



CELEBRATING

UK BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

WHAT IS
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH?



WHAT IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

A national celebration that aims to promote and celebrate black contributions to society and to foster an understanding of black history in general.



WHY IS
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH
IMPORTANT?



WHY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH IMPORTANT?

1. There's still a lot to learn about black history.
2. Black history unites us.
3. Celebrating differences has countless benefits.
4. We better understand how important our own stories are.



East New York Middle School

**KIDS
TALK**

**BLACK
HISTORY**



BLACK HISTORY MONTH UK THEME
2023
'CELEBRATING OUR SISTERS'

Black women have been at the heart of social justice movements throughout history, courageously battling oppression and advocating for change. However, their accomplishments have frequently been neglected or forgotten.



MARY
SEACOLE



EVELYN
DOVE



- MARY SEACOLE

- Mary Seacole was born and grew up in Jamaica, but came over to England in 1854.
- She asked the War Office if she could go to help wounded soldiers who were fighting in the Crimean War (1853-1856), but she wasn't allowed.
- So she raised the money herself and travelled to Balaclava, Ukraine. Here, she looked after British soldiers who had been injured.
- Despite all that she did, not many people knew who she was or the amazing work that she had done after she died. Most people remember Florence Nightingale, who helped many people too.

- EVELYN DOVE

- Evelyn Dove was the daughter of a lawyer from Sierra Leone in Africa and his English wife.
- She was a student at the Royal Academy of Music. While she was there, she performed with some of the world's top black entertainers and went on to become a singing and acting star of the 1920s.
- She became famous all over the world, at a time when black female performers would struggle to get the same recognition as white entertainers because of racial prejudices.

LILIAN
BADER



OLIVE MORRIS



- LILIAN BADER

- Lilian Bader was born in 1918 in Liverpool and went on to become one of the very first black women to join the British Armed Forces.
- Starting out as a canteen assistant at an army base in Yorkshire, she eventually trained as an instrument repairer, before becoming a leading aircraftwoman and soon afterwards earning herself the rank of Corporal.
- Three generations of her family served in the armed forces.

- OLIVE MORRIS

- Olive Morris was an important figure in terms of civil rights.
- Black people didn't used to have the same rights as other people, simply because of the colour of their skin - and Olive was one of many people who worked tirelessly to change that.
- She campaigned for the rights of black people in South London and Manchester and was a founding member of groups like the Organisation of Women of African and Asian Descent (OWAAD) and the Brixton Black Women's Group.
- She passed away at the age of just 27, but even by this age she had contributed an enormous amount to black communities across the country.

MARGARET
BUSBY



DR SHIRLEY
THOMPSON



- MARGARET BUSBY

- Margaret Busby is an extremely influential name in the world of publishing.
- That's because she was Britain's youngest and first black female book publisher, when she co-founded the publishing company Allison & Busby in 1967, alongside a man called Clive Allison.
- The company didn't *only* publish work by black writers, but it did help to make the names of many black writers more well-known.

- DR SHIRLEY THOMPSON

- Only recently, Dr Shirley Thompson was named as "one of the most inspirational Black British women" by the newspaper Metro.
- In 2004, she became the first woman in Europe to conduct and compose a symphony within the last 40 years. It was called *New Nation Rising, A 21st Century Symphony*.
- The piece of music celebrated London's history and was composed to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002.
- She has also written pieces to be used in films, on television, by dancers and on stage.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2023
POETRY COMPETITION
DEADLINE: 15TH NOVEMBER 2023

You can submit a poem about a pioneering black woman who has made an impact in their chosen field, explaining why she is an inspiration to you. The poems don't have to be about famous people; they can be about members of your family, women who have inspired you in your community, or even about you and your experiences as a woman or young person. We want you to get creative and have fun with it!

All poems will be judged by a panel made up of experts from the world of poetry and literature, who will consider creativity, originality, and relevance to the competition theme. The judges will be looking for poems that capture the spirit of Black History Month and celebrate the achievements and contributions of black women.

