



# Black History Month

# SJHS

Session 1 and 2

Does anyone know what  
is usually celebrated  
during the whole month of  
October every year in the  
UK?



What do you think the purpose of Black History Month is?

The purpose of Black History Month and these sessions is to recognise the importance of the contribution of Black people to our History.

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH: WHO'S WHO?

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



How many of these famous people do you know?

TIGER WOODS, MARTIN LUTHER KING, WILL SMITH,  
HARRIET TUBMAN, MAYA ANGELOU, ROSA PARKS,  
BARACK OBAMA, NELSON MANDELA, MAHATMA GANDHI,  
HALLE BERRY

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH: WHO'S WHO? ANSWERS

1



BARACK OBAMA

2



HALLE BERRY

3



NELSON MANDELA

4



ML KING

5



ROSA PARKS

6



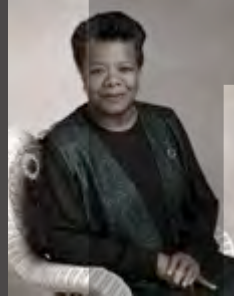
TIGER WOODS

7



HARRIET TUBMAN

8



MAYA  
ANGELOU

9



MAHATMA  
GANDHI

10



WILL SMITH

# WHO...?

(1) Barack Obama

(2) Halle Berry

(3) Nelson Mandela

(4) Martin Luther King

(5) Rosa Parks

(6) Tiger Woods

(7) Harriet Tubman

(8) Maya Angelou

(9) Mahatma Gandhi

(10) Will Smith

(a) Writes novels and poetry

(b) First black President

(c) Staged a protest on a bus

(d) Won an Oscar

(e) Organized the 'underground' escape route for slaves

(f) Gave a speech called 'I have a dream'

(g) Was in prison for 27 years

(h) Has been known as the 'Fresh Prince'

(i) Was assassinated in 1948

(j) Started his sport at nine months of age



# Black History Month Assembly

SJHHS

Found in:  
Staff only,  
All Teaching Staff,  
PSE,  
Black History Month





Plenary

Out of the people discussed in the assembly, who do you think made the most significant contribution to History? Why?

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Session 3

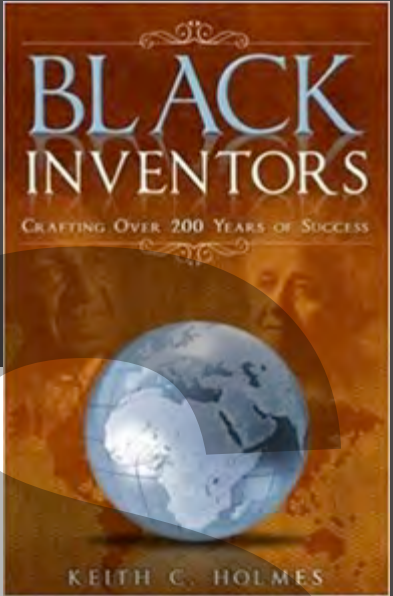


# Black History Month 2020

Why do we need a Black History month?  
Name a white inventor.

Now name a black inventor.

There are plenty of them, so why are we struggling?



Think about these questions whilst watching the clip.

- What do you think about what he has to say?
- How does it make you feel?
- How many of the notable black figures from history have you heard of from this boy's speech?
- Why is this? Would all of this history be enough to cover in one month?

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



Just one month..... And there is as much black history as white history.



Do you recognise  
the actress from  
Star Trek?

Watch the clip to  
find out more  
about her.





**Lieutenant Nyota Uhura  
Originally played by  
Nichelle Nichols in the  
Star Trek series.**

Up until Nichols' character appeared on popular American series Star Trek in 1966, every black female on TV had been portrayed as a maid or a menial worker. Every single one.

Imagine what that does for your aspirations as a young black girl growing up.

Now imagine seeing Lieutenant Uhura for the first time – a successful translator and communications officer who specialises in linguistics, cryptography, and philology. IN SPACE!

