



# Black History Month 2024



# What is Black History Month?



This year's theme is...

- Celebrated annually during the month of October.
- Created to **educate** and **celebrate** black people's accomplishments.
- First started in America in **1970** and first celebrated in the UK in **1987**.



Who are these people are why  
are they important?



# Who are these people are why are they important?

## Martin Luther King Jr.

- Grew up in southern America when the laws separated black and white people. This was called **segregation**.
- Martin Luther King Jr supported **Rosa Parks** in **boycotting** the buses to help get the segregation laws changed.
- In 1963, he gave a famous **speech** which focused on his **dream** to live in a world where black people and white people could live in peace.
- In 1964, he won the **Nobel Peace Prize** for his contributions to the Civil Rights Movement.



Who are these people are why  
are they important?



# Who are these people are why are they important?

## Mae Jemison

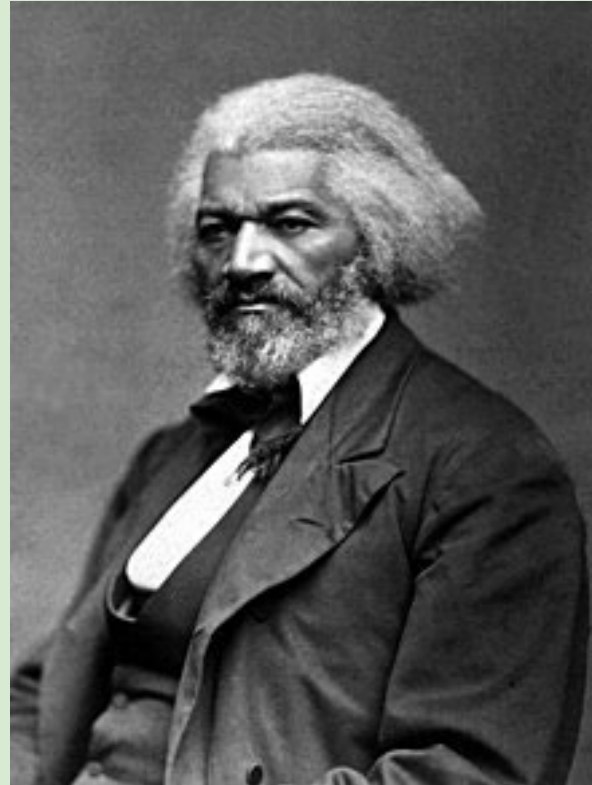
- Mae Jemison was the **first** black woman to become an astronaut.
- She was one of 15 out of 2,000 applicants to get a position at **NASA's** astronaut program in 1987.
- She flew in 1992 on the space shuttle **'Endeavour'**
- After she retired, she set up her own company to help developing countries and created an international **science camp** to encourage teenagers to get into science.







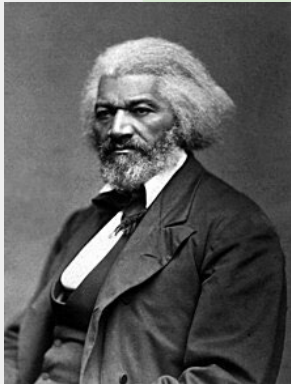
Who are these people are why  
are they important?



# Who are these people are why are they important?

## Frederick Douglass

- He was born into **slavery**. The wife of his owner taught him to read.
- When he was 20, he **escaped** to New York and began public speaking and writing, working with abolitionists to help end the practice of slavery.
- He eventually bought his freedom with help from his friends. He travelled all over giving powerful **speeches** to inspire others and fight for slavery to be **abolished**.
- Black History Month is celebrated in **February** in America, as this is when Douglass' birthday was.







Who are these people are why  
are they important?



