignatius
Sancho**



**Mary
Seacole**



**Nelson
Mandela**



**Katherine
Johnson**

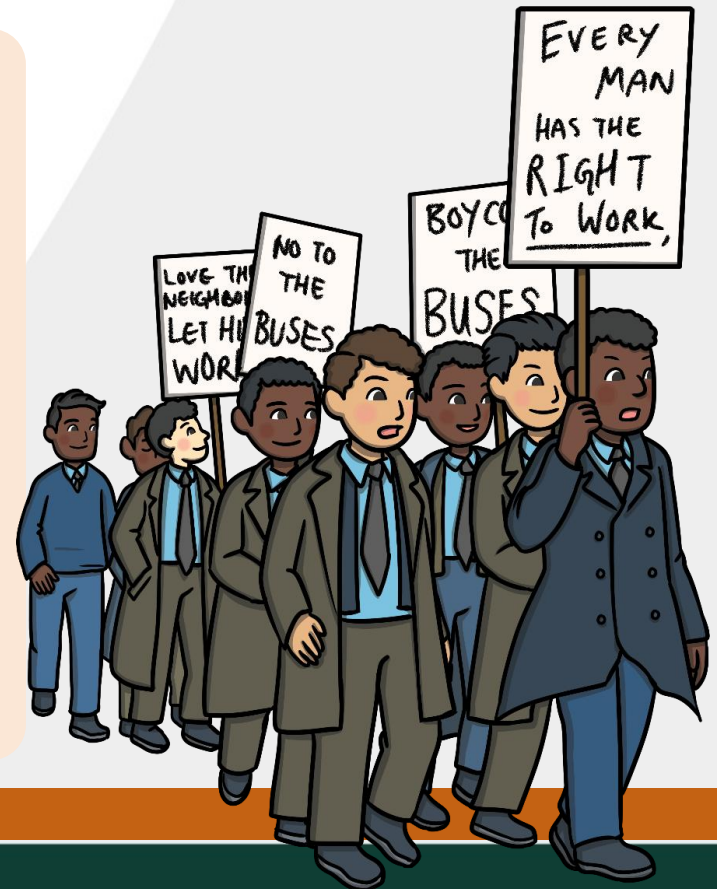
Racism



Racism has meant that the achievements of Black people in history have often not been recognised. Racism is when a person is treated unfairly or wrongly because of parts of their cultural identity or characteristics.

Examples of racism in the past include:

- In the USA, Black people used to have to sit at the back of buses and give up their seats if a White person wanted their seat;
- In South Africa, Black people could only live in certain places, often without electricity or running water;
- In the UK, some people wouldn't rent houses or rooms to Black people.



How Did Black History Month Start?



In 1875, **Carter G Woodson** was born in the USA. Because of the racism he experienced, Carter didn't have many opportunities to have an education or a well-paid job. However, he eventually managed to go to one of the top **universities** in the USA.

He noticed that there was almost no mention of Black people in history books and wanted to change this. **In 1926**, he announced the first ever Black History Month. Carter became known as the **'Father of Black History'**.



