

BLACK HISTORY

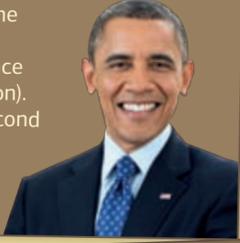
prehistory to the 21st century

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Barack Obama

First Black US President (1961–)

In November 2008 Obama became the first African American to be elected US president. He became a US senator in 2004 (only the third African American since reconstruction). He won a second presidential election in 2012.



Mary Seacole

Pioneering nurse (c1805–1881)

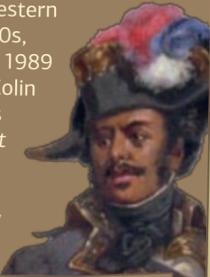
Mary Seacole became renowned for her humanitarian work during the Crimean War. Returning to London, she was awarded plaudits for bravery. Her autobiography, *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands*, was published to acclaim.



Thomas-Alexandre Dumas

French General (1762–1806)

The highest ranking black officer in any Western army in the 1790s, only bettered in 1989 by US General Colin Powell. His son's novels *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Three Musketeers* drew on his life.



Queen Nzinga

Great military leader (1583–1663)

In 1624 Ana Nzingo became queen of Ndongo. Aware of the devastating impact of the slave trade on African kingdoms, she struggled against European domination in Southern Africa.



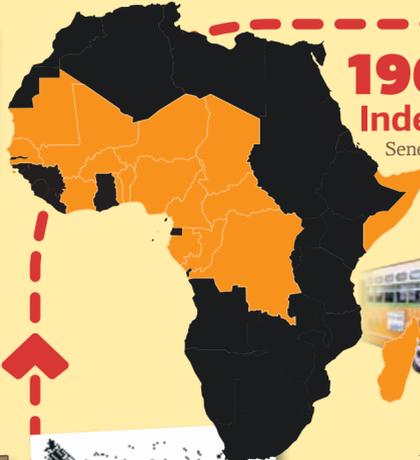
Hatsheput

Female Pharaoh (1508–1458 BC)

One of Egypt's most important and powerful female Pharaohs.



Pic: flickr / Rob Koopman / CC BY-SA 2.0



1960

Independence

Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Nigeria are among 17 African states to gain independence.



1994 Freedom together

Nelson Mandela is elected president of a multiracial South Africa, just four years after his release from a 27 year imprisonment under the racist Apartheid regime. In Rwanda, one of the biggest genocides since World War Two sees half a million Tutsis massacred by the Hutu-dominated army.



1955 Civil Rights movement

Rosa Parks refusing to give her seat to a white passenger helps launch the civil rights movement that transforms US society.

Pic: Rnhermen / Wikipedia / CC BY-SA 3.0

1939–45 World War Two

British Empire troops play a crucial role with over 2,500,000 from the colonies actively serving. In 1948 the UK arrival of the ship Empire Windrush heralds a new wave of migration, making Britain a modern multicultural nation.



1914–18 World War One

Many soldiers from the West Indies, India and the breadth of the British Empire join the war. Walter Tull, one of the first black men to command white soldiers in action, is killed in battle.



1884–85 Scramble for Africa

The European powers divide Africa up among themselves. The Berlin Conference sets national boundaries – some of them crudely drawn using a ruler – that do not take into account the needs, history and languages of different African peoples.

1863 Abolition of slavery in the US

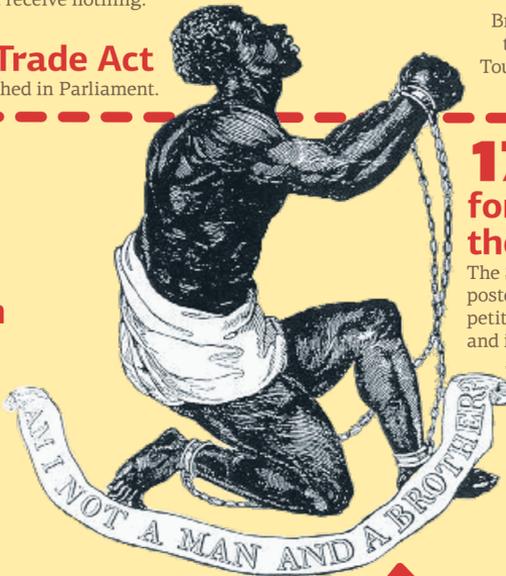
Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, proclaiming slaves in the rebel Confederate states forever free. Many free African Americans and runaway slaves join the Union armies in the ongoing American Civil War. Slavery is formally abolished at the end of the war in 1865.