# Who are these people are why are they important?

## Rosa Parks

- Rosa Parks was born in Southern America into a world where black and white people were separated. This was called **segregation**.
- She joined the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (**NAACP**), to fight for equal rights for black people.
- In 1955, she boarded a **bus** and sat the front. When she was supposed to move for a white person, she refused and was **arrested** for breaking the segregation laws.
- Rosa boycotted the buses for 361 days with many others. This protest eventually led the laws to be changed. She became known as the '**Mother of the Civil Rights Movement**'.





Who are these people are why  
are they important?



# Who are these people are why are they important?

## Mary Seacole

- Mary was born in **Jamaica** and had an interest in medicine and nursing from a young age.
- In 1855, she decided to go and help sick and injured soldiers who were fighting in the **Crimean** war. She wasn't allowed to go, but decided to go anyway.
- On the battlefield, she set up a 'hotel' for **soldiers** who were wounded so they could rest and get better.
- She even rode horses into battle to **care** for injured soldiers, on both sides of the war.
- Mary broke the **rules** and did what she thought was right, even when it was dangerous or she wasn't 'supposed to'.





Who are these people are why  
are they important?



# Who are these people are why are they important?

## Ignatius Sancho

- He was born on a **slave ship**, brought to England as an orphan and worked as a butler.
- His owner supported his **creativity** and so he wrote plays, poetry and music and set up his own shop in London for other creative people.
- He also **spoke out** against the slave trade using his writing skills.
- He was the first known black British **voter**. Prior to this, black people weren't allowed to vote, only white people could.





# Benjamin Zephaniah



Benjamin Zephaniah spoke out about racism, inequality and social injustice. He believed that history often only taught 'half the story' of black history and worked to educate and celebrate black history through his use of poetry, music and writing.



## RECLAIMING NARRATIVES

# The British



Serves 60 million.

Take some Picts, Celts and Silures

And let them settle,

Then overrun them with Roman conquerors.

Remove the Romans after approximately 400 years

Add lots of Norman French to some

Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Vikings, then stir vigorously.

Mix some hot Chileans, cool Jamaicans, Dominicans,  
Trinidadians and Bajans with some Ethiopians, Chinese,  
Vietnamese and Sudanese.

Then take a blend of Somalians, Sri Lankans, Nigerians

And Pakistanis,

Combine with some Guyanese

And turn up the heat.



# RECLAIMING NARRATIVES



Sprinkle some fresh Indians, Malaysians, Bosnians,  
Iraqis and Bangladeshis together with some  
Afghans, Spanish, Turkish, Kurdish, Japanese  
And Palestinians  
Then add to the melting pot.

Leave the ingredients to simmer.  
As they mix and blend allow their languages to flourish  
Binding them together with English.  
Allow time to be cool.

Add some unity, understanding, and respect for the future,  
Serve with justice  
And enjoy.

**Note** : All the ingredients are equally important. Treating one ingredient better than another will leave a bitter unpleasant taste.

**Warning** : An unequal spread of justice will damage the people and cause pain. Give justice and equality to all.



**RECLAIMING  
NARRATIVES**



## Challenge!

Can we write our own poem based  
on school?



Take some...

Mix some...

Add a sprinkle of...

Blend in some...

Combine with...

Add them to...

Stir the ingredients...

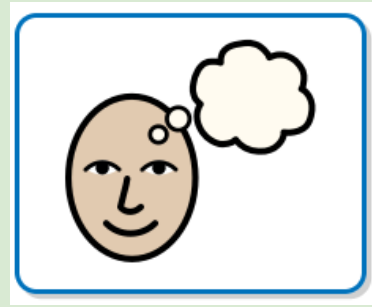
Serve with..

**Note:**

**Warning:**



# Reflection



What new fact have you learnt about someone from history today?

How can we celebrate our school community and differences?

How can we make sure we listen to others' stories with respect and kindness?

What have you learnt about black peoples' stories and lives?

*Everyone's stories are important because...*



# Prayer



*Father God, thank you for making us all unique, different and special. We pray for those persecuted for their race that you bring them comfort. We pray for peace across the world and to live in a world where everyone is valued, accepted and loved for who they are. Amen.*