

Black History Month

What Happens and Why?



What Is Black History Month?

Black History Month is a time when people are made more aware of the history of African Americans, their contributions to the world and how they suffered in the past.

It is celebrated in October in the UK and in February in America and Canada. February was chosen in the USA as this was the birthday month of the President Abraham Lincoln and also Frederick Douglass, both important people to African Americans.

The UK did not officially start celebrating Black History Month until 1987 and Canada started later in 1995.



Who Started It?

It was started in 1926 by an African-American man called Carter G. Woodson known as the 'Father of Black History'. He was a writer and a historian.



Courtesy of the New River Gorge National River website, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, United States Government

He said, "Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history".

Why Do We Need It?

Carter G. Woodson was upset that most of the history written in America in the 1920s only talked about what white people had achieved. It looked like African Americans did not exist in history.

We know a lot more about famous black men and women today, but there are still many gaps in history to fill.



How Do People Celebrate Black History Month in Schools?

In schools across the UK and the USA, children find out more about black history including slavery, segregation and important people in history.

They also look at important black men and women and their achievements today and in recent years.

Can you name some of these people and their achievements?



Benjamin Banneker

How Do People Celebrate Black History Month in Schools?

In schools across the UK and the USA, children find out more about black history including slavery, segregation and important people in history.

They also look at important black men and women and their achievements today and in recent years.

Can you name some of these people and their achievements?



Mae Jemison

How Do People Celebrate Black History Month in Schools?

In schools across the UK and the USA, children find out more about black history including slavery, segregation and important people in history.

They also look at important black men and women and their achievements today and in recent years.

Can you name some of these people and their achievements?



Rita Dove

How Do People Celebrate Black History Month in the Media?

The media includes television, radio, the Internet and newspapers.

During Black History Month, you may notice that there are more articles and programmes about black history. Television channels may show films or documentaries to teach people about black history or celebrate the achievements of black men and women, such as actors, musicians, politicians and sports people.

Have you seen any articles or programmes celebrating their achievements?

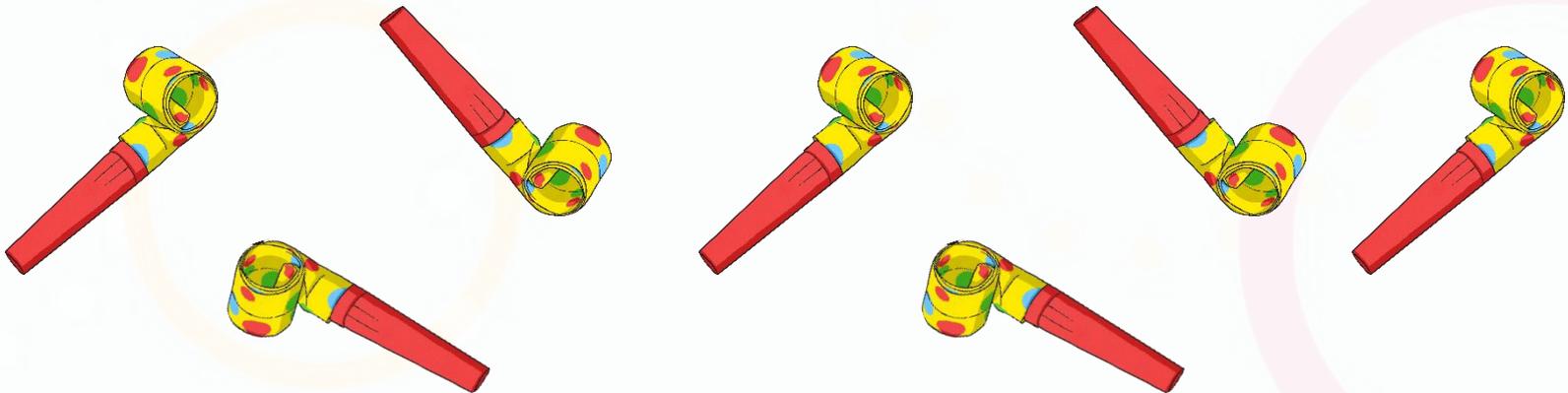


Who Gets Involved?

Many people are involved in celebrating Black History Month and events take place all over the country.

Some famous people feel very strongly about Black History Month and speak out during that time. You can see many articles and statements on the Black History Month Website.

Black History Month Website



Why Is It Still Important?

You may see all men, women and children as equal and that is fantastic.

However, when you dig a bit deeper, you may find out that there is still a way to go as black people are still under represented.

For example, look at all the superheroes you can think of. How many are black?

Do a survey of superheroes or chart black and white inclusion in other areas such as sports, sciences or the top 10 hits in the music chart.



Thinking Time

Reflect on what you have heard.
Has it changed what you think
or how you will act?



