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THE BLACK CURRICULUM

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#TBH365

2022

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THE BLACK CURRICULUM

ONE MONTH ISN'T ENOUGH TO...

- Celebrate the achievements of our Black British Heroes.
- Engage in deep conversations about Black British History.
- Heal from past racial tension and undo racial bias.
- Educate everyone about Black British contributions to History.

#TBH365

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Our mission is to **T**each **B**lack (British) **H**istory **365** days of the year.

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Day 1.

AFRICANS IN ROMAN BRITAIN (PART 1)

Emperor Lucius Septimius Severus

#TBH365

As far back as Roman times, people have been migrating to Britain from different places, including Africa.

When Britain was part of the Roman Empire, an African Emperor called Emperor Lucius Septimius Severus migrated. He was born in Libya. He was of high ranking in the Roman military and brought with him the largest army (50,000 men) in the history of Roman Britain.

Further resources

english-heritage.org.uk

britannica.com

British Museum

Migrations: Journeys through Black British History

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Day 2.

AFRICANS IN ROMAN BRITAIN (PART 2)

The Aurelian Moors

#TBH365

The Roman empire was very diverse and there were African soldiers who lived and settled in Roman Britain.

The Aurelian Moors were a military unit of North Africans named after the Emperor Marcus Aurelius. These soldiers are an integral part of British history.

Further resources

Black Presence
blackpresence.co.uk/black-romans

cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk

Black and British: A Forgotten History (BBC)

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Day 3.

AFRICANS IN ROMAN BRITAIN (PART 3)

The Ivory Bangle Lady

#TBH365

In 1901, a skeleton known as the Ivory Bangle Lady was discovered in York. Scientific analysis showed that this person was female and had North African heritage.

This discovery tells us that women and children migrated across the Roman Empire as well as men.

Further resources

Yorkshire Museum
yorkshiremuseum.org.uk

ourmigrationhistory.org.uk

Migrations: Journeys
through Black British History

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Day 4.

TRANSATLANTIC MOVEMENT (PART 1)

Transatlantic Slave Trade

#TBH365

In the mid 18th century many people migrated to Britain from North America by crossing the Atlantic sea.

Some were enslaved people who managed to escape, others were trafficked against their will by British Traders. By 1770 British traders were trafficking roughly 42,000 enslaved Africans across the Atlantic every year.

Further resources

Estimates, The Transatlantic Slave Trade Database

www.slavevoyages.org

blackhistorymonth.org.uk

www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/slave-trade

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Day 5.

TRANSATLANTIC MOVEMENT (PART 2)

Free Migrants - Francis Barber

#TBH365

Francis Barber was secretary to writer and poet Samuel Johnson. He helped Johnson adapt the first Dictionary of the English Language, which was published in 1755. Barber was born in enslavement in Jamaica in 1735 and was brought to England 1752.

A plaque in Barber's honour at his and Johnson's former home was unveiled in 2016, by his great great great great grandson, Cedric Barber.

Further resources

Black and British: A Forgotten History

The Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum

www.londonremembers.com/memorials/francis-barber

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Day 6.

TRANSATLANTIC MOVEMENT (PART 3)

The Black Loyalists

#TBH365

In 1775, the British were fighting the American War of Independence. Enslaved Black people who had escaped plantations were promised by the British that they would be freed if they fought for Britain.

They were called “Black Loyalists” and 400 of them migrated to Britain after the war.

Further resources

National Archives
nationalarchives.gov.uk

www.history.howstuffworks.com

Migrations: Journeys through Black British History

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Day 7.

BLACK PEOPLE IN WW1: BRITAIN'S 1ST BLACK PILOT

Robbie Clarke

#TBH365

During the First World War, Sergeant William Robinson Clarke became the first black pilot to fly for Britain, and a pioneer of Britain's Royal Flying Corps.

He was born in Jamaica, and at the outbreak of war in 1914 he travelled to England at his own cost and joined the Royal Flying Corps.

Further resources

RAF Museum
ww.collections.rafmuseum.org.uk

www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk

www.rafmuseumstoryvault.org.uk

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Day 8.

BLACK PEOPLE IN WW2: FORGOTTEN SOLDIERS

Britain's Abandoned Black Soldiers

#TBH365

More than 600,000 Africans fought for Britain in World War II. Despite putting their lives on the line for Britain, they faced harsh discrimination from their peers.