Quite a bit of a difference there.

## Homework

This Black History Month your challenge is to find out about the great black people you DON'T already know about. How they changed the world – what they created – what brilliant things they did.

By next week, have 5 facts about the person you have researched. Be ready to share it with the class.



Session 4

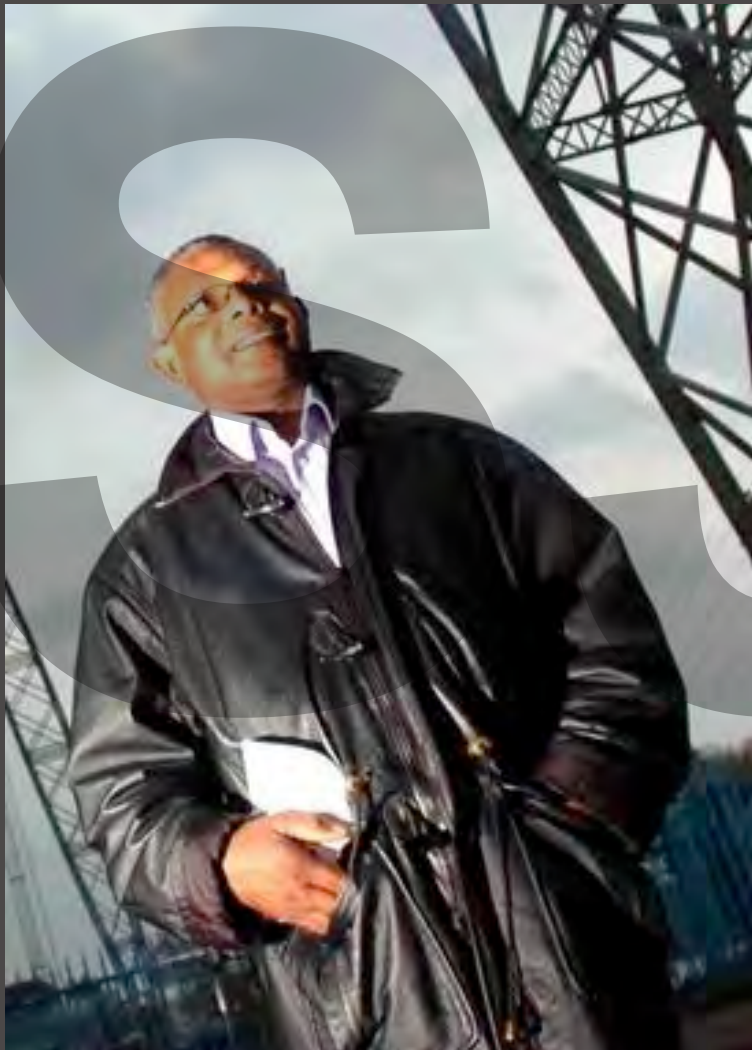
SJHS

# Starter



Share your findings with the class.

# My own research has led me to a local person who has made a difference – Roy Grant



Born in Jamaica in 1942, Roy lost the sight in one eye in a childhood accident. He moved to Newport as a young man and after working in the engineering industry turned to writing as therapy when he lost vision in both eyes.

Arriving in the UK as a 19-year-old apprentice he was promoted four years later to become the first black person in Newport to have a supervisory role in a precision engineering works.

Made redundant due to the decline in the manufacturing industry, Roy went on to own a taxi and mobile catering business until 1997 when a haemorrhage in his good eye caused total blindness for 11 months.

Despite all of these challenges, Roy Grant became a published author. His books include *When Darkness Turns to Light*, an autobiographical tale of dealing with blindness and *Patchwork Culture* explores the history of Africans who escaped slavery in the Americas - known as the Maroon culture - and compares prejudice in Jamaica and Wales.

This session will focus on one of the most well known  
black people in History.

Who is this?



Why is he famous?