Significant Black People



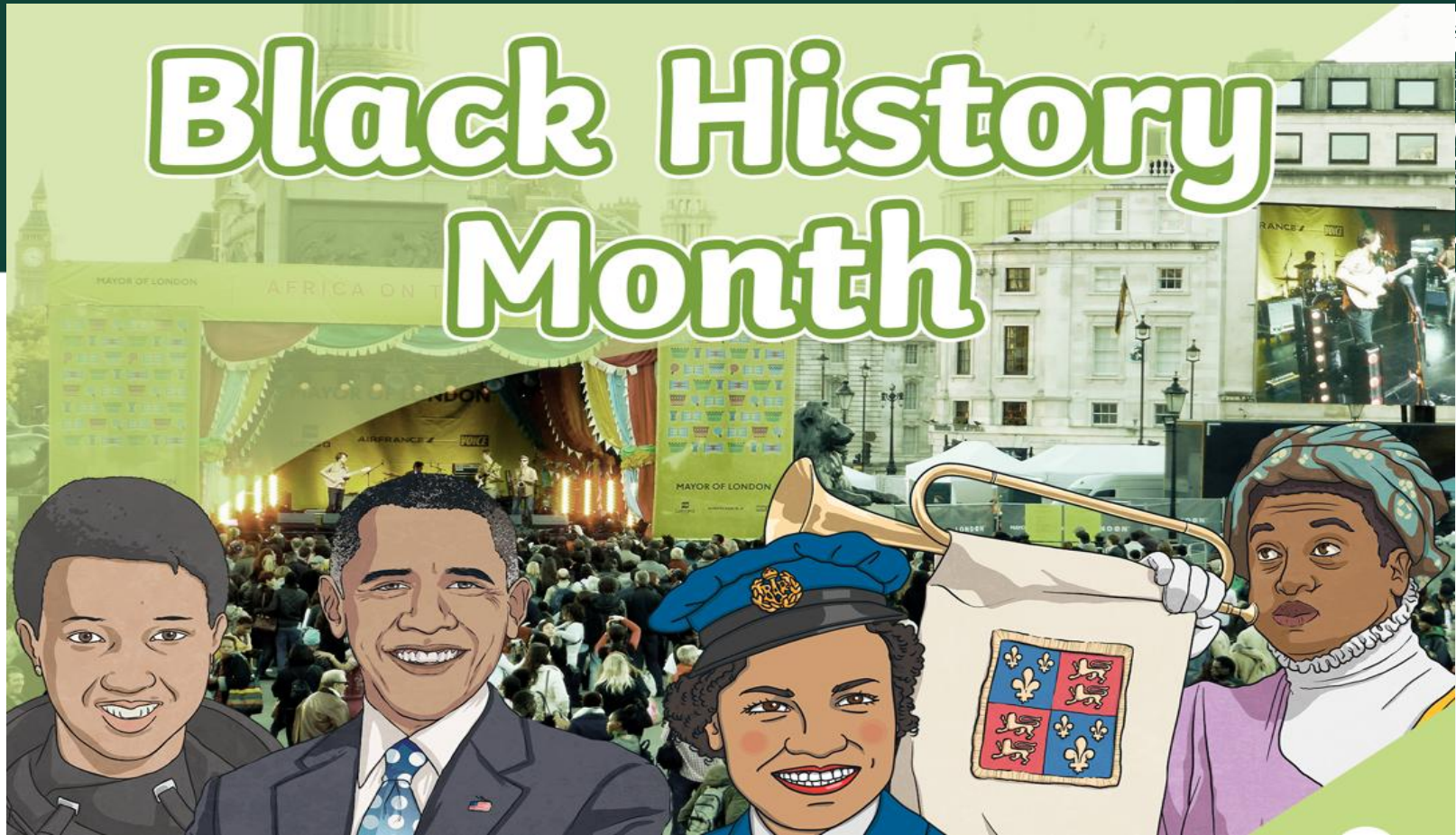
Here are just some of the people you might learn about during Black History Month.

Malcolm X was a leader in the USA who campaigned for Black people to be treated equally.



Tessa Sanderson is a British athlete who took part in six Olympic Games. She won a gold medal at the 1984 Olympics.

Black History Month



Competition!

The Task:

- To create an **informative** and **engaging** fact file/poster about any important and influential black figure- both historical and modern.
- This could be a famous **athlete, politician, leader, scientist, astronaut, activist-** anybody who has made an impact!

Some examples:



Rosa Parks



Mae Jemison



Barack Obama



Tessa Sanderson



Nelson Mandela



Katherine Johnson

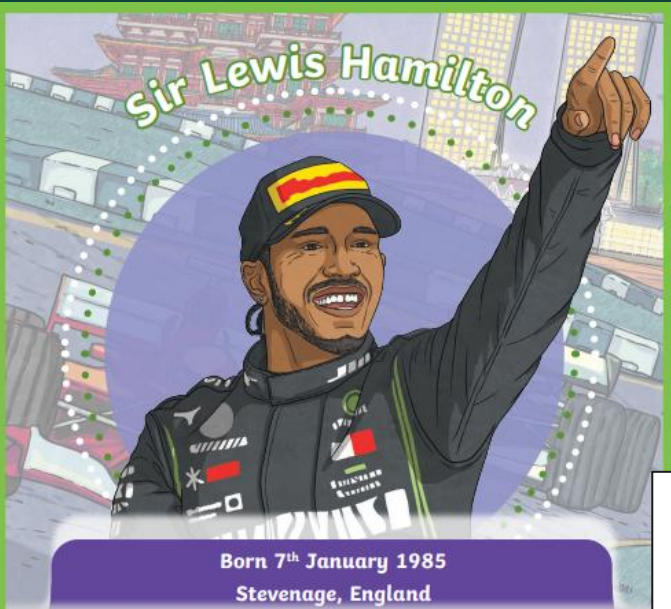


SIR LENNY HENRY
1958

Can you think of any other examples?

