

TOPIC PACKS · Y3-Y6

Black History Month

Five days of figures, themes, and conversations

About this pack — read first

Day 1 — Mary Seacole



Day 2 — Hidden Figures

Day 3 — The Bristol Bus Boycott

Day 4 — Contemporary achievement



Day 5 — Conversation day

Some figures to know — quick reference

Person	What they did	Why they matter
Mary Seacole	Nursed in Crimean War	Pioneer nurse, written out of history
Olaudah Equiano	Wrote autobiography 1789	Helped end UK slave trade
Walter Tull	WWI officer, footballer	First Black British officer, killed 1918
Mary Prince	Wrote first slave autobiography by a woman	Helped abolition cause
Katherine Johnson	NASA mathematician	Calculated Apollo trajectories
Rosa Parks	Refused bus seat 1955	Sparked civil rights movement
Paul Stephenson	Bristol bus boycott 1963	Led to UK Race Relations Act
Diane Abbott	First Black woman MP 1987	Politics, journalism
Sir Lewis Hamilton	F1 driver, Hamilton Commission	Sport, engineering equity
Marcus Rashford	Free school meals campaign	Forced government policy change
Stormzy	Music, Cambridge scholarship	Cultural and educational impact

About Black History Month itself

When in the UK October every year, since 1987

When in the US February every year, since 1976



Why it exists	To make visible history that mainstream education has left out — particularly British contributions
Common criticism	That having a single month signals that the rest of the year is about other people's history. Many schools now integrate Black history all year and use the month for special focus rather than introduction
What 'Black history' actually covers	African civilisations (Mali, Songhai, Ethiopia), the African diaspora, Caribbean and Latin American history, civil rights movements, contemporary achievement, scientific contributions, arts, sport — far broader than slavery alone

