



# Black History Month 2023

## Saluting Our Sisters

This week marks the start of Black History Month, a time for us to acknowledge and celebrate Black History. This year's theme is 'Saluting Our Sisters' to mark and remember black women who have marked our history and culture in the UK and worldwide. Black History Month is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions of black people to society. It also serves as an opportunity to inspire and empower future generations. The theme of 'Saluting our Sisters' highlights the crucial role that black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change, and building communities.

**Claudia Jones** will have a blue plaque unveiled by English Heritage as a dedication to her journalism and anti-racism activism work.



The plaque will mark the mid-nineteenth century terraced house in Vauxhall that was her home for nearly four years, making it her longest place of settled residence in London. It was during her time living in

this shared dwelling that Jones founded the *West Indian Gazette* and came up with the idea of bringing the Caribbean carnival to London. The first carnival took place in St Pancras Town Hall on 30 January 1959; later came the Notting Hill Carnival.

Black History Month is more than just a reflection; it's a call to action. Let's remember the past, celebrate the present, and work towards a future where all women can succeed, regardless of their background.

## **Why do we have black history month?**

We have black history month to celebrate the contribution black people have made and continue to make to British society. Black History Month also gives people the opportunity to learn about African and Caribbean culture.

## **How did black history month begin?**

The origins of black history month go back to 1926 when Carter G. Woodson established African-Caribbean celebrations in America. It is still celebrated there in February each year.

## **How is black history month celebrated?**

Events take place all over the country, including storytelling, walks, drama productions, and art displays taking place in schools, libraries, and museums.

## **Why does it take place in October?**

October is significant within the African cultural calendar as it is the harvest period, the period of plenty, and the period of the yam festivals. (The New Yam Festival is, therefore, a celebration depicting the prominence of yam in the social-cultural life of the Igbo people. In

some Igbo communities, all old yams, from the previous year's crop, must be consumed or discarded on the eve of the New Yam Festival)

October is also near the beginning of the school year, Young People have had a long summer break, and their minds are refreshed. That was why October was chosen.

## **Who celebrates Black History Month?**

Black History Month is for everyone to celebrate and enjoy. It should be shared by everyone, as work history.

## **Celebrating Black History Month: Humanitarians**

### **Who is Mary Seacole?**

Mary Seacole was a pioneering nurse and heroine of the Crimean war. Born Mary Jane Grant, in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1805, her father was a Scottish soldier, her mother was Jamaican. Mary learned her nursing skills from her mother, who kept a boarding house for invalid soldiers.



### **Who is Elijah McCoy?**

Elijah McCoy was a mechanical engineer and inventor. He was born in Ontario, Canada. His parents were former slaves who had fled from Kentucky to Canada on the underground railroad. Elijah McCoy was issued more than 57 patents for his inventions during his lifetime.



## Who is John Alcindor?

Born in Trinidad, Dr. John Alcindor was a physician and activist for racial equality, who helped others during the First World War despite facing prejudice and discrimination. He was rejected by the Royal Army Medical Corps during the war because of his origin. Dr Alcindor persisted with his desire to help those in need by joining the



British Red Cross as a volunteer and treated countless wounded soldiers at London railway stations as they returned from the battlefields. He was later awarded a Red Cross medal for his life-saving work. He also conducted research and published articles on cancer, influenza and tuberculosis and worked to prevent syphilis and tuberculosis in Great Britain

## Who is Princess Tsehai?

Princess Tsehai was the daughter of Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, born in Addis Ababa. She joined her father in exile in London and trained as a state registered nurse in 1939 at Great Ormond Street for Sick Children. After the restoration of her father in 1941, she returned to Ethiopia to work at Dessie Hospital. Sadly, Princess Tsehai in 1942



died from complications during childbirth; her baby also did not survive. Emperor Haile Selassie founded the Princess Tsehai Memorial Hospital in her memory which was also funded by British admirers that were very moved by her death. The hospital was also created to serve as a nursing school.

## **Celebrating Black History Month: Saluting Our Sisters**

### **Who is Beryl Gilroy?**

Beryl Gilroy (1924–2001) is heralded as one of the most extensively published Caribbean writers of her time. She is remembered not only as an innovative writer but also as a teacher and psychologist.



### **Who is Claudia Jones?**

Claudia Jones was a pioneering Black feminist and communist activist, leader, editor, journalist, and writer.