1834 British end to slavery

Slavery is abolished in the British Empire. Slave owners receive £20m compensation. The freed receive nothing.

1807 Slave Trade Act

The British slave trade is abolished in Parliament.



1562 First English slave trade expedition

John Hawkins is the first Englishman to lead a slave-trading voyage from the west coast of Africa. An estimated 13 million Africans would be forcibly transported during the Atlantic slave trade.

1804 The Haitian Revolution

Thousands of formerly enslaved Africans overcome the British, Spanish, and Napoleonic French armies, establishing the first independent black republic in the Americas. Led by Toussaint L'Ouverture, Dessalines and Petion, this revolution destroys slavery in France's most profitable colony.



1787 Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade

The Society introduces the political poster, the consumer boycott, the petition, the flyer, the political book tour and investigative reporting designed to stir people to political action.

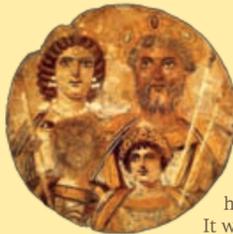


1331 Untold riches

The richest man in recorded human history, Mansa Musa I, ruler of the Malian empire that covers modern day Ghana, dies.

c1000 Far reaching trade

Mapungubwe lay near the Limpopo river in South Africa. One of many ancient cities established by black Africans, it traded with China and India.



1241 Earliest image of a black Briton

A black man is pictured supporting the first letter on a page in an abbreviated Domesday Book used to collect taxes.



100–940 Kingdom of Aksum

According to legend, this northern Ethiopian kingdom is the last resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. Their coins (pictured, right) were minted from c270 AD and used internationally.

43 AD Roman rule in Britain begins

A Roman Army African auxiliary unit, the Numerus Maurorum Aurelianorum, helps guard the empire's borders (c100–400) on Hadrian's Wall in northern England. It was visited by African Roman Emperor, Septimius Severus (pictured, left).

c300 BC Nubia rules

The rulers of Nubia establish a capital, Meroë, by the Nile. These black Africans develop their own alphabetic script as early as the second century BC.

c730 BC The Black Pharaohs

The Kings of Kush, an advanced African civilisation, conquer and dominate Egypt. They revitalise pyramid building.



c1264 BC The Great Temple of Abu Simbel

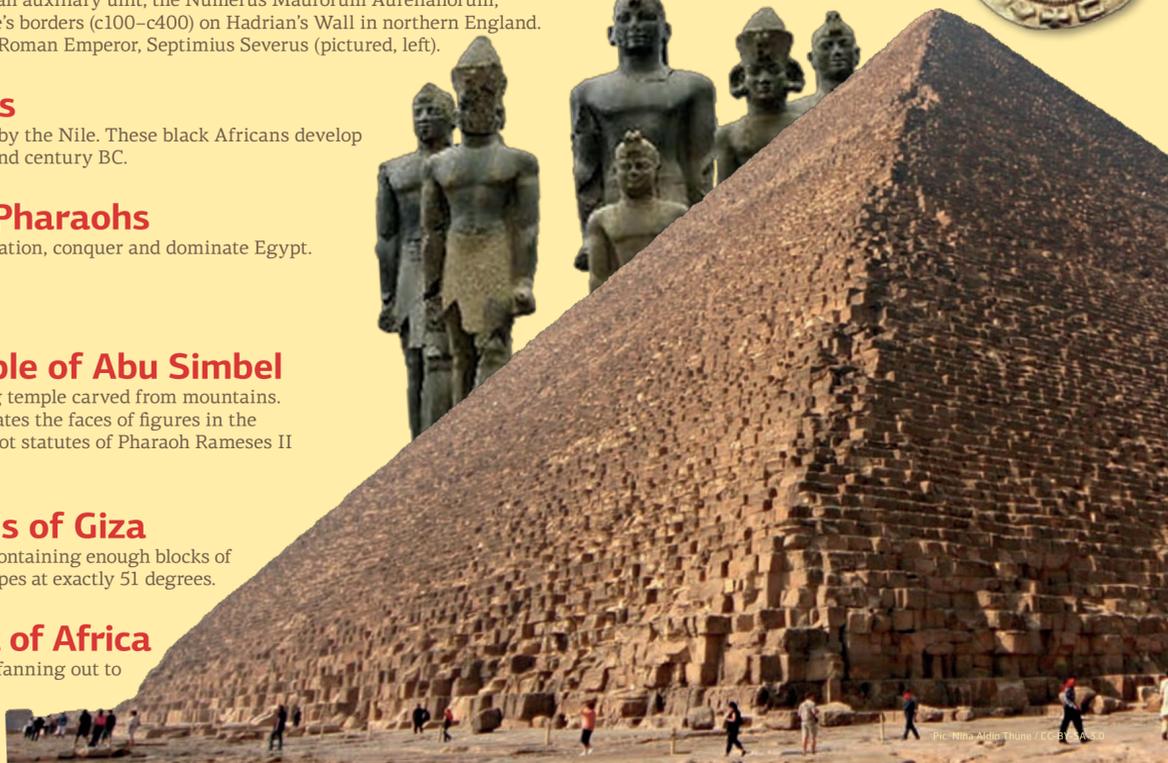
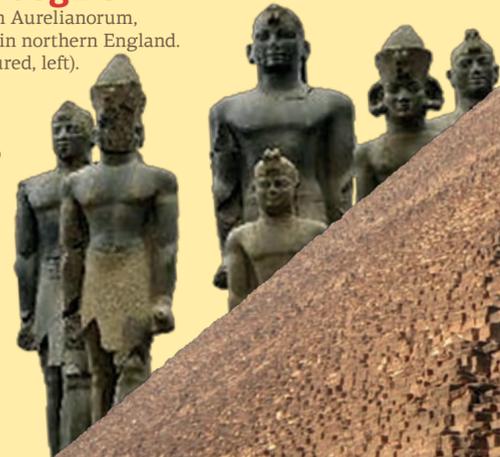
Construction of awe-inspiring temple carved from mountains. Twice a year, sunrise illuminates the faces of figures in the temple. Alongside stand 20 foot statues of Pharaoh Rameses II and his wife, Nefertari.

