



What's going on?

Now in its 34th year, Black History Month has launched in the UK with many events taking place in October. This year's campaign encourages people of all ages to share what they are 'Proud to Be' both online and with others with a focus on black British resistance to racism – inspired in part, by last summer's Black Lives Matter protests. It aims to celebrate key figures who have made substantial contributions to the country. Local authorities across the UK, including the London borough of Barking and Dagenham and West Northamptonshire council, will raise the pan-African flag to mark the start of Black History Month.

Question:

Why is Black History Month important?

Listen, think, share

- Look at the poster image and talk about what we can see. Talk about what is celebrated in the month of October. Discuss the children's responses and explain that the 1st-31st October is Black History Month. What do we already know about the month and why we have it? Explain that people from African and Caribbean backgrounds have been a fundamental part of British history for centuries. However, campaigners believe their value and contribution to society is often overlooked and not given a voice in education and the media. Black History Month gives everyone the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture.
- Explain that it is celebrated through assemblies in schools and in community places such as museums or care homes.
- The focus of this year's Black History Month is 'Proud to Be'. What do you think this might mean? The reasoning behind the campaign, according to Editor at Black History Month UK, Catherine Ross, is that *"by asking people to share what they are Proud to Be we can share both individual stories and the vast richness of diversity that Black and Brown people bring to the UK."*
- Read through the information found on the resource which explores the history of Black History Month and some of the influential people who have shaped Britain. Discuss how each have influenced the Britain we live in today.
- Watch the useful video (link found below), which explores what it's like being young, black and British. Share any of the comments from the young people that you found interesting or surprising.

Reflection

Black History Month provides an important opportunity for us to learn about and reflect on Carter Woodson who began his work in 1926 – nearly 100 years ago and there is still a lot we can all learn. The aim is that we will all eventually live in a world where black history is celebrated all the time, not just in the month of October.

Web Links

Useful video – What is it like being young, black and British?

www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/49883230

News story

www.theguardian.com/world/2021/oct/01/black-history-month-launches-in-uk-with-proud-to-be-campaign