### **Who is Jayaben Desai?**

South Asian women in the UK have played an important role in our history through their struggles for workers' rights. One such famous struggle began in 1976 when Jayaben Desai protested her treatment at her job in the Grunwick photo processing laboratory in north London. She was fed up with being humiliated by the management, and the stage was set for a long and historic battle.



## Who is Margaret Busby?

Margaret Yvonne Busby born 1944, is a Ghanaian-born publisher, editor, writer, and broadcaster. She was Britain's youngest and first black female book publisher in the 1960s. She has worked continuously for diversity within the publishing industry and in the 1980s was a founding member of the organization Greater Access to Publishing (GAP), which engaged in campaigns for increased Black representation in British publishing.



## Who is Phyll Opoku-Gyimah?

Phyllis Akua Opoku-Gyimah, also known as Lady Phyll, is a British political activist known for her work for racial, gender and LGBT+ equality. She is co-founder of UK Black Pride and executive director of Kaleidoscope Trust.



## Who is Toni Morrison?

In 1987, Morrison released her novel *Beloved*, based on the true story of an African American enslaved woman. This book was a Bestseller for 25 weeks and won countless awards including the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. In 1993, Morrison became the first Black woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.



## Black History Month

As part of black history month, Affinity encourages you to look at some additional training resources to educate your Young People.

### Child-Friendly Books



<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2016/october/here-are-8-amazing-books-to-read-this-black-history-month/>

### Videos

#### Kids Black History

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPMtkf1FE5XLOdz7ZehUyLA>



Created by secondary school teacher, head of year and mother, the videos on Kids Black History are designed for Early Years/Foundation Stage and Key Stage One.

#### CBeebies – Let's Talk About Black History

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sISqk-K1Qe8>



Willow, Taylor and Stella sit down with their dads to talk about their culture for Black History Month. In this film they talk about influential black people in history.

## **Interactive and practical tools for Foster Carers to use with their Young People.**

In the UK's social care and fostering sector, research has shown that black and minority ethnic children are overrepresented in the care system. Helping black children to understand and feel positive about their cultural identity is crucial in enabling them to develop into emotionally healthy adults. Identity is important for all children but is particularly crucial for black and minority ethnic children placed in Foster Care. Black or mixed heritage children may be placed with black or white Foster Carers and Foster Carers need to think about what they can put in place to help any child with their identity as soon as possible. Below are some resources that you may find useful.

### **How White Parents Can Talk To Their Children About Race**

The HuffPost online magazine article entitled "How White Parents Can Talk To Their Kids About Race" is an age-by-age guide aimed towards white parents with white children. It suggests how to broach the sensitive issues that have been brought to the forefront of society in recent events and covers such as addressing racism and privilege with their children.

[https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/how-white-parents-talk-kids-race\\_15ed522dbc5b6a2704f44c045?ncid=APPLENEWS00001&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly9jb25zZW50LnIhaG9vLmNvbS8&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQAAAMpUa247ISKwj4AasdWtyZljmMvUnUDdXcNVKz7ekzWL2uBuSqEOtv1NDs21A52zghvSk\\_iYolIRuHSVym3IxoKwJVzigQmtH5CxA2wtVW3kTArIV5u4UdvqZ0kdhAYOrLx6DQbZ7zpFR9tkRnap8QxXf2m4jqt3DdU\\_DreEyB&gucounter=2](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/how-white-parents-talk-kids-race_15ed522dbc5b6a2704f44c045?ncid=APPLENEWS00001&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly9jb25zZW50LnIhaG9vLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAMpUa247ISKwj4AasdWtyZljmMvUnUDdXcNVKz7ekzWL2uBuSqEOtv1NDs21A52zghvSk_iYolIRuHSVym3IxoKwJVzigQmtH5CxA2wtVW3kTArIV5u4UdvqZ0kdhAYOrLx6DQbZ7zpFR9tkRnap8QxXf2m4jqt3DdU_DreEyB&gucounter=2)

### **25 Children's Books That Celebrate Differences: From Race to Religion to Abilities and more.**

In many situations, especially difficult ones, children's books share messages and teach lessons better than any parent, Foster Carer or family member could. This could be especially true when it comes to



children learning about different races, different religions, different abilities and more. Below is a link to 25 children's books that celebrate differences in ways children can both understand and enjoy.

