

FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS · GRADES 2–6

Black History Month

Celebrating achievements and contributions

What is Black History Month?

Black History Month is celebrated in February (USA) and October (UK) to recognize the contributions and achievements of Black people throughout history. It's a time to learn about people whose stories weren't always taught in schools, and to celebrate the many ways Black people have shaped our world.

Amazing achievements to celebrate

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Mae Jemison</p> <p>First Black woman astronaut to travel to space (1992). She was also a doctor and engineer. She proved that with education and determination, you can literally reach for the stars.</p> | <p>Garrett Morgan</p> <p>Invented the traffic light and the gas mask. His inventions save lives every day — the traffic light keeps us safe on roads, and gas masks protect firefighters.</p> |
| <p>Katherine Johnson</p> <p>Brilliant mathematician whose calculations helped NASA send astronauts to the moon. Her math was so trusted that astronauts insisted she double-check the computers.</p> | <p>Lonnie Johnson</p> <p>Inventor of the Super Soaker water gun! He's also a NASA engineer who worked on spacecraft. Shows that inventors can create both fun toys and serious technology.</p> |

Black History Month around the world

| Country | Month | Started | Focus |
|---------------|----------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| United States | February | 1976 | Contributions to American history |



| Country | Month | Started | Focus |
|----------------|----------|---------|---|
| United Kingdom | October | 1987 | African and Caribbean heritage in Britain |
| Canada | February | 1995 | Black Canadian history and achievements |
| Netherlands | March | 2015 | Black Dutch history and culture |

Think and discuss

1. Why do you think it's important to learn about people from all different backgrounds?
2. Can you think of a time when learning about someone different from you taught you something new?
3. What achievement or invention mentioned above interests you most, and why?
4. How can we make sure everyone's contributions are recognized and celebrated?

