

BLACK HISTORY NEWSLETTER

WHAT IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

Black History Month is a month dedicated to the recognition, promotion and celebration of Black contributions to society.

Given the current climate, black history should be celebrated whenever and wherever possible.

Black history should not be distorted by the media, concealed by textbooks or wiped away by education systems.

However, in order to celebrate Black History Month, it is essential to understand the history behind it.

THE HISTORY BEHIND BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN THE USA

- Carter G Woodson, also known as the "Father of Black History" initiated a campaign called 'Negro History Week' to celebrate and raise awareness of Black history in February 1926.

- In the USA, the month of February was chosen due to the birthdays of Frederick Douglass – the African American abolitionist – and Abraham Lincoln – the former U.S. President who abolished slavery in the USA. These birthdays held much importance to black communities across America, and had also been celebrated since the 19th century.

- By 1976, 'Negro History Week' had become a central part of African American life and the celebration was expanded to a month.

THE HISTORY BEHIND BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN THE UK

- Britain experienced racial unrest under the Thatcher administration with riots taking place in Brixton (1981), Toxteth (1981) and Tottenham (1985).

- Continued racial discrimination, especially in housing, employment, education and institutions such as the police led to a rise in black protest.

- The prominent civil rights movement in the USA inspired similar protest in the UK and various groups such as The Race Today Collective emerged to fight for black rights and against racism during the 1980s.

- Black History Month was officially first celebrated in October 1987 after being organised by Ghanaian analyst Akyaba Addai-Sebo.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Liverpool has the oldest Black community in Europe with black people having been in Liverpool as sailors, slaves, soldiers and students for over 300 years.

HOW CAN YOU HONOUR BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

- Research – there is more information out there than ever before, ranging from historical documents to books to articles so make use of them.

- Visit the International Slavery Museum – our very own city has played an important and historic role in the slave trade, so being informed about this issue will lead to a better understanding of Liverpool, as well as slavery.

- Read black literature – reading is a great way to expand your knowledge on current affairs, so whether you can listen to audio books or visit your local library, ensure that you hear the stories of black people across the world.

WHAT BOOKS CAN YOU READ DURING AND EVEN AFTER BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

- The Hate U Give – by Angie Thomas.
- Noughts and Crosses – by Malorie Blackman.
- Homegoing – by Yaa Gyasi.
- Why I'm No Longer Talking To White People About Race – by Reni Eddo-Lodge.
- Black and British: A Forgotten History – by David Olusoga.
- Don't Touch My Hair – by Sharee Miller.
- Twisted: The Tangled History of Black Hair Culture – by Emma Dabiri.
- Dear Martin – by Nic Stone.

WHAT MOVIES AND DOCUMENTARIES CAN YOU WATCH DURING AND EVEN AFTER BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ 12 Years A Slave | ▪ Glory |
| ▪ 42 | ▪ Loving |
| ▪ Hidden Figures | ▪ Mudbound |
| ▪ Marshall | ▪ Black Panther |
| ▪ The Help | ▪ Harriet |
| ▪ A United Kingdom | ▪ Detroit |
| ▪ Selma | ▪ The Hate U Give |
| ▪ Malcolm X | ▪ The Butler |
| ▪ Fruitvale Station | ▪ 4 Little Girls |
| ▪ 13th | ▪ Dark Girls |
| ▪ When They See Us | ▪ Eyes On The Prize |

To send feedback or to have your ideas included in upcoming newsletters, please email:

pedroj15@broughtonhall.com