# Martin Luther King Jr.



One of the most significant figures in the fight for civil rights in America is Martin Luther King Jr.

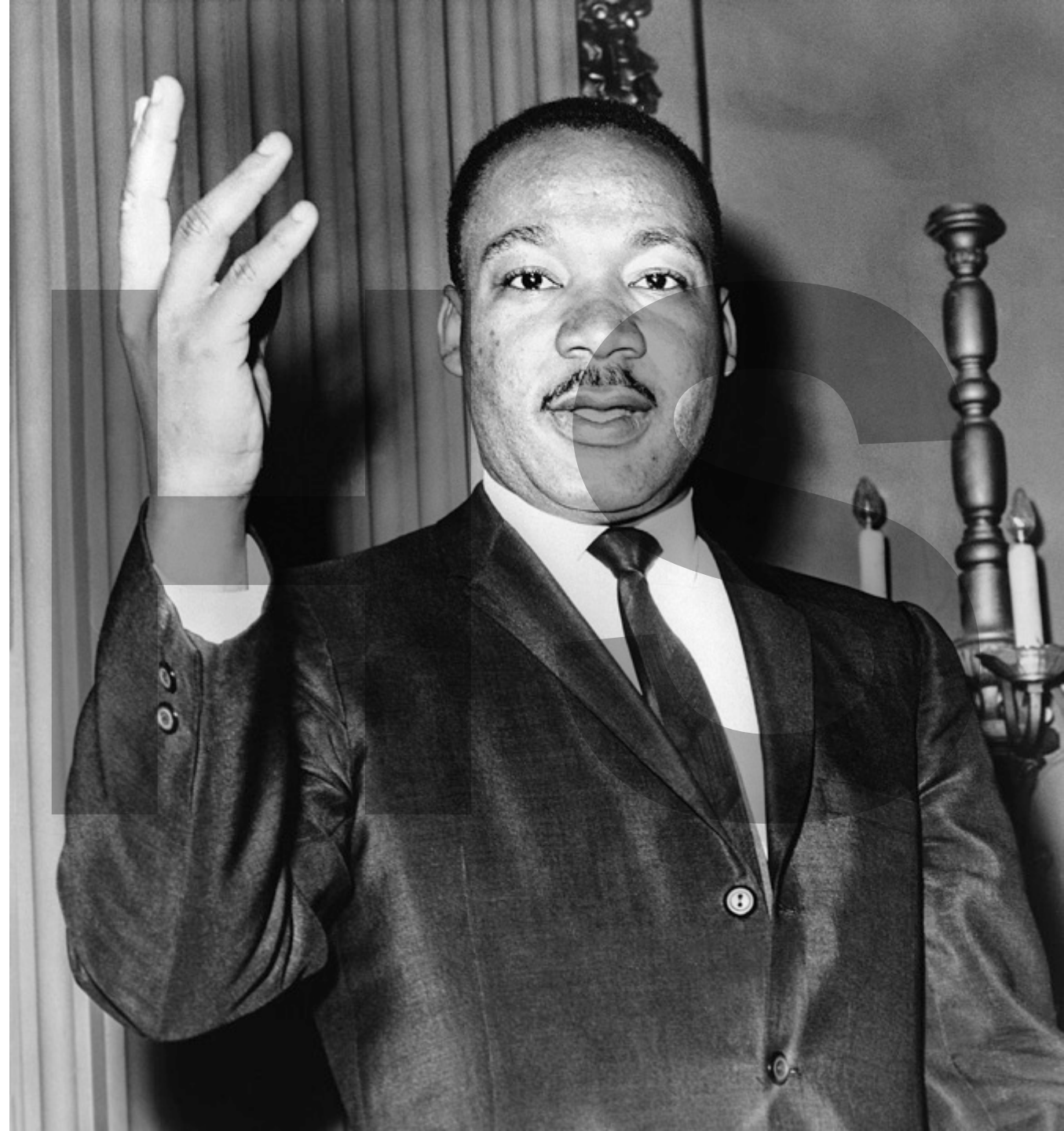
MLK is considered one of the most influential people in History, but how much do you actually know about him?

