

Prominent People in Black British History

Assembly



What do you know about Black British History?

Before we get started, take a few minutes to think and make a list of anything you know about Black History in the UK.

Connect



Learning Objectives

To learn about key figures in Black British History.

To understand the key contributions of different figures in Black British History

To understand key moments or events in Black British History.

Prominent People
in Black British
History



What is Black British History?



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History

“Black British History tends to mean the story of black people in Britain...It’s Britain’s relationship to Africa and Africans both here in Britain, and in the Caribbean, and in North America and in Africa itself”

David Olusoga, British Council

Activate



BBC
iPlayer

DAVID OLUSOGA

Black AND British



newsround

... essential history



Activate

Why do you think it is important to learn about Black British History?

- It explains why Britain looks the way it does today
- It celebrates historical stories and people that we might not know about
- It can help to make everyone feel included
- It makes sure that we understand the racism black people have experienced through history which will help us to stop it happening now and in the future



What do we know about Black History in Britain so far?

Black History in Britain begins being documented in the Tudor times in the year 1500. But the earliest known black person in Britain before this came, we think, with the Roman army in the 1st Century. There are many important milestones in Black British History and today we are going to look at a few people that contributed to this.

Image: Historic Royal
Palaces



Painting of John Blanke,
trumpeter in Henry VIII's
court.

Image: Museum of
London Docklands



Coin featuring Black Romans or
'Aurelian Moors'.



Prominent People in Black British History

Prominent People in Black British History

- Let's take a closer look at some prominent people in Black British History
- These profiles could provide you with a starting point for learning more about each of the individuals featured
- Perhaps there are other individuals you feel should be featured, you could create your own profiles.



Mary Seacole

1805-1881

Prominent People in Black British History



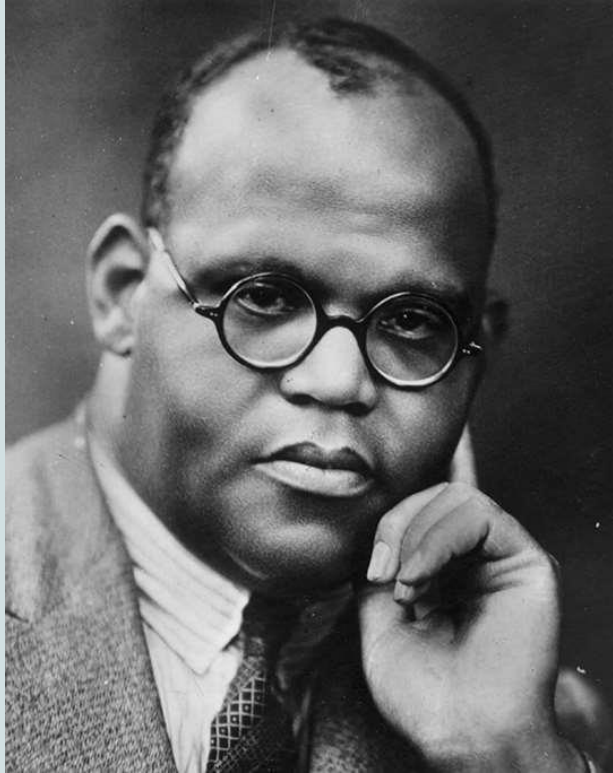
Photograph of Mary Seacole.

- Born in Jamaica, Mary's mother ran a Boarding House and was said to have medicine-like herbalist skills. Her father was a soldier who we believe came from Scotland
- Mary tried to get a job as a nurse in the British Army to help her travel. We believe that she was unsuccessful because of how the army felt about her race
- She travelled lots, utilising the medical skills her mum taught her and providing catering for soldiers
- She took trips to England, Panama, Haiti, the Bahamas and Cuba throughout her life
- She wrote a book about her travels which is how we remember her today



Dr Harold Moody

1882-1947



Photograph of Dr Harold Moody.

