



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

How have Black people influenced Britain throughout history?





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Think back to your RSHE lesson on Julia Tertia (the ivory bangle lady). What did we learn?

-Even during the Roman occupation of Britain, Black people were living, contributing and flourishing across the United Kingdom.

-Some Black historical figures (such as Julia Tertia) were prominent and wealthy British leaders in their own rights.



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It is impossible to observe British history without considering the impact Black people have had on this country.

Today we shall observe the impact Black people have had on Britain with a quick look at 10 prominent and influential people over the last 700 years...

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Philippa of Hainault (c.1310/15–1369) was Queen of England as the wife of King Edward III.



- Acted as regent (ran the kingdom) whilst Edward was away.
- Extremely popular among the English people for her kindness and compassion.
- Spared the lives of the Burghers of Calais (people who were to be beheaded).
- Helped maintain peace throughout her reign.

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Olaudah Equiano (c. 1745–1797), known for most of his life as Gustavus Vassa, was a writer and abolitionist.

- Supported the British abolitionist movement and was active among leaders of the anti-slave trade movement in the 1780s.

- He published his autobiography, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (1789), which depicted the horrors of slavery and helped gain passage of the British Slave Trade Act 1807, which abolished the slave trade.



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Mary Prince (c. 1 October 1788 – after 1833) was a British abolitionist and autobiographer.

- Wrote her slave narrative *The History of Mary Prince* (1831), which was the first account of the life of a black woman to be published in the United Kingdom.
- Had a huge impact on anti-slave movements.



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Mary Jane Seacole (née Grant; 23 November 1805 – 14 May 1881) was a British-Jamaican businesswoman and nurse who set up the "British Hotel" behind the lines during the Crimean War.



- Seacole used herbal remedies to nurse soldiers back to health.
- She was posthumously awarded the Jamaican Order of Merit in 1871.
- Her autobiography, *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands* (1857), is one of the earliest autobiographies of a mixed-race woman.

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Dr Oliver Lyseight (11 December 1919 – 28 February 2006), who migrated to England from Jamaica in 1951, was the founder of one of Britain's largest black majority churches.

- He was a spiritual leader to the "Windrush generation", the first Caribbean emigrants to emigrate in significant numbers to postwar Britain, notably in 1948 on the HMT Empire Windrush.



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Stuart McPhail Hall FBA (3 February 1932 – 10 February 2014) was a Jamaican-born British sociologist and political activist.

-Hall was one of the founding figures of British Cultural Studies or The Birmingham School of Cultural Studies.

-He is credited with playing a role in expanding ideas involving race and gender. Hall left the centre in 1979 to become a professor of sociology at the Open University.

-He was President of the British Sociological Association, 1995–97. He retired from the Open University in 1997 and was a professor emeritus.

-British newspaper The Observer called him "one of the country's leading cultural theorists".



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Wilfred Denniston Wood KA (born 15 June 1936) was a Bishop of Croydon from 1985 – 2003.

-The first Black bishop in the Church of England.

-Queen appointed Wood a Knight of St Andrew, the highest class within the Order of Barbados, "for his contribution to race relations in the United Kingdom and general contribution to the welfare of Barbadians living there".



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Dame Shirley Veronica Bassegy, DBE (born 8 January 1937) is a Welsh singer whose career began in the mid-1950s, and is well known both for her powerful voice.



- Recorded the theme songs to the James Bond films *Goldfinger* (1964), *Diamonds Are Forever* (1971), and *Moonraker* (1979).
- In January 1959, Bassegy became the first Welsh person to gain a No. 1 single.
- In 2000, Bassegy was appointed a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) for services to the performing arts.
- In 1977, she received the Brit Award for Best British Female Solo Artist in the previous 25 years.
- Bassegy is considered one of the most popular female vocalists in Britain during the second half of the 20th century.

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William Manuel Morris, Baron Morris of Handsworth, OJ, DL (born 19 October 1938), generally known as Bill Morris, is a former British trade union leader.

-He was General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union from 1992 to 2003, and the first black leader of a major British trade union.

-Morris sits in the House of Lords, responsible for the Labour Party's contribution to voting and passing laws.



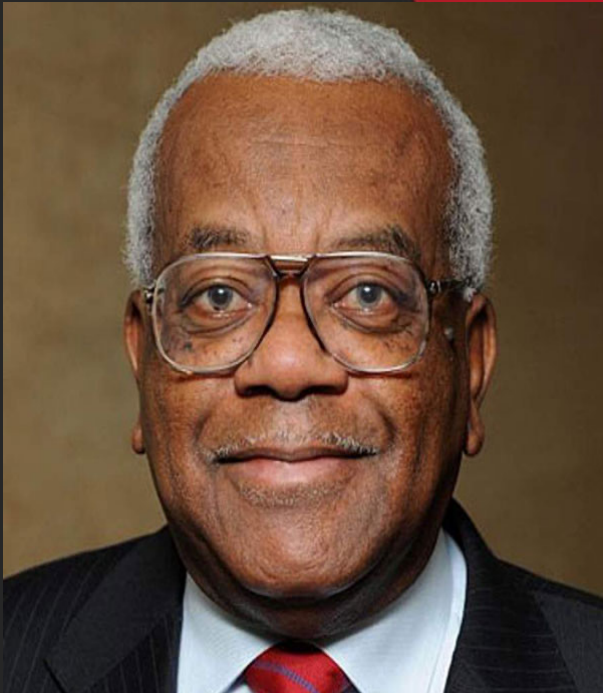
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Sir Trevor McDonald, OBE (born George McDonald; 16 August 1939) is a Trinidadian-British newsreader and journalist, best known for his career as a news presenter with ITN.

-Award winning journalist and British celebrity.

-McDonald was knighted in 1999 for his services to journalism.



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Bernard Alexander Montgomery Grant (17 February 1944 – 8 April 2000), known as **Bernie Grant**, was a British Labour Party politician who was the Member of Parliament for Tottenham from 1987 to his death in 2000.



-He was a member of the Socialist Labour League. This later became known as the Workers Revolutionary Party.

-He quickly became a trade union official, and moved into politics, becoming a Labour councillor in the London in 1978.

-He was elected as the MP for Tottenham.

-In September 2007, in Tottenham, London, Haringey Council opened the Bernie Grant Arts Centre in his name.



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Courtney Pine, CBE (born 18 March 1964 in London) is a British jazz musician, who was the principal founder in the 1980s of the black British band the Jazz Warriors.

-Extremely influential musician globally.

-He began his music career playing reggae, touring in 1981 with Clint Eastwood & General Saint.

-Regarded as one of the most skilled musicians of the twentieth century.





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So how has British culture been influenced by these historical figures?

Discuss with your teacher and, as a class, come up with 5 bullet points explaining how you think Britain has been influenced and send your answers to either Mr Tully or Mr Pawley.