

# Black History Month

more than a month

# What is Black History Month?

- During October the UK Celebrates **Black History Month**.
- Although **Black History Month** has been celebrated every February in the USA since 1970, it was not officially celebrated in the UK until 1987
- The first Black History Month was celebrated only in London, but in the years since, the celebration has spread across the whole UK.
- The main aims of **Black History Month** are to celebrate the achievements and contributions of black people not just in the UK, but throughout the world and also to educate all on black history.

# What do we tell ourselves about black history?

1. Black history mostly happened elsewhere
2. Black history arrived in Britain in 1948 on the Empire Windrush

Black people arrived in Britain before the English.  
Britain's black history is at least 2000 years old.



Imagine if you tried to learn about all the white history you had heard of in one month?





# 'Beachy Head Woman'

- Lived on the south coast of Roman Britain around 200 AD
- Scientists examined her skeleton and found that her family came from Sub-Saharan Africa, but that she lived in South East England from a very young age.
- She is likely to have been one of many people with African origins to have lived in Britain in the Roman period.

'[s]he could possibly have been born in Africa and brought over [to the British Isles] at a very young age, but it's just as likely that she was born here.'

Jo Seaman, The Mystery of Beachy Head Lady: A Roman African from Eastbourne, Museum Crush (2018)



An attempt to reconstruct Beachy Head Woman's face from her



Beachy Head

# John Blanke

- A royal trumpeter for Kings Henry VII and Henry VIII.
- He is the first Black Briton we have an image of.
- We know he was working in London between 1501 and 1511.
- We have a letter that he wrote to Henry VIII asking for his wages to be increased, complaining that other trumpeters were being paid more than him. Henry agreed to it and doubled his wages.



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# REMEMBERING WINDRUSH

[www.windrushfilms.com.uk](http://www.windrushfilms.com.uk)



Black History is British History

British History is Black History

**What's next?**

- Tell someone at home, or one of your friends, at least one story about Britain's black history
- Look out for these stories in Form Time, and in your history lessons
- Black Plaque Project -  
<https://blackplaqueproject.com/>