When the fighting was over, Britain sent these men back home with an end-of-war bonus that was roughly a third of the reward given to their white counterparts.

Further resources

www.foreignpolicy.com/

www.aljazeera.com/program/people-power/2019/2/13/the-forgotten-heroes-of-empire

The Black Presence in Britain

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Day 9.

BLACK IN TUDOR BRITAIN (PART 1)

Jacques Francis

#TBH365

Jacques Francis was a deep diver from the Guinea coast who arrived in Southampton in the 1540s. He was recruited to salvage Henry VIII's favourite warship that had sunk in 1545.

Francis was the first African man allowed to stand up in court where he had to give evidence against his employer, Piero Paulo, who had been accused of theft from another salvage dive.

Further resources

Migrations: Journeys through Black British History

www.maryrose.org

www.southamptonstories.co.uk

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Day 10.

BLACK IN TUDOR BRITAIN (PART 2)

John Blanke

#TBH365

John Blanke was a trumpeter who played at the royal procession in 1511 to celebrate the birth of Henry VIII's first son.

Blanke famously asked the King directly for a pay rise when he discovered he wasn't getting paid as much as the other trumpeters. The King was so impressed that Blanke knew his worth, and gave him the money!

Further resources

Historic Royal Places
www.hrp.org.uk

Classic FM

Migrations: Journeys through Black British History

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Day 11.

COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS

The “Mother Country”

#TBH365

The original meaning of "Mother Country" means "a country in relation to its colonies." Britain was the "Mother Country" to all the countries it had colonised.

Commonwealth citizens played a significant part in the World Wars. They were encouraged to protect the "Mother Country". After the Second World War, Britain wanted to recruit people from their colonies to fill jobs and help rebuild the country.

Further resources

National Army Museum
www.nam.ac.uk

Migrations: Journeys
through Black British History

Museum of London

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Day 12.

COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS (PART 2)

British Imperialism

#TBH365

Britain was seen as very important in the lives of the commonwealth citizens. Films and news bulletins would inform people of the events happening in Britain. The education children received was focused on the British way of life. They would sing the British National Anthem every morning and the Queen's face was on all the exercise books.

Further resources

David Olusoga in Conversation: Black History Matters

Migrations: Journeys through Black British History

www.race.ed.ac.uk

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Day 13.

COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS (PART 3)

NHS Workers

#TBH365

The National Health Service (NHS) was established in 1948, two weeks after the Empire Windrush at Tilbury Bay in Essex. Many Windrush passengers along with other men and women from the Caribbean were recruited to Britain to train as health workers and help build the NHS.

Britain relied heavily on foreign nationals to keep the NHS running smoothly, just like it does today.

Further resources

Migrations: Journeys through Black British History

Now Then
https://nowthenmagazine.com/articles/coloniality-in-the-nhs-a-call-for-change

www.england.nhs.uk/blog/windrush-and-the-nhs-an-entwined-history

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WING KING DENIED HISTORIC CALL-UP

Shameful FA U-turn killed Jack's dream

ARGYLE ACE: Jack Leslie was outstanding for the free-scoring Plymouth side

Day 14.

BLACK BRITISH PIONEERS IN SPORTS

Jack Leslie

#TBH365

Jack Leslie was a footballer born in Canning Town. He spent 14 seasons at the Devon club, scoring 137 times in 400 appearances.

In 1925 Jack was selected to play for the England team, an achievement he gained off his own skill and merit. However, upon finding out he was Black, he was deselected by the Football Association.

