

# What is Black History Month?

- ▶ Black History Month is a time set aside each year to celebrate the achievements of Black people in the past and today.



## Why Do We Have Black History Month?

Black people have not always been treated equally simply because of their race.



## Why Do We Have Black History Month?

**Do you know of any examples or stories of when Black people have been treated unfairly in the past?**

One example is that in America, Black and White people had to sit in different seats on a bus or public places, like the cinema.



**White**

**Black**

# Why Do We Have Black History Month?

- ▶ Lots of people knew that this was wrong and wanted things to change.
- ▶ In the USA in 1926, a man called Carter G. Woodson introduced a week-long event to recognise and celebrate the history and achievements of Black people.
- ▶ In the UK, a movement began in the 1980s as part of a local community activism to challenge racism.
- ▶ In 1987, this turned into what we know today as Black History Month.

**How do you think this made Black people feel?**

Carter G. Woodson

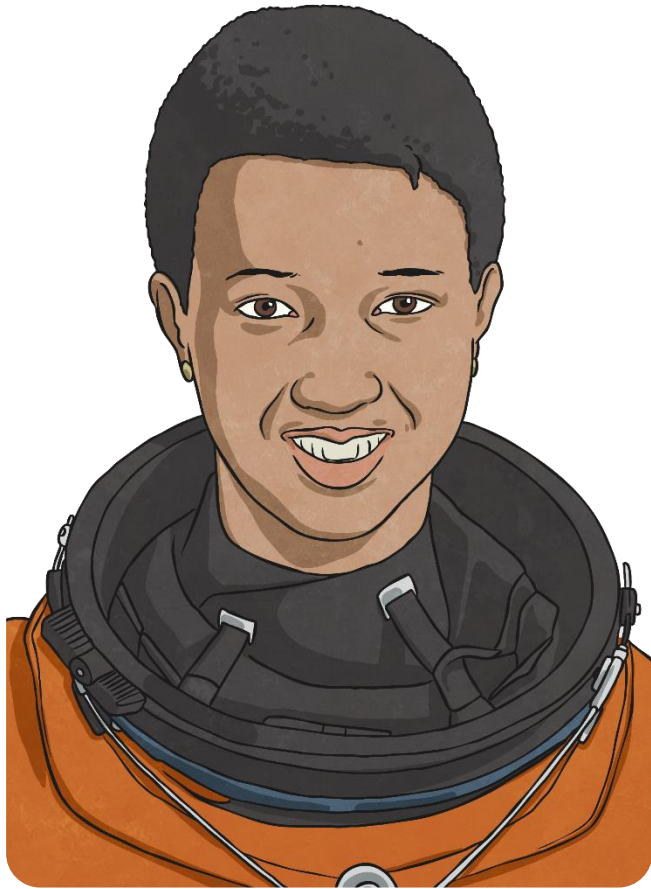


## Famous Black Men and Women

**Which famous Black people do you know about?**

The following slides will introduce you to some key Black figures, both from history and from the present day.

# Famous Black Men and Women



**Dr Mae Jemison**  
**1956 – present day**

Dr Mae Jemison was born in Alabama, USA. Mae developed an interest in science from a very early age. Following a career in medicine, she was selected by NASA for astronaut training. Mae became the first African American woman to travel in space when she went into orbit aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour on the 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1992.

# Famous Black Men and Women



John Edmonstone

1793 – ???? (date of death unknown)

John Edmonstone was a freed Black enslaved person from Guyana, South America. He lived in Edinburgh and taught the art of **taxidermy** to students at Edinburgh University. One of his students was Charles Darwin. The taxidermy skills and knowledge of the natural world that Darwin learned from John were essential during his voyage aboard H.M.S. Beagle in 1831, allowing Darwin to study animals in close detail.

**Taxidermy** — The art of preparing, stuffing and mounting the skins of dead animals to look lifelike.

# Famous Black Men and Women



## Mary Seacole

1805-1881

Mary Seacole went to help soldiers in the Crimean War. Because of all her efforts, the soldiers called her “Mother Seacole,” as she comforted them, nursed them back to health and was always there if they needed clothes, blankets and kindness.



# Famous Black Men and Women



## **Rosa Parks**

1913-2005

Rosa Parks was born in America and, as a child, she was used to having to sit at the back of a bus because she was Black but she didn't think that this was fair. One day on a bus, she refused to give her seat to a White person just because she was Black. She was arrested by the police and fined for breaking the rules but other Black people and some White people agreed with Rosa and made this clear to the American government. Eventually, they changed the rule and Black people no longer had to sit in a separate section of the bus or give up their seat to someone just because of their race.

# Famous Black Men and Women



## **Nelson Mandela**

1918 - 2013

Nelson Mandela was the first Black South African President. He spent 27 years in prison for trying to change things so that both Black and White people had equal rights. Many people around the world thought he was a hero and respected him for his courage and wisdom in bringing people together and encouraging them to live in peace.

# Famous Black Men and Women



## **Alice Coachman**

1923 - 2014

Alice Coachman was a Black American athlete, who specialised in the high jump. In London in 1948, she became the first Black woman to win an Olympic gold medal.

# Famous Black Men and Women



## **Barack Obama**

1961 – present day

Barack Obama was born in Hawaii on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1961. His father is from Kenya and his mother is from Kansas.

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008, he became the 44<sup>th</sup> American President. He is the first Black president in the United States of America.

# Famous Black Men and Women



## **Bishop Wilfred Wood**

1936 – present day

Wilfred Wood became the first Black bishop in the Church of England. He was Bishop of Croydon from 1985 to 2003.

In 2004, the British people voted him second in the 100 “Great Black Britons” list.

Bishop Wilfred Wood worked hard to help with the relationships between people of different races living in the United Kingdom.