[https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/kids-books-diversity-differences\\_n\\_5b912bd8e4b0cf7b003d3508](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/kids-books-diversity-differences_n_5b912bd8e4b0cf7b003d3508)

## **10 Children's Books About Racism and Activism to Help Parents and Foster Carers Educate Their Young People**

Below is a link to 10 children's books about racism and activism which can be used to help further educate Young People. It is a hard topic to raise with children, but the article suggests that colour blindness and silence do not work, and so although difficult, some of the books can help guide the conversation and help answer inevitable questions your young people may have. Click the link below to find out more.

[https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/10-anti-racism-books-parents-explain-black-livesmatter\\_l\\_5ed593d3c5b6db4977a17841](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/10-anti-racism-books-parents-explain-black-livesmatter_l_5ed593d3c5b6db4977a17841)

## **Foster line – Caring for Black and Mixed Heritage Children**

Foster line have put together an incredibly useful pack for Foster Carers, called "Caring for Black and Mixed Heritage Children". The link for this is below and the pack is attached. This includes aspects for foster carers to understand like how to support Young People and has a range of useful links and further resources.

[https://www.fosterline.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Fosterline\\_Caring-for-Black-and-Mixed-Heritage-Children.pdf](https://www.fosterline.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Fosterline_Caring-for-Black-and-Mixed-Heritage-Children.pdf)

## **5 Martin Luther King Jr Inspired Activities to Do with Young People**

From books that advocate Martin Luther King's philosophies on diversity, inclusivity and being kind to each other, to making a diversity collage or creating their own "I have a Dream" cloud, to using eggs as a conversation starter about differences, this site is all about embracing diversity.

<https://www.familyeducation.com/entertainment-activities/5-mlk-inspired-activities-do-your-kids>

## **Additional Training**

Please note this is not mandatory but available if you wish to complete. Please see below two options for eLearning training on Black Lives Matter for Foster Carers and Young People. If any of your young people may be interested in completing this, please let someone at Affinity know.



### **Black Lives Matter Fostering Online Course & Black Lives Matter Young People Online Course**

This course takes an in-depth look into the history of race relations and racism in Britain and provides a context for the current tensions and inequalities that exist. Relevant legislation and enquiries are also explained, including the Equality Act and the Lammy Review. The origin and actions of Black Lives Matters are also explored, alongside major events in British race relations including the murder of Stephen Lawrence and the Grenfell Fire.