Further resources

www.jackleslie.co.uk

Plymouth Argyle FC
www.pafc.co.uk

www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk

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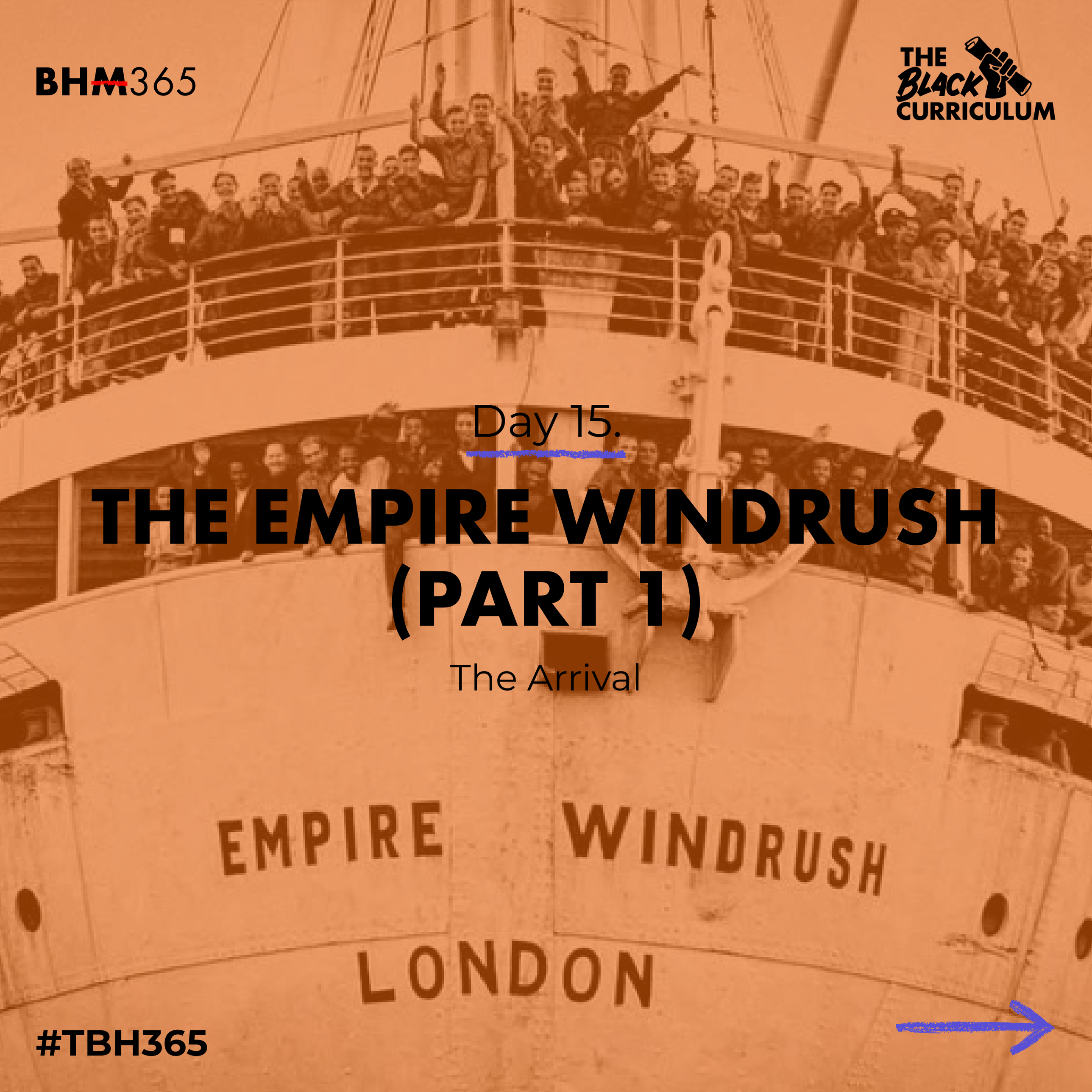
Day 15.

THE EMPIRE WINDRUSH (PART 1)

The Arrival



#TBH365

The ship Empire Windrush docked at Tilbury Bay in Essex on June 22 1948. The ship carried 1027 passengers and two stowaways on a voyage from Jamaica to London in 1948.

The Windrush's arrival has become symbolic of the generation of Commonwealth citizens in the Caribbean who came to live in Britain between 1948 and 1971.

Further resources

We Sang Across the Sea: The Empire Windrush and Me

Migrations: Journeys through Black British History

Royal Museums Greenwich

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THE EMPIRE WINDRUSH (PART 2)

Day 16.

The Windrush Scandal

Passenger No. 524

P.R. 5

United Kingdom

SEA ARRIVAL CARD

Merchant Shipping Act, 1906

All British subjects (or Commonwealth citizens) British protected persons, or citizens of the Republic of Ireland are required to furnish the Master with the information specified on this card before landing.