# Who is Martin Luther King?

Martin Luther King was born in Atlanta, Georgia, a state in the south of America. He was born on 15 January, 1929.

King lived in America in a time when segregation and discrimination was not against the law in the USA. King was a Baptist minister and worked in a church teaching the word of God and turning a cheek to the discrimination that he experienced.

One woman who had enough of the discrimination was Rosa Parks. On a bus one day she refused to give up her seat to a white person, and this prompted King to arrange the Montgomery Bus Boycott.





# The Bus Boycott

King led the boycott that started in 1955. As a reaction many white people acted out against the protestors. Black cab drivers who offered low fares for black people were fined. King's house was firebombed, and during a peaceful protest close to a bus stop King was sent to prison and fined \$500 for 'hindering a bus'.

The boycott proved successful after the reaction from police and officials drew attention to the affair. Over 40,000 black people took part in the boycott.

In December 1956 the boycott ended when The Supreme Court made segregation on buses illegal, and the Civil Rights Movement gained a leader in Martin Luther King.

## Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Emboldened by the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, in 1957 he and other civil rights activists—most of them fellow ministers—founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), a group committed to achieving full equality for African Americans through nonviolent protest.





# Birmingham, 1963

- MLK's philosophy of nonviolence was put to a particularly severe test during the Birmingham campaign of 1963, in which activists used a boycott, sit-ins and marches to protest segregation, unfair hiring practices and other injustices in one of America's most racially divided cities.
- Arrested for his involvement on April 12, King penned the civil rights manifesto known as the "Letter from Birmingham Jail," an eloquent defense of civil disobedience addressed to a group of white clergymen who had criticised his tactics.





# March on Washington

- In 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. worked with a number of civil rights and religious groups to organise the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, a peaceful political rally designed to shed light on the injustices African Americans continued to face across the country.
- Held on August 28 and attended by some 200,000 to 300,000 participants, the event is widely regarded as a watershed moment in the history of the American civil rights movement and a factor in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

# I HAVE A DREAM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP4iY1TtS3s> (1:55-3:55)

Listen to Martin Luther King's famous speech.

What is MLK's 'dream'?