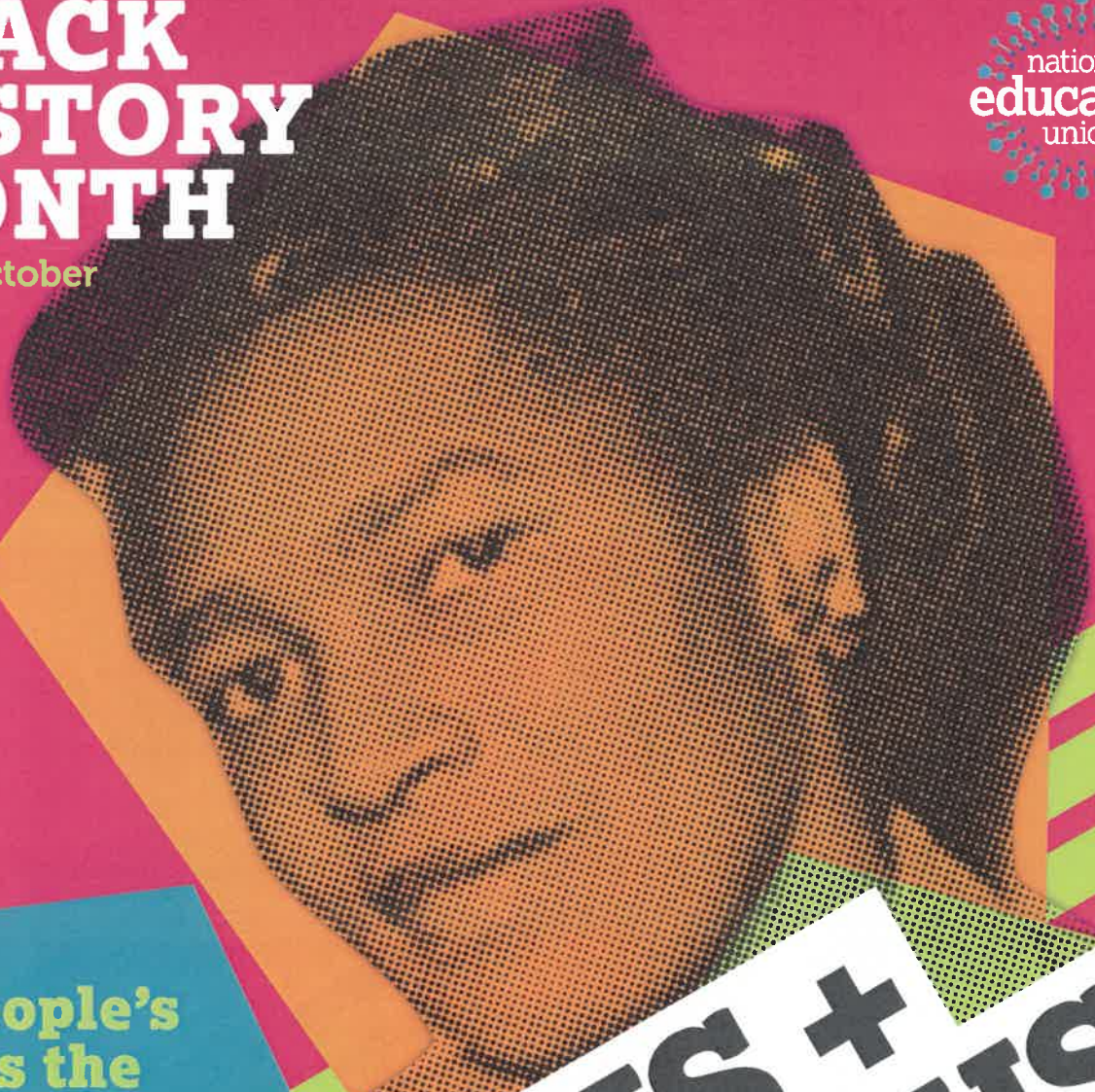
#### **The learning objectives are as follows:**

- To be aware of the evolvement of race relations in Britain
- To know about the UK Equality Act
- To understand what led to the issues associated with Black Lives Matter
- To be aware of government failures, legal reviews, and enquiries
- To know what Black Lives Matters means
- To understand what remedial action can be taken to address racial issues in the UK.

**Please see overleaf 7 posters relating to Black History Month – Saluting Our Sisters.**

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

1 – 31 October



“A people’s art is the genesis of their freedom”

# VIGOROUS + COURAGEOUS

CLAUDIA JONES

JOURNALIST + ACTIVIST

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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

1 - 31 October

## JOURNALIST + ACTIVIST CLAUDIA JONES

Born in Trinidad in 1915, Claudia Jones spent her life fighting for tolerance and equality, which led her to become a founder of the much-loved Notting Hill Carnival.

She migrated to New York as a child, settling in the district of Harlem. There she discovered politics and joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and later the American Communist Party.

Claudia was targeted in the anti-Communist witch-hunts of the 1950s. She was arrested, declared un-American and deported to Britain.

She arrived alongside the Windrush generation, migrants from the Caribbean who settled in the UK after the Second World War.

Met by "No blacks, no dogs, no Irish" posters, Claudia made it her mission to stand up for the Caribbean community.

Tension rose when racist gangs began attacking London's black community and rioting filled the streets of Notting Hill in the summer of 1958, lasting for five nights over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Claudia set about tackling this racial hatred through culture – and dance in particular.

A carnival of the best of African Caribbean talent took place in 1959 at St Pancras Town Hall in London. The event ran for six years and grew in popularity, moving to the scene of the riots, Notting Hill, in 1966.

Claudia Jones died in 1965. At her funeral, the African-American actor and singer Paul Robeson described her as a "vigorous and courageous leader" who had led the struggle for racial justice in London's black community.

## Lesson ideas VIGOROUS + COURAGEOUS

### MIGRATION

The National Education Union is asking teachers to help create a more positive approach to migration. Belonging is critical for children and young people to be at their best and for teachers to be able to teach with confidence and excellence.