1. Name BAKER (Surname) CHARLES (Other names)

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

For official use

2. Date of arrival 22.6.48

3. Vessel M.V. "EMPIRE WINDRUSH"

4. Port of :
   (a) embarkation KINGSTON
   (b) arrival TILBURY

5. Country of :
   (a) last permanent residence JAMAICA
   (b) intended next permanent residence ENGLAND

Permanent residence for the purpose of question 5 means residence for more than a year. If in United Kingdom, please state whether England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

6. Personal address in the United Kingdom: 18 GORDON ROAD, SE15

#TBH365

In 2017 it was found that hundreds of Commonwealth citizens, many of them from the 'Windrush' generation, were wrongly detained, deported and denied legal rights. Many arrived as children on their parents' passports, and the Home Office had destroyed thousands of landing cards and other records. This mean that many lacked documentation to prove their right to remain in the UK.

Further resources

Channel 4
The Windrush Generation: Why people invited to UK faced deportation

The Joint Council for The Welfare Of Immigrants
www.jcwi.org.uk/windrush-scandal-explained

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Day 17.

THE AFRICAN CHOIR IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND

1891-1893

#TBH365

Between 1891 and 1893, members of The African Choir, a South African musical group, toured Victorian England for the first time. They wanted to raise money for a technical college in their home country to support the growth of Black labour force. The choir had 16 members. There were seven women, seven men and two young choir boys.

Further resources

Iziko Museums Youtube
'Cuius' The African Choir 1891 Re-Imagined

The Missing Chapter - The African Choir

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AWKA
658 photos · 1,229 views

BENIN CITY
693 photos · 1 Albums

EVIAKOI
96 photos · 69 views

EWU
19 photos · 121 views

EWU ESAN
10 photos · 45 views

Day 18.

BLACK IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE

18th Century Colonialism

IGBUZOR
153 photos · 130 views

IGIEDUMA
38 photos · 29 views

IGUICHIMI
95 photos · 45 views

#TBH365

At the height of the British Empire, just after the First World War, Britain controlled roughly a quarter of the world's population and landmass. During this time, collector's were hired by the Empire to conquer and classify cultures, such as the colonial-era portraits taken by Northcote Thomas which sought to document the physical characteristics of people from different ethnic groups in West Africa.

Further resources

SOAS University
RE: Entanglements

www.flickr.com/photos/
reentanglements/

Faces | Voices
(Film on Youtube)

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Day 19.

BLACK IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Post-Colonialism

#TBH365

The British Museum was founded in 1753: its history and collections are shaped by the colonial exploitation of people and resources.

The museum is home to thousands of goods and artefacts from countries under the Empire. It is notoriously known for holding the largest collection of Benin Bronzes that were looted by British forces during the Benin Expedition of 1897 in Nigeria.

Further resources

The British Museum
www.britishmuseum.org/visit/object-trails/collecting-and-empire-trail

www.theblackcurriculum.com/blog/relfections-on-the-colonial-hangover

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Day 20.

BLACK BRITISH HEROES

Mary Seacole

#TBH365

In 1853, British-Jamaican nurse Mary Seacole travelled to England in hopes to be sent to Crimea as an army nurse. Her request from the British War Office was denied so she funded her own trip to Crimea where she established the British Hotel with Thomas Day.

It became a safe space for soldiers to receive proper care.

Further resources

The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands by Mary Seacole

www.education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/mary-seacole

www.maryseacoletrust.org.uk

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Day 21.

18TH CENTURY BLACK BRITISH PIONEERS

Ignatius Sancho

#TBH365

In 1729, Ignatius Sancho was born on a slave ship. He was literally enslaved from birth and lived as a slave during his early years in Grenada before being brought to England where he worked as a servant. He taught himself how to read and write. He wrote plays, poetry and music, and used his literacy to be an advocate against the Slave Trade.

In 1774, he became the first Black person of African descent to vote in British parliamentary elections.

Further resources

www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk

Letters of the late Ignatius Sancho, an African
Book by Ignatius Sancho

The British Library
www.bl.uk/people/ignatius-sancho

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Day 22.

BLACK BRITISH PIONEERS IN SCIENCE

John Edmonstone

#TBH365

John Edmonstone was a taxidermist and teacher in Edinburgh, Scotland. He was born into slavery in British Guiana but went on to become a very important person in the field of scientific research. After gaining freedom in 1817, John became a taxidermist for the Natural Museum in Edinburgh and taught Charles Darwin the skill of taxidermy.