c2500 BC Pyramids of Giza

The tallest human-built structures of the time, containing enough blocks of stones to put a wall around France. Each side slopes at exactly 51 degrees.

c150,000 BC Out of Africa

The first modern humans migrate from Africa, fanning out to the rest of the world.



Originator and author: Gaverne Bennett
Development and design: Jon Wedderburn algebradesign.com

Pic: Nina Aldin Thune / CC BY-SA 3.0



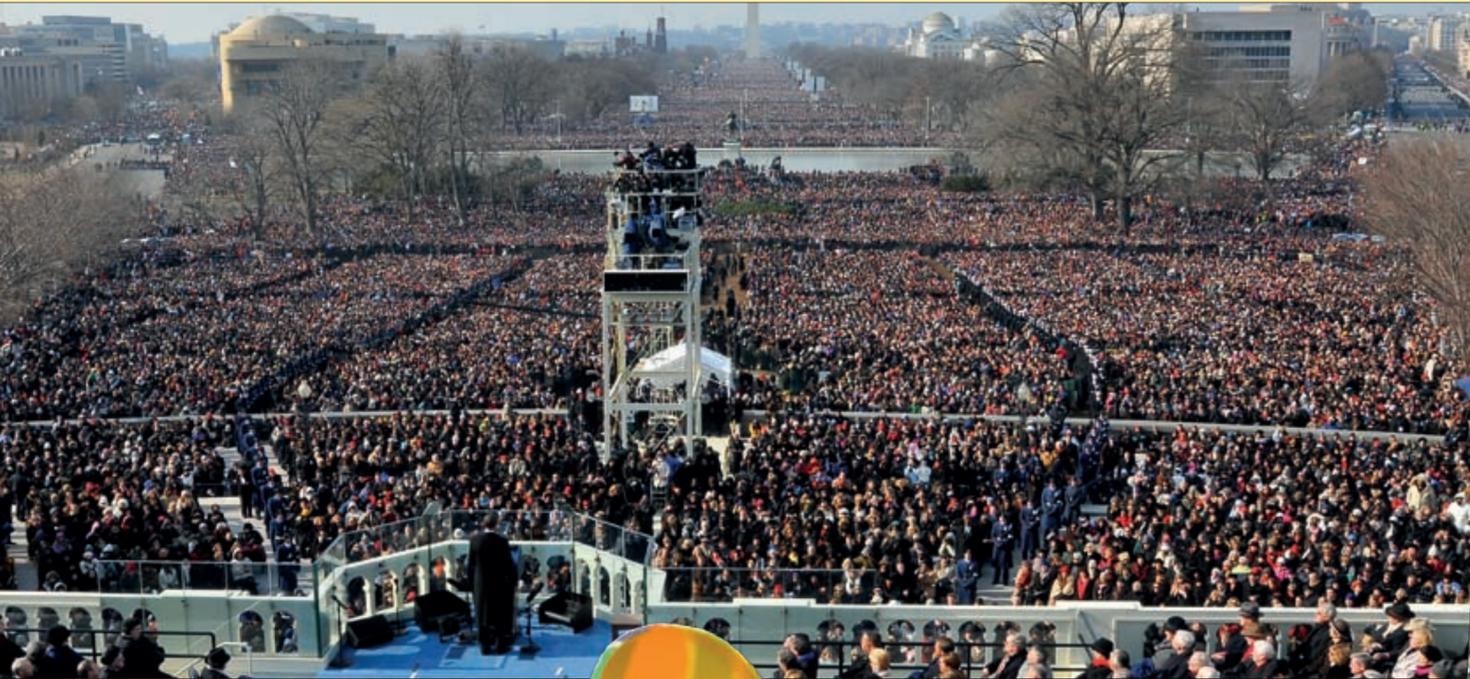
BLACK HISTORY

forward into the 21st century

Poster print available from The Guardian EasyArt collection – <http://bit.ly/blackhistory21>

2009 JAN Historic inauguration

Barack Obama takes office as the first black president of the United States, having won the previous year's election. His inauguration draws a crowd estimated at 1.8 million people – the largest audience of any event ever held in Washington, D.C.



JUNE Death of Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson's death at 50 shocks the world. He was one of the most successful entertainers of all time, having been a child prodigy from the age of five with his brothers in The Jackson 5. He distilled what was universal about the genius of African American music – jazz, soul, blues, R&B, spiritual music – simplifying it for a mass audience to gain black music overdue recognition and create the best-selling album and video of all time.



OCT Half century

Nigeria joins Gabon and Senegal in celebrating 50 years since independence in 1960. Two years later Rwanda, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Uganda would celebrate their 50th anniversaries.



JUNE First World Cup in Africa

South Africa hosts soccer's 19th World Cup. Expertly organised and a thrilling international spectacle, the tournament silences those who say an African nation cannot host an event of this scale. Nelson Mandela presides over the opening ceremony as South Africa becomes synonymous with "vuvuzela" and "rainbow nation" instead of "Apartheid" and "racial segregation".