- Dr Moody was born in Jamaica and emigrated to the UK to study medicine
- After graduating at the top of his class, he was unable to find work as a Doctor because of his colour. He set up his own practice in response
- He formed and was president of the League of Coloured Peoples (LCP) where he campaigned for racial equality and civil rights in Britain
- He was a respected member of the community and organised locals and saved lives during World War II
- He married and had 5 children. All of them were very successful, some in medicine, some in the army and some in athletics



Eric Irons OBE

1921-2007

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- Eric Irons was born in Jamaica and served in the Royal Air Force (RAF) for seven years, from 1944-1952
- He settled in Nottingham after the war and married a local woman
- He was a campaigner for social justice and racial equality. During his working life, he fought for better employment opportunities, health and education for black workers
- In 1962, he became the country's first black Magistrate and he continued to hear cases until his retirement in 1991
- In 1977, he was awarded an OBE in recognition for his work for social justice.

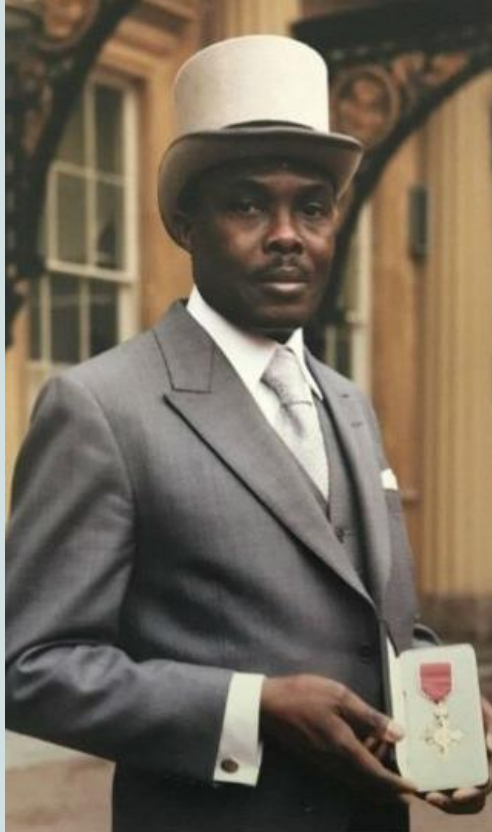


Image: Irons Family

Photograph of Eric Irons after
having been made an OBE



Diane Abbott

1953-Present

Prominent People
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Image: British Vogue

Photograph of Diane Abbott.

- Diane was born in London and went to the University of Cambridge
- She worked as a researcher and reporter before becoming an officer at the Greater London Council and later a politician
- Diane is the first black woman to become a Member of Parliament in the UK. She represents the constituency of Hackney North & Stoke Newington
- She put pressure on the Government to release information about the Windrush Scandal
- She wants to use her career to “speak up on human rights, civil liberties, women’s rights and representing the people of Hackney”



Stormzy

1993-Present



Photograph of Stormzy.

- Stormzy was born in London. He is a rapper, singer, songwriter and activist
- He did not like school but achieved highly. He went on to do an apprenticeship and then worked for two years before committing to his music career
- At his concerts, he has spoken on issues like austerity and general elections. He also donates money to organisations that support racial equality, justice reform and empowering black people
- He created the 'Stormzy Scholarship for Black UK Students' that financially supports black students that want to go to the University of Cambridge
- He also runs a publishing company with Penguin that supports young, underrepresented and unpublished writers in the UK and Ireland



Marcus Rashford

1997-Present

- Marcus was born in Manchester and is a footballer and activist
- Over the course of his career so far, he has played for Manchester United and the England National Football Team
- Marcus has written a motivational book for young people and ran a book club to support vulnerable and underprivileged readers. He also began learning sign language so he could judge a poetry competition for hearing impaired children
- He set up the 'In The Box' campaign that helps to give homeless people essentials
- During the COVID lockdowns, he worked with a charity to provide meals to students who were no longer receiving free school meals. He then wrote a letter to the Government asking them to end child poverty



Photograph of Marcus Rashford.

Image: British GQ



Exit ticket

Thinking task for this month

**Name 1 prominent person in
Black British History**