Further resources

Black History Month: The men who made history in Britain (BBC)

John Edmonstone - The man who taught Darwin by Sky History UK

Natural History Museum

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Day 23.

BLACK BRITISH ABOLITIONISTS

Mary Prince

The History of Mary Prince

#TBH365

Mary Prince was born a slave and is regarded as the first known Black woman to relate a slave narrative. She was the storyteller of an abolitionist collaborative writing team that brought her story to print during the height of Britain's Abolition movement.

The book was called 'The History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave' and was published in 1831.

Further resources

www.maryprince.org

The History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave

www.rmg.co.uk/stories/topics/who-was-mary-prince

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Day 24.

BLACK BRITISH PIONEERS IN MUSIC

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

#TBH365

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was a British Sierra Leonean composer, conductor and political activist born in 1875. His parents taught him how to play the violin from a young age and at 15, he joined the Royal College of Music.

Samuel went on to compose various classical hits, heavily influenced by his African heritage, making his success as a Black British classical artist even rarer.

Further resources

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Foundation

www.english-heritage.org.uk

Classic.fm - “Who was Samuel Coleridge-Taylor?”

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Day 25.

20TH CENTURY BLACK BRITISH PIONEERS

Evelyn Dove

#TBH365

Evelyn Dove was born in London on 11 January 1902 to a Sierra Leonean father and white British mother. She is known to be the first woman of African heritage to be broadcast on BBC Radio in 1925, three years after it launched.

Evelyn appeared in many productions on BBC Radio and in 1939, she was given her own music series called Sweet and Lovely.

Further resources

Evelyn Dove: Britain's Black Cabaret Queen

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

www.womenshistorynetwork.org/spirit-of-a-dove-the-life-of-evelyn-dove-by-stephen-bourne

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Day 26.

BLACK BRITISH MOVEMENTS

The Bristol Bus Boycott

#TBH365

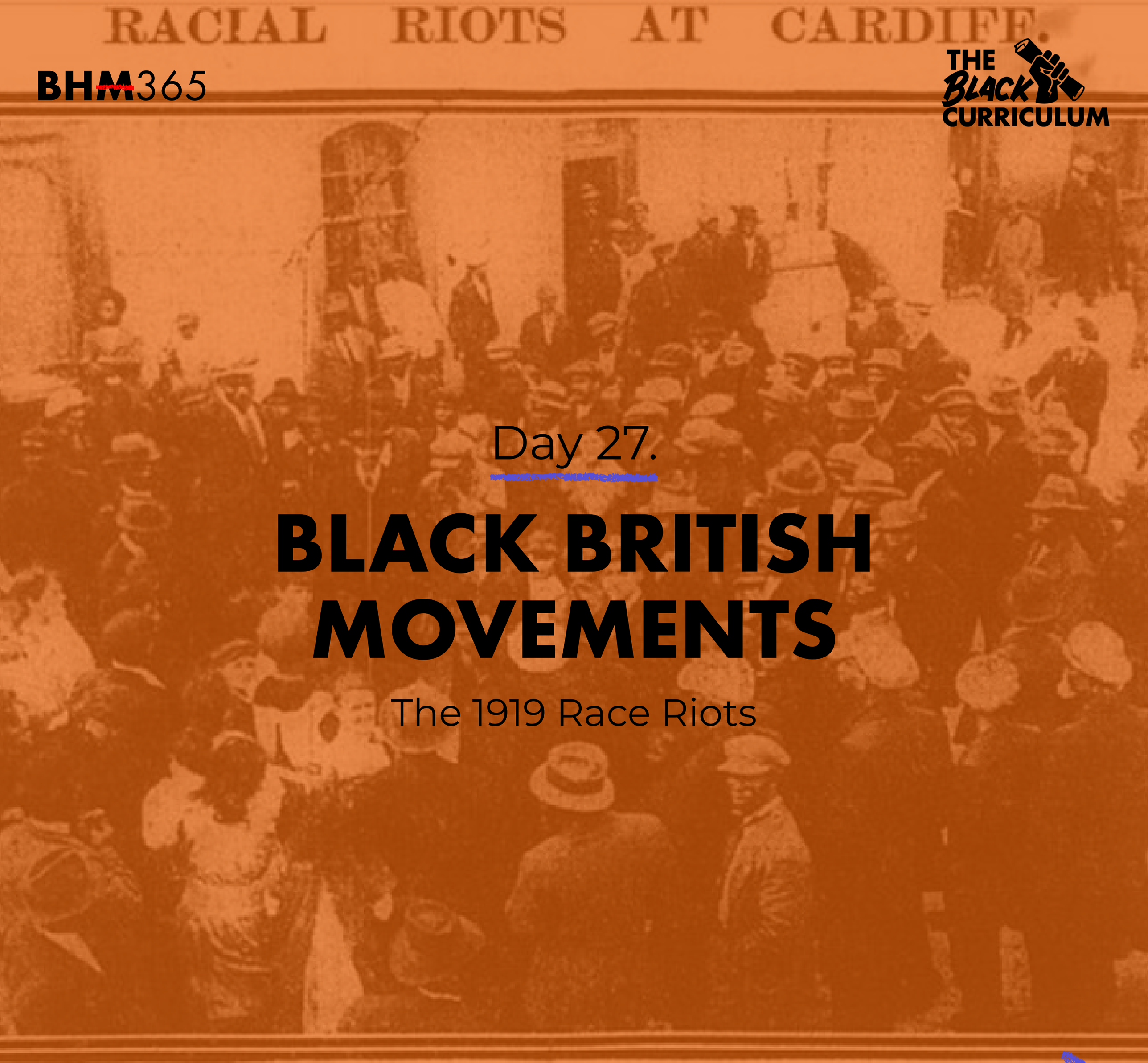
The Bristol Bus Boycott occurred in 1963. Black and South Asian people avoided using buses as a protest against the “colour ban” - an unspoken rule that banned or made it difficult for them to use public transport, get good jobs or housing.

