

Black History Month Assembly Script

Aim:

- To learn about Black History Month and how it is celebrated.

You will need:

- KS1 Black History Month Assembly PowerPoint, flipchart and pens.
- Songs associated with Black History Month (optional). Ideas include:
 - 'I Wish I knew How it Would Feel to be Free' by Nina Simone;
 - 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' (Traditional);
 - 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot' (Traditional);
 - 'A Change is Gonna Come' by Sam Cooke;
 - 'Happy Birthday to You' by Stevie Wonder.

Slide 1: Black History Month Assembly



Slide 2: Aim

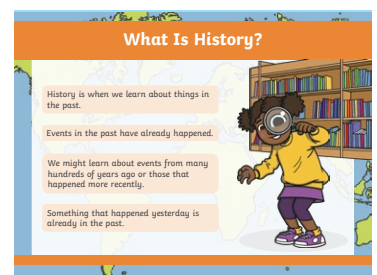
Share the aim of the assembly.

The aim of this assembly is to learn about Black History Month and how it is celebrated.



Slide 3: What Is History?

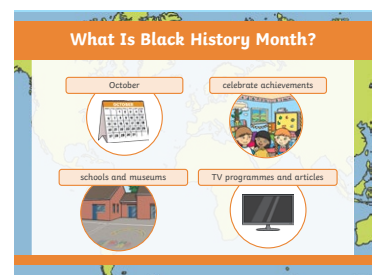
Read the question. Allow the children time to share their ideas with each other. You may want to choose some children to share their ideas with everyone. Click to reveal the definition on the PowerPoint and read it. Discuss any questions or comments that the children may have.



Slide 4: What Is Black History Month?

Click to reveal the first bullet point. **Black History Month happens each year in October.** Click to reveal the next bullet point. **It is a time to celebrate the achievements of Black people in the past and present.** Does anyone know what the word 'achievement' means? Allow time for the children to share their ideas. **Achievements are special things that people have done.** Have you celebrated any achievements?

Click to reveal the next bullet point. **Black History Month is celebrated in lots of places, such as schools and museums.** Click to reveal the next bullet point. **There might be special television programmes or news articles.** During Black History Month, people learn about significant Black people and the important things they have done.



Slide 5: Why Do We Have Black History Month?

Black people have been an important part of Britain for a long time. One of the oldest skeletons found in the UK, known as Cheddar Man because he was found in Cheddar in Somerset, had dark skin and hair. Cheddar Man lived in Britain 10 000 years ago. Another skeleton, found over 100 years ago, was of a Black woman who lived in York during Roman times. The jewellery found with the skeleton showed she was from a rich, important family. John Blanke was a Black musician, who was a trumpeter for King Henry VII and Henry VIII over 500 years ago. A trumpeter for a king was a very important job.

Despite the important achievements of Black people, they weren't often mentioned in history books, television shows about the past or even in school history lessons. Why do you think this was?



Slide 6: What Is Racism?

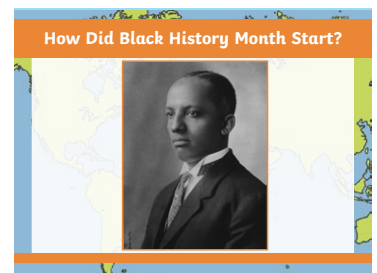
Black people have not always been treated fairly, simply because of the colour of their skin. When someone is treated unfairly because of their skin colour, it is called racism.

This picture shows people protesting against racism. A bus company in Bristol wouldn't give jobs to Black people. This is just one example of racism. Can you think of any more?



Slide 7: How Did Black History Month Start?

This is a picture of Carter G Woodson. He was born in the USA almost 150 years ago. Carter liked learning about history. However, he noticed that there was almost no mention of Black people in history books and wanted to change this. Carter started a magazine about Black history and wrote many books. In 1926, he announced the first ever Black History Month. He encouraged schools to learn about some of the important things Black people had done in history.

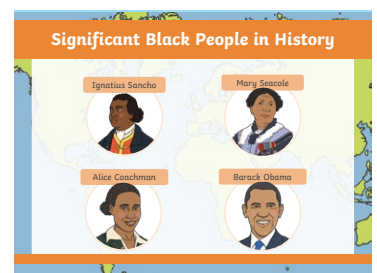


Slide 8: Significant Black People in History

Here are just some of the people you might learn about during Black History Month.

Click to reveal the first picture. This is Ignatius Sancho. He was born on a ship carrying enslaved people to the Caribbean. Enslaved people had to work in terrible conditions for no pay. They had no freedom. Ignatius later travelled to Britain. He opened a shop, created music and wrote letters campaigning for Black people to be freed from enslavement.

Click to reveal the next picture. Mary Seacole was born in Jamaica and learnt to be a nurse. Britain was fighting a war in a place called Crimea. Mary travelled to Britain and asked the government to send her to Crimea to help look after the soldiers. The government refused so Mary used her own money to open her own hospital in Crimea. The soldiers called her 'Mother Seacole'.



Slide 8: Significant Black People in History (continued)

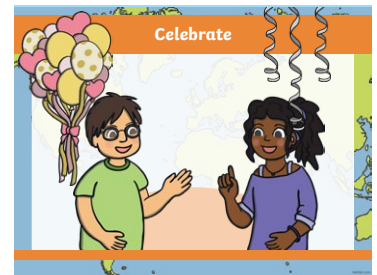
Click to reveal the next picture. **Alice Coachman** was the first Black woman to win an Olympic gold medal. As a child, she trained in bare feet and used ropes and sticks to set up a homemade high jump. After Alice retired from sport, she set up an organisation to help other athletes.

Click to reveal the next picture. **Barack Obama** was the first Black president of the USA.



Slide 9: Celebrate

How could we celebrate Black History Month? Is there anyone who you would like to learn about? Allow children time to share their ideas. If you have any school events planned, or people you have already planned to learn about, you could share them with the children.



Slide 10: Time to Think

Read the quotation from Michelle Obama. You may need to define the word 'contagious'. Ask the children to think about what the words mean.