Our Migration Story has lesson plans, schemes of work and resources which are free to use and modify. Visit [www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk/information-for-teachers/teaching-resources.html](http://www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk/information-for-teachers/teaching-resources.html)

### CARNIVAL

The Notting Hill Carnival takes place over the August Bank Holiday and showcases the best of Caribbean culture. Colourful, vibrant and bursting with life, it features food, music, dance and fantastic costumes. Get your class into the carnival spirit by designing a headress – ideas on structure, materials and shape can be found at [mynottinghillcarnival.com/make-your-own-feather-headress](http://mynottinghillcarnival.com/make-your-own-feather-headress)

### COURAGE

Why was Claudia Jones courageous? Can pupils come up with other people they think are brave? Ask your students to take a minute to think about the bravest person they know and get them to tell their classmates the story.

### JOURNALISM

Claudia Jones founded the West Indian Gazette, Britain's first major black newspaper, which became a mouthpiece for London's 100,000-strong Caribbean community. Imagine the class is setting up a community newspaper. What would go in it? How would pupils tell people's stories? Ask your pupils to write an article about brave and groundbreaking people or about what it takes to stand up and stand out.



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For more information about any of these figures or Black History Month, visit [neu.org.uk/black-history-month](http://neu.org.uk/black-history-month)

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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“Workers like us, new to these shores, will never accept being treated without dignity or respect.”

**DIGNITY + RESPECT**

**JAYABEN DESAI**

**LEADER OF GRUNWICK DISPUTE**

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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

1 - 31 October

## 2 LEADER IN GRUNWICK DISPUTE JAYABEN DESAI

Jayaben Desai was born in 1933 in Gujarat, India. She migrated to Tanzania with her husband and joined many other Indians recruited by the British to work on the railways.

After many African countries gained independence from Britain, many Asians needed to seek refuge or chose to come to their colonial 'motherland' as they had British passports.

Jayaben came to the UK in 1967. She took up low-paid factory work and became a trade union activist at the Grunwick photographic film-processing plant in London.

Workers there felt they had few rights, poor working conditions and little dignity. They had to seek permission to go to the toilet, could be sacked without notice and overtime was often compulsory.

In August 1976, Jayaben was confronted with a last-minute demand for overtime.

She said: "What you are running here is not a factory, it is a zoo. There are many types of animals in a zoo. Some are monkeys who dance to your tune, others are lions who can bite your head off. We are those lions."

She organised with other workers to go on strike.

By June 1977, support for the Grunwick strikers had ballooned, with sometimes more than 20,000 people demonstrating for their cause.

Grunwick challenged the stereotype of South Asian women as passive. In recognition of her contribution to the struggle, Jayaben was awarded with a gold medal by her union.

## Lesson ideas DIGNITY + RESPECT

### STEREOTYPES

Jayaben and the Grunwick strikers challenged stereotypes of south Asian women. Explore the meaning of stereotypes with your class and discuss how they feel about being stereotyped. Get students to work in pairs to create stereotypical views of teenagers. Select some to present their statements and explore how it feels to be labelled in that way. How are stereotypes reflected in the media and how does it affect our attitudes and behaviour?

### RESPECT

What does this term mean? Why did the Grunwick workers feel they weren't respected or did not have dignity? If someone feels respected (or disrespected) how does that impact on the way they see themselves and others? Write the word RESPECT in large letters and ask every student to write the name of a person they respect on a sticky note. Read the names and ask them why. Bridge to a discussion on how we show respect for each other

### TRADE UNIONS

The National Education Union is the fourth largest union in Britain and Europe's largest education union. What are trade unions and why do people join them? If there were a union for school students, what would your pupils like it to stand for?

### COLONIALISM AND MIGRATION

Jayaben's journey to Britain started in India via Tanzania. Explore colonialism and its links to migration. Why did people from Asia and Africa come to Britain? Our Migration Story has lesson plans, schemes of work and resources which are free to use and modify. Visit [www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk/information-for-teachers/teaching-resources.html](http://www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk/information-for-teachers/teaching-resources.html)

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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

1 – 31 October



“I resent being called a ‘Black who has made it’ – made what, in whose terms?”

