

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Black History Month is observed every October in Britain.

It is an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding contributions that Black people have made to British society, whether that be today or historically. Here is an overview of some of the learning and activities around Black history, heritage, culture and achievements that will be taking place at Coleridge Primary School.

Pupil voice: As part of Black History Month this year, we will be focusing on pupil voice, engaging with children to talk about their experience of school and listening to their views and ideas. We will start by talking to some of our Black children and will then provide opportunities for children from other groups to meet and share their views. We will be also be running a wider survey for all children to take part in.

Curriculum: Children in all year groups will be learning about famous Black people who have made a positive contribution in many different areas of life. These include Walter Tull, English professional footballer, poet and British Army officer of Afro-Caribbean decent; author Jackie Kay, born to a Nigerian father and Scottish mother; Samuel Coleridge Taylor, English composer, conductor and political activist, born to an English mother and a father from Sierra Leone; Altheia Jones-LeCointe, Trinidadian physician and research scientist also known for her role as a leader of the British Black Panther Movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

There will be lessons about inequality and civil rights and children will learn about activists such as The Mangrove Nine, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King and James Baldwin. Children will also explore the lives and achievements of contemporary role models such as Marcus Rashford (footballer and campaigner), Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock (scientist) and Mae Jemison (first Black woman in space), and in the world of Sport, Usain Bolt (runner), Dina Asher Smith (runner), Nicola Adams (boxer) and Ade Adepitan (Paralympian wheelchair basketball player, author and TV presenter) .



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Music: Year 6 music will engage in 'Out of Africa' lessons learning to sing a number of different African songs. Other year groups will learn a song by a Black artist for Black History Month and will be singing both in their class singing sessions and during singing assemblies. Traditional songs from Africa and the Caribbean will also be sung in singing and music lessons. Children will be learning about and listening to songs and music by artists such as Nina Simone, Aretha Franklin, Stormzy, Muddy Waters, Stevie Wonder, Chuck Berry, Bill Withers, Emeli Sande, and exploring reggae music by Bob Marley, along with jazz musicians and Afrobeat musicians such as Nigerian Femi Kuti.

Books and stories: We have many wonderful books that the children will be able to read or have read to them: 'Tales from the Caribbean' an anthology of traditional tales from different Caribbean islands, traditional African tales, such as Anansi stories, 'Dancing in the Rain' by John Lyons, Trinidad-born poet, books and poetry by Benjamin Zephaniah, 'Black and British' by historian David Olusoga, 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin, 'Henry's Freedom Box' by Ellen Levine (the story of the Underground Railroad), 'The Ghanaian Goldilocks' by Dr Tamara Pizzoli, 'Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black heroes from past and present' by Jamia Wilson, 'High Rise Mysteries' by Sharna Jackson, books by Malorie Blackman (first Black Children's Laureate) and by Nathan Bryon, 'Hey you' by Dapo Adeola and many more. The younger children will also be listening to and watching stories on TataStorytime <https://www.tatastorytime.com/>

Art: In some year groups children will be exploring mask wearing in Africa, its origins and why people wear masks. They will create paintings of masks, looking at colour and abstract imagery, creating monochrome images of masks that explore negative space, leading to them making their masks using papier-mâché. They will also look at textile designs from Africa and use them as inspiration for creating their own fabric designs. Mask making – children will explore traditions of sub-Saharan Africa and discuss the meanings that different cultures attribute to their own specific masks produced for ceremonies such as weddings, funerals and spiritual and religious occasions. Weaving - looking closely at the 'Kente' fabrics and the weaving techniques and traditions from Ghana, the children will produce their own woven-paper versions of the fabrics, using bright colours and bold geometric patterns.

Contemporary Black artists from around the world will be introduced to inspire the children's own artwork: Althea McNish (textiles), Bisa Butler (fibre art), El Anatsui (sculptor), Yinka Shonibare (multi-media), Alma Woodsey Thomas and Tanzanian artist Tingatinga.