2010 JAN Haiti earthquake

A catastrophic earthquake kills an estimated 220,000 people in the world's first black republic. As the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti's infrastructure collapses, affecting 3 million people despite the belated help of many organisations and nations. It is another tragedy for the country that struck the first blow in ending the Atlantic slave trade.



Photo: Reuters/Mark Stanten/CC BY-SA 2.0

2011 JAN Legal first

Kamala Harris becomes the first female African American Attorney General in California.

FEB Culture shock?

UK prime minister, David Cameron, declares multiculturalism dead in a speech in Munich.



AUG Riots in cities across England

Riots break out after the police shoot a black man, Mark Duggan, in north London. After four days, five have died with £200 million of damage to property. Some 3,000 people are arrested and prison sentences total 1,800 years.



2012 JAN Stephen Lawrence conviction

New evidence finally convicts Dobson and Norris, two of those long accused of the 1993 racist murder of Stephen Lawrence. The case had been described as "one of the highest-profile unsolved racially-motivated murders".

SEPT Soccer racism

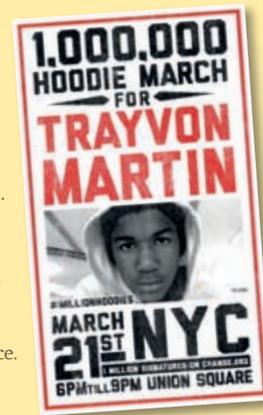
England captain John Terry gets a four match ban for using racially abusive language. Following Luis Suárez's similar ban, many fear a reappearance of overt racism in football. Rio Ferdinand and other black players protest at a lack of action.

NOV Second term

Obama wins a second presidential election, the first Democratic president since Roosevelt to win half the popular vote twice.

FEB Shooting of Trayvon Martin

Black teenager Trayvon Martin, returning home after buying sweets, is shot dead by a neighbourhood patrol organiser in Sanford, Florida. His shooter is only put on trial after a mass campaign collecting 1