**PIONEER +  
ORIGINATOR**

**BERYL GILROY**

**TEACHER + NOVELIST**

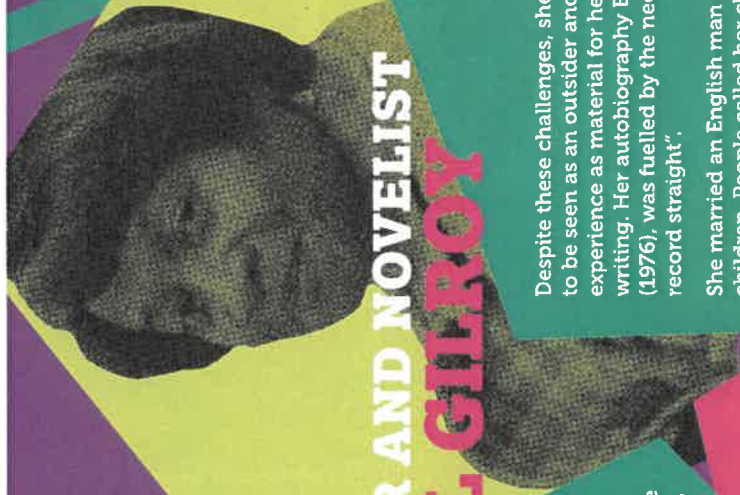
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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

1 – 31 October

## 3 TEACHER AND NOVELIST BERYL GILROY



Beryl Gilroy was born in British Guiana in 1924. She was a pioneering writer, teacher and part of the 'Windrush generation'.

She came to study at the University of London in 1952 as a colonial subject of the British West Indies.

Although she was a trained teacher, racial prejudice in the profession meant she initially worked as a kitchen hand in a cafe, a factory clerk and a maid.

For her work in education and her writing, she made her a fellow and the University of North London conferred an honorary doctorate.

Her son, Paul Gilroy, is an academic.

Despite these challenges, she refused to be seen as an outsider and used her experience as material for her creative writing. Her autobiography *Black Teacher* (1976), was fuelled by the need to "set the record straight".

She married an English man and had three children. People called her children 'mixed race', but she always thought it was a very strange term.

In 1968, she became deputy head and then head of Beckford Primary School in Hampstead. In 1982, she joined London University's Institute of Education and the Inner London Education Authority Centre for Multicultural Education. Later, she got a doctorate in counselling psychology.

## Lesson ideas PIONEER + ORIGINATOR

### WINDRUSH GENERATION

Events have meant that the term Windrush generation has featured extensively in the news of late. Get your students to research the term. What was Windrush and who were the Windrush generation? Why have they been in the news? Get pupils to explore the stories of those who came to Britain on the Windrush, what caused them to come here, what life they faced when they arrived and whether it met their expectations?

### OUR HISTORIES

Millions of Britons have parents from different communities and traditions. Your students will have a wide range of backgrounds. If pupils are to feel safe and have a sense of belonging, they need to engage in discussions about their cultural identities. Get them to decorate a box or fabric tile with pictures, ideas and objects that are important to them and reflect who they are. The class could also devise a poem, song or assembly that reflects their identity as pupils.

### TEACHING

Beryl Gilroy was a pioneering head teacher.

Get your class to explore teaching. Would they like to be a teacher? What do they think is involved in the work of being a teacher? What inspires teachers to pick that job?

### DISCRIMINATION

Despite being a qualified teacher, Beryl Gilroy experienced discrimination when trying to find a job in the UK. Why do students think it was difficult for her to get a job as a teacher when she first came here? Discuss discrimination – has anyone in the class ever experienced it or seen it? Why does it happen and how can we stop it? Watch the film *To Sir With Love* and discuss the issues it raises. Is it the same today?

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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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“They lay no known monuments for our children to stand upright with proud acclaim.”

# VISIONARY ADVOCATE

LEN KWESI GARRISON

PHOTOGRAPHER + ARCHIVIST

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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

1 - 31 October

## 4 PHOTOGRAPHER AND ARCHIVIST LEN KWESI GARRISON

Len Kwesi Garrison was an important figure in the Black British community's exploration and understanding of its history.

A historian, poet and educationist, his work in creating and developing materials based on the experience of African and Caribbean pupils helped the development of a multicultural curriculum in British schools.

Len was born in Jamaica and migrated to Britain in 1954. While at Kingsley Grammar School in Chelsea, he pursued an interest in photography by working as a part-time cinema projectionist in Clapham Junction, and went on to study the subject at King's College London. He then became a medical photographer at Guy's Hospital.