Further resources

Places: Important Sites in Black British History

www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk - The Bristol Bus Boycott of 1963

www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/the-bristol-bus-boycott-of-1963



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Day 27.

BLACK BRITISH MOVEMENTS

The 1919 Race Riots

#TBH365

The race riots took place on and off in 1919 throughout Britain's seaport areas such as Liverpool, Cardiff, and Salford. It was one of Britain's most violent periods of racial upheaval in the 20th century.

Non-white workers were fired and their homes and businesses were damaged or set ablaze by angry white rioters. The government did not reimburse most victims for property damages.

Further resources

Article: Britain's 1919 Race Riots by Black Past

Socialist Worker: 1919 race riots in Britain—a legacy of empire

Black History Walks

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Day 28.

BLACK BRITISH MOVEMENTS

The British Black Panthers

#TBH365

In 1968, The British Black Panther Party was founded in London's Notting Hill by Nigerian playwright Obi Egbuna. He was inspired by the Black Power movement in the United States. They fought against police brutality and engaged in legal advocacy work for communities in London and 10 other British cities.

Further resources

Black Past - British Black Panther Party (1968-1973)

Darcus Howe and Britain's Black Power movement

Google Arts and Culture - The Black Power Movement

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Day 29.

BLACK BRITISH PIONEERS IN THEATRE

Ernest Trimmingham

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Ernest Trimmingham was born in Bermuda and moved to Britain in the late Victorian/early Edwardian period to pursue a successful career in theatre.

He was the first actor/playwright to have an entirely Black-themed production staged in the UK in 1909. He was also one of the first Black actors to appear in British Cinema.

Further resources

Legacies: Black British Pioneers

www. repeatingislands.com - Bermudian Actor’s Play Was A Black UK First

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Day 30.

BLACK BRITISH PIONEERS IN STEM

Alan Powell Goffe

#TBH365

Alan Powell Goffe was a Jamaican-British pathologist born in 1920. His work and research helped in the development of vaccines most notably for vaccines against polio and measles in the 1940s. In 1955, he went on to become the Chief Medical Virologist (a virus specialist) for the Wellcome Laboratories.

Further resources

Legacies: Black British Pioneers

www.microbiologysociety.org

Day 31.

#TBH365

Teach **B**lack **H**istory **365**

Black History Month may be over but teaching Black British History is not stopping for us any time soon at The Black Curriculum.

Young people deserve to have access to resources and information on Black British History all year round.

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THE BLACK CURRICULUM

At The Black Curriculum we teach Black British History all year round. For further enquiries and to discuss how we could work together, please contact communications@theblackcurriculum.com

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