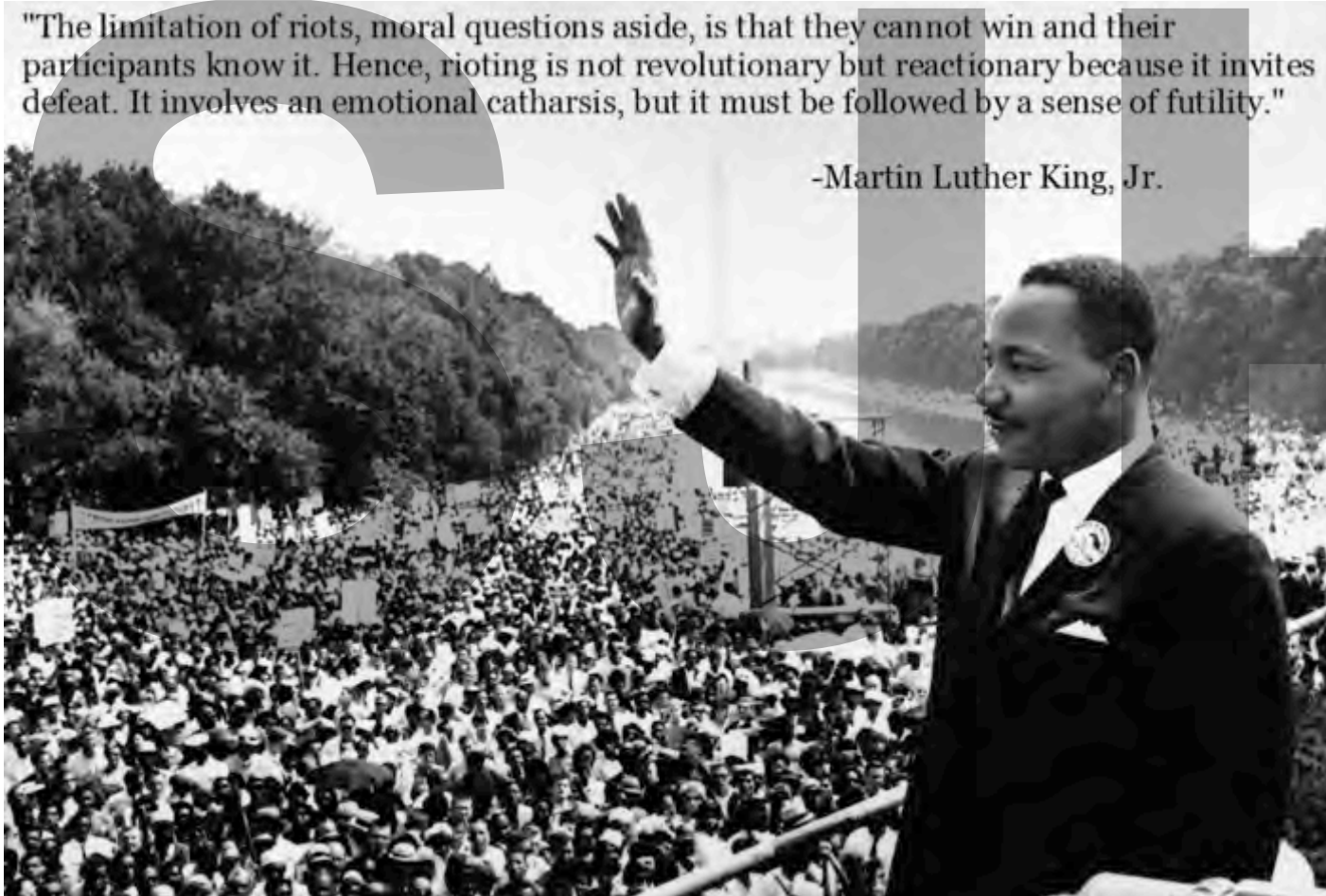
Do you think this 'dream' is a reality today? Why?



# MARTIN LUTHER KING

"The limitation of riots, moral questions aside, is that they cannot win and their participants know it. Hence, rioting is not revolutionary but reactionary because it invites defeat. It involves an emotional catharsis, but it must be followed by a sense of futility."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.



- Throughout his life Martin Luther King was confronted by violence. His home was bombed, he was stabbed, his family received death threats.
- None of this made him respond with violence. His Christian beliefs told him that violence and hatred could only be conquered by love and forgiveness.
- In 1964 Martin Luther King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
- In April 1968, at the age of only 39, he was shot dead leaving his hotel room. Despite his death his legacy lives on. Others carried on his work and still today all Americans remember his life on Martin Luther King Day.

I've Been to the Mountaintop " is the popular name of the last speech delivered by Martin Luther King Jr.  
On the following day, King was assassinated.

Listen to the speech

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oehry1JC9Rk>



“Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I’m not concerned about that now. I just want to do God’s will. And He’s allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I’ve looked over. And I’ve seen the Promised Land.

**What do you think MLK meant by this?**

Session 5

SJHS

## Starter

What have you learnt over these 2 weeks that you did not previously know?



Looking forward

Do you think Black  
History Month goes far  
enough?





# Looking forward

What do you think we could  
do in school to further  
promote black History?



The founder of Black History Month, Carter Woodson, began his work in 1926 - nearly a century ago - and yet it seems that there is still more work to be done. Hopefully we will eventually live in a world where people celebrate black history all the time, and not just in October.





- It is crucial that we recognise the importance of the contribution of Black people to our History.
- If you would like to volunteer to be part of a working party that will look into how Black History can be more prevalent throughout the school year, speak to your form tutor.