In 1976, he graduated in African and Caribbean history at Sussex University and, in 1992, gained an MA in local history at Leicester University.

Len believed that black children were being failed because their schooling did not acknowledge their history and culture. He began the African and Caribbean Educational Resource (Acer), producing teaching aids that were used all over the country.

In 1988, Len established one of the first effective mentoring projects, and persuaded the King's Fund to back a scheme for supporting the carers of orphaned and abandoned black children.

In 1997, Len returned to Brixton to work on the Black Cultural Archives (BCA) that he had started in 1980.

Every black activist knew him, because he would turn up everywhere, taking photographs, making notes and collecting documents.

## Lesson ideas VISIONARY ADVOCATE

### MIGRATION

Len's family migrated from Jamaica to London. In the age before air travel became commonplace, how might they have done that? Get pupils to think about how arriving in Britain may have felt to children coming here.

There is lots of information and stories online about the Windrush generation. Why not lead a lesson on the subject? There are lots of free materials on the NEU website or visit [teachingenglish.org.uk/article/windrush-generation](http://teachingenglish.org.uk/article/windrush-generation) for a lesson plan.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Len loved photography and used his skill to document the life and times of the Windrush generation.

Would your pupils like to be photographers? What would they like to take pictures of and how would they make sure the photos reflect the world today? Get your class to take photos of the spirit of their community and display the results on the school noticeboard.

### HISTORY

Len was fascinated with Black history. Why do pupils think he was so interested in learning and passing it on to others?

Get students to do their research and find out one thing about the history of Black people in Britain. Arrange a visit to a local museum or cultural hub to discover different histories and traditions.

### MULTI-CULTURAL

Len often used the term 'multi-cultural curriculum'. What do pupils think he meant by this? What would they include if you had to design the subjects taught in school?

Think about different subjects such as geography, history, maths and science and how they could ensure lessons reflected different cultures.



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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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**“The function of freedom is to free someone else.”**

# BELOVED ROLE MODEL

**TONI MORRISON**  
**LITERARY LEGEND**

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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

1 - 31 October

## 5 FREEDOM FIGHTER TONI MORRISON

Toni Morrison was the only African American author (and one of the few women) to win the Nobel Prize for literature.

Toni's books have been read by adults and young people all over the world, and inspired many young people to start writing - especially other black authors and thinkers.

Toni's most famous book 'Beloved' was a compelling story about the brutality and trauma caused by slavery. She is credited with creating the vocabulary for contemplating the impact of slavery upon contemporary society.

She focused in her stories about black men and women who were not leaders. She wrote about everyday racism in America, one literary critic said 'she enlarged the American imagination in ways we are only beginning to understand.'

Toni wrote a book of essays 'The origin of others' (2017) which explored why we create categories of otherness which are reinforced through literature and everyday speech - and how it leads us to dehumanise others.

Toni's writings were popular because she was a fantastic storyteller who inspired a whole generation of writers, artists and thinkers.

## Lesson ideas BELOVED ROLE MODEL

### FREEDOM

What did Toni mean when she asked us to use the freedom we have to free others?

Read other powerful quotes from the web by Morrison who inspired figures from Barack Obama to Oprah Winfrey.

Get students to design a poster about freedom and link it to your school values - use a photo or drawing and create their own quotes.

### FEELING YOU BELONG

Toni used language to inspire us to think about who feels like they belong and why.

Your students will be hearing language and ideas everyday which label migrant families.

Our migration story has lesson plans and schemes of work and resources which are free to us. Visit [www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk/information-for-teachers/teaching-resources.html](http://www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk/information-for-teachers/teaching-resources.html)

### STORIES

Toni Morrison believed that writing stories could change the world and that writing is a necessity for human kind.

Which book has inspired the class recently?

Think about how to widen the range of literature used in your school. Look at NEU advice "Reading for Pleasure".

### BELOVED

Find an opportunity within your subject or for your class to read the book "Beloved" or to engage with its themes.

The book explores the concept of rememory - the process of returning to memories again and again, in a way that affects your present.

Get students to write a book review.

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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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“Write because you enjoy it”

# PIONEERING + INVENTIVE

MARGARET BUSBY

FIRST BLACK WOMAN PUBLISHER

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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

1 - 31 October

# Lesson ideas PIONEERING + INVENTIVE

## 6 GROUND BREAKING PUBLISHER MARGARET BUSBY

Margaret was born in Accra in Ghana to parents who had roots in Barbados, Trinidad and Dominica.