[illegible]

Examples:



- ★ Sir Lewis Hamilton is a Formula One racing car driver.
- ★ He is one of the most successful Formula One drivers of all time, with the most race wins, pole positions and podium finishes.
- ★ He has won seven world championship titles.
- ★ In 2008, he became the first Black driver to win the Formula One world drivers' championship.
- ★ In 2020, he was knighted for his outstanding achievements and contributions to motorsports.
- ★ As well as his success on the race track, Sir Lewis Hamilton works with a number of charities to improve equality in motorsport and to support disadvantaged young people.

Katherine Johnson Fact File

Date of Birth: 26th August 1918

Place of Birth: West Virginia, USA

Date of Death: 24th February 2020

Early Life

Katherine Johnson was born as Creola Katherine Coleman as the youngest of four children. She showed a strong ability in maths from a young age but the public schools in her area did not offer places to African-American students after the eighth grade (aged 13). Katherine's parents arranged for their children to attend school in a different county. Katherine started high school at the age of ten and graduated when she was just 14, going on to study at West Virginia State University. She obtained a PhD in mathematics before becoming a teacher at a Black public school in Virginia. In 1939, she was selected as one of three African-American students (and the only African-American woman) to attend graduate school at West Virginia University.

Contribution to Science

In 1953, Johnson joined the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), where she performed mathematical calculations as a 'computer' along with several other African-American women. NACA would later become the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Johnson was assigned to analyse data from flight tests to help the all-male flight research team, overcoming racial and gender barriers to do so. In 1961, she calculated the trajectory for *Freedom 7*, which sent the first American man into space. Her calculations ensured that the astronaut Alan Shepard's capsule would be found quickly after landing. When electronic computers were introduced, Johnson continued to work for NASA, verifying calculations to establish confidence in the new technology. Famously, astronaut John Glenn refused to fly in the 1962 *Friendship 7* mission unless Johnson had checked the calculations. Glenn's successful flight around the Earth marked a turning point in the space race between the USA and the Soviet Union. Johnson was later called upon to help calculate the trajectory for the 1969 *Apollo 11* mission, which led to the first man walking on the Moon.

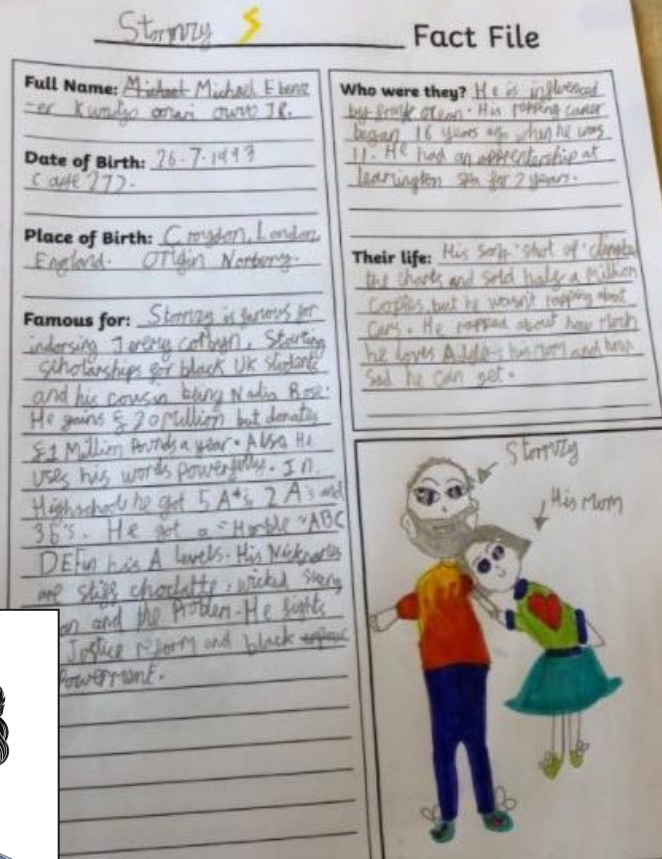


Key Achievements

One of the first African-American women to work as a NASA scientist.

Co-authored 26 scientific papers.

Received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015 and the Silver Snoopy Award, a special honour for outstanding NASA employees, in 2016.





The deadline is:

Wednesday 22nd October

Please give your fact files to Miss
Daniels 😊

There will be a small prize for all children who make a fact file and a bigger prize for an overall winner of the competition.

