

Black History Month

Resources to celebrate, and learn about black history and culture.

October is the month the UK celebrates Black History. A time when we recognise, celebrate, pay attention to, and value important events and the contributions that black people have made to our society that have changed history. Most of this history is left out of our education in schools, and is more often unrecognised and not appreciated.

To encourage learning and appreciation of black history and culture, we have put together a few lists of '**Top 10**' resources that include films, tv programmes, documentaries, books and podcasts for you to watch, listen to, and read. We hope you can learn something you did not know before about Black history and culture, and hope you enjoy!

TOP 10 - TV/FILM/DOCUMENTARY

Documentary - ***Alison Hammond: Back To School*** - ITV Hub

Alison Hammond travels across the country and back in time on an historical journey to discover some of the black figures who have been hidden from Britain's history.

Documentary - ***Black Classical Music: The Forgotten History*** - BBC iPlayer

Lenny Henry and Suzy Klein celebrate black classical composers and musicians across the centuries whose stories and music have been forgotten.

Documentary - ***Unremembered - Britain's Forgotten War Heroes*** - My4

David Lammy MP reveals the shocking story of how 100,000 or more Africans who died in their own continent serving Britain during World War I were denied the honour of an individual grave

Documentary – ***Becoming*** – Netflix

Becoming gives us an intimate look at the life of the former FLOTUS, Michelle Obama, during a moment of profound change in the United States when she and her husband Barack became the first ever Black couple to serve in the White House.

Film Series - ***When They See Us***- Netflix

Based on the true story that gripped the nation, When They See Us captures the notorious case of five teenagers of colour, labelled the Central Park Five, who were convicted of a rape they did not commit.

Film Series – ***Self Made*** – Netflix

The untold story of black hair care pioneer and mogul Madam C. J. Walker and how she overcame the hostilities of turn-of-the-century America, epic rivalries, and tumultuous marriages to become America's first Black, self-made female millionaire.

Film – ***Harriet*** – Sky Cinema

Harriet tells the extraordinary tale of American freedom fighter Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery and transformation into one of America's greatest heroes.

Documentary - ***gal-dem presents: Black British History*** – My4

Six short films authored by rising stars from the gal-dem community that ask provocative questions of what it is to be Black British, and to be British today.

Documentary - ***They've Gotta Have Us*** – Netflix

Powered by candid recollections from esteemed African-American entertainers, this docuseries traces the history of Black cinema.

Documentary – ***TV's Black Renaissance: Reggie Yates in Hollywood*** – BBC iPlayer

Reggie Yates travels to LA to meet leading African-American actors, such as Oscar-winner Mahershala Ali and Caleb McLaughlin, and writers and showrunners from Lena Waithe to Justin Simien.

TOP 10 – BOOKS

100 Great Black Britons – Patrick Vernon

A pivotal investigation into the role Black Britons have played in the island's history over the past thousand years, that brings many unjustly neglected figures vividly to life.

Natives: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire – Akala

Covering everything from the police, education and identity to politics, sexual objectification and the far right, Natives speaks directly to British denial and squeamishness when it comes to confronting issues of race and class that are at the heart of the legacy of Britain's racialised empire.

Black and British: A Forgotten History – David Olusoga

The definitive history of Britain's troubled history with the people of Africa and the Caribbean, Olusoga's account begins in the Roman era and takes in Elizabethan 'blackamoors' and the horrors of the slave trade as well as the author's own childhood memories of racism and prejudice. Enthrallingly written and endlessly enlightening, Black and British is absolutely essential reading.

African Europeans: An Untold History – Olivette Otele

From Egyptian soldiers in the Roman army to modern-day migrants, Otele tells the intertwining story of Africans and Europeans through the centuries in lucid, engaging prose.

Long Walk To Freedom – Nelson Mandela

These memoirs from one of the great leaders of our time are 'essential reading for anyone who wants to understand history - and then go out and change it'

The Louder I Will Sing: A story of racism, riots and redemption – Lee Lawrence

Charting his 30-year battle for justice for his mother killed in a police raid, Lee Lawrence's powerful memoir is a call to action against police cover-ups and the systematic racism underpinning many of Britain's vital institutions.

Passport to here and there – Grace Nichols

In these movingly redemptive and celebratory poems, Grace Nichols traces a journey that moves from the coastal memories of a Guyana childhood to life in Britain and her adoptive Sussex landscape.

BRIT(ish) - Afua Hirsch

Challenging the harmful legacy of white-centred British history, this is a powerful, hard-hitting examination of modern, divided Britain. Essential reading for our times.

Hidden Figures: The Untold Story of the African American Women Who Helped Win the Space Race – Margot Lee Shetterly

Set amid the civil rights movement, the never-before-told true story of NASA's African-American female mathematicians who played a crucial role in America's space program.

Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race – Reni Eddo Lodge

A charged and necessary wake-up call to pervasive, institutionalised racism, Eddo-Lodge's searing polemic reconstitutes the frame of the argument around race, removing it from the hands of those with little experience of its resonances. From ambient and lazy cultural stereotyping to open hostility, *Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race* is a clarion call of understanding.

TOP 10 – PODCASTS

Noire Histor <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/natasha-n-mceachron-llc/noire-histor>

French for "Black History," Noire Histor is a podcast that features Black history facts, literature, and motivational stories. "Join Natasha McEachron as she celebrates

Black pride, excellence, and power all 366 days of the year," the description reads. You'll hear in-depth stories about the history of important Black figures like poet Phillis Wheatley, journalist Claudia Jones, and surgeon Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, along with book reviews and insight from guest speakers.