Margaret became Britain's first Black woman book publisher - and the youngest - when she co founded a publishing company in 1967, Allison & Busby, with Clive Allison.

She started off with virtually no money but was determined to print volumes of poetry to make them accessible and affordable to young people like Margaret. They produced 15,000 poetry books at 5 shillings.

Margaret and Clive stopped people on the street and asked them to buy their books, because internet didn't exist. Margaret believed the internet would enable more people to share their ideas, their writing and their poetry.

Margaret was passionate about women's writing and publishing work by women. In 1992 she edited "Daughters of Africa: An International Anthology of words and writings by women of African descent."

Margaret was asked to serve as a judge on many panels including the Commonwealth Book Prize, the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean literature and Caine Prize for African writing.

### PUBLISHING

What is a publisher? What sort of job would it be and would you like to do it? What kind of books would you publish?

Use original source materials about the black publishing presence in the UK since the eighteenth century (see Black Cultural Archives website).

### FAKE NEWS

Margaret talks about technology allowing people to be their own publisher. Margaret can see the potential of the web for democracy. Link Margaret to your work on digital literacy and critical thinking.

### WOMEN WRITING

Ask your students to research and review one of the pieces of writing in Busby's 'Daughters of Africa' book.

### AFRICAN WOMEN

Women of African descent have made huge contributions to literature, the arts and British culture.

Why are their contributions still so over-looked in British history and the curriculum? Visit the NEU website for creative curriculum ideas.



NEU.ORG.UK

For more information about any of these figures or Black History Month, visit [neu.org.uk/black-history-month](http://neu.org.uk/black-history-month)

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

1 – 31 October



**“Your struggle must be my struggle and my struggle must be yours.”**

**7**

**BOLD + BRAVE**

**PHYLL OPOKU-GYIMAH**

**FOUNDER OF UK BLACK PRIDE**

**NEU.ORG.UK**

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

1 - 31 October

## 7 FOUNDER OF UK BLACK PRIDE BOLD + BRAVE

Lady Phyll is one of the co-founders of the UK Black Pride, which is the Europe's largest celebration for Black LGBT people.

In 2005, Phyll rode on a bus with other queer Black women to Southend. Phyll and the women received some dirty looks and mutterings, but they felt an uplifting sense of community, which generated a feeling of strength and power.

Lady Phyll brings together many campaigners and activists to challenge inequality. She feels "The strength and power of a woman is undeniable but it is often erased, silenced and marginalised".

Lady Phyll has won widespread respect for the way she unites women to challenge the ideas which undermine women who are black, working class, LGBT or face other forms of discrimination which touch their lives.

Phyll is affectionately known as Lady Phyll and after Southend, she felt "We've got something here". Black Pride has steadily grown in size and influence and attracts LGBT people of African, Asian, Caribbean, Middle Eastern and Latin American descent.

Phyll holds a executive director post at Kaleidoscope Trust, the leading UK charity advocating for the human rights of LGBTQ people globally.

## Lesson ideas CAMPAIGNER

### BRAVE STRUGGLE

Black Prides now take place in 30 major cities. Youth Prides have also gained popularity. Many schools have LGBT+ youth groups. Ask your class to find a range of pictures about Pride marches and talk/write about what is interesting. Do journalists take pictures that show the diversity of the LGBT community?

### BOLD CELEBRATION

Use Lady Phyll to introduce learning about Pride celebrations and why they are held.

Ask students to research Pride events happening in the other parts of the world, particularly countries or regions that have only recently begun holding pride events.

Then research the history of Pride, and their emergence as a response to discrimination and invisibility.

### ROLE MODELS

Lady Phyll says when she talks about race, she doesn't want to leave her gender at the door. When she talks about gender, she doesn't want to leave her sexual orientation at the door. Young people who go to Pride say they wish they'd known, read and heard much more about Black LGBT people. Use a wider range of role models in your subject area.

### RAINBOW FLAGS

Ask students to research the origins of the Rainbow flag and its meanings.

All the colours mean something - what?

Get students to design a flag of their own which has a special meaning for them in the symbols and colours they select. The class could explore flags from different countries and their meanings.



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