Black History Buff <https://www.blackhistorybuff.com/blogs/podcast>

From Miss Lala, "the iron-jawed acrobat," to Bill Richmond, "the first Black sports star," to Yasuke, "the forgotten Black Samurai," Black History Buff shines a light on the inspiring stories of Black historical figures from all over the world.

Black Girl Podcast <https://soundcloud.com/blackgirlpodcast>

Features five Black women in the entertainment industry who come together to speak about their lives and experiences. The hosts chat about love, growth, pop culture, and pursuing your dreams. "Listen every week as their differing opinions and life experiences lead them to understand themselves, and the world around them, a little bit better," the description on SoundCloud reads. "Hopefully, you'll laugh, argue, and learn something about yourselves, too."

Code

Switch <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510312/codeswitch?t=1602106286517>

Features a panel of journalists of color who discuss different race and identity issues through a lens of contemporary stories. For example, some episodes include discussions on today's beauty standards and where people of color fit into it, as well as conversations about how racism affects our friendships. The show promises to always be honest and sometimes even make you uncomfortable.

Reid This, Reid That <https://reidthisreidthat.libsyn.com/>

Hosted by journalist cousins Jacque Reid and Joy-Ann Reid. They talk about all things pop culture, politics, and Black girl magic — and always have fun doing it. Topics of discussion include everything from the Oscar nominations' lack of diversity to Meghan Markle stepping away from royal duties.

The Nod <https://gimletmedia.com/shows/the-nod>

Featuring hosts Brittany Luse and Eric Eddings who "gleefully explore all the beautiful, complicated dimensions of Black life." They discuss things like how the "Cha Cha Slide" became so universal as well as how the "American Dream" can be detrimental to Black citizens. The show is thought-provoking, informative, and entertaining all at once.

Affirm <https://soundcloud.com/affirmpodcast>

Licensed professional counsellor Davia Roberts created Affirm as a positive mental health space for women of color. Some episodes include, "The Problem With Positive Vibes Only" and "Here's Why Therapy Isn't Working For You," where Roberts talks about different ways to seek wholeness and find self-value.

Humanity Archive <https://www.thehumanityarchive.com/podcast-1>

Founded by Jermaine Fowler, Humanity Archive is an educational website and storytelling podcast that shares untold or underexposed stories from history. Fowler sees historical storytelling and the sharing of knowledge as a vocation—as well as a means of fostering empathy and understanding between cultures.

Witness Black

History <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01h9dl0/episodes/downloads>

Launched by BBC as an extension of its Witness History podcast series, Witness Black History features interviews with people who were actually present for, or have close ties to key moments in Black and civil rights history. From Rodney King to George Stinney, Jr.'s sister to Reverend Earl Neil, a Black Panther who organized free breakfast for local school children, this interview series is deeply personal and profoundly moving, grounding historical narratives in the raw, honest testimonies of the people who lived them.

Black History Year <https://www.pushblack.us/black-history-year-podcast?source=menu>

Black History Year connects you to the history, thinkers, and activists that are left out of the mainstream conversations. You may not agree with everything you hear, but we're always working toward one goal: uniting for the best interest of Black people worldwide.

TOP 10 – EVENTS

Art Exhibition ***Black History Month – Honour, Remember, Inspire*** Zari Gallery

1st to 30th October 2020

<https://zarigallery.co.uk/portfolio/black-history-month-october-2020/>

Photography exhibition ***Windrush: Portrait of a Generation – A photo-story by Jim Grover***

Brixton Library 1 October to December 2020

<https://www.windrushportraitofageneration.com/>

Online Event ***Black & British History: Jamaica, Britain and the Akan Maroon War***

Thu, 8 October 2020 19:00 – 20:00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/black-british-history-jamaica-britain-and-the-akan-maroon-war-tickets-117598268587>

Exhibition **UK Black Business Show 2020** Queen Elizabeth II Centre Sat 10 October 2020 09:00 – 18:00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uk-black-business-show-2020-postponed-tickets-85902985141?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Online event **Exploring The Legacies: Dame Jocelyn Barrow And Other Inspirational British African Women** Tuesday Oct. 20, 6-9pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/exploring-the-legacies-dame-jocelyn-barrow-and-others-tickets-120615320671>

Online event **Shame On Me: An Anatomy of Race and Belonging with author Tessa McWatt** Mon, October 19, 2020 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shame-on-me-an-anatomy-of-race-and-belonging-with-author-tesa-mcwatt-tickets-119605630661>

Comedy **COBO : Comedy Shutdown Black History Month Special – Harrow Arts Centre**

Fri, 16 October 2020 19:30 – 22:30

<https://www.fatsoma.com/cobo-comedy-of-black-origin-events/3i77e9ix/cobo-comedy-shutdown-black-history-month-special-harrow>

Online event **House of Music: Raising the Kanneh-Masons with Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason** Wed, October 14, 2020 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/house-of-music-raising-the-kanneh-masons-with-kadiatu-kanneh-mason-tickets-119605030867>

Online event **Black inclusion the past, present & future** 22nd October 10:00 - 12:00

<https://blackleaders.co.uk/blackinclusion/>

Art Exhibition **Tate Modern presents the first major retrospective of visual activist Zanele Muholi in the UK** Tate Modern 5 November 2020 - 7 March 2021

<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/exhibition/zanele-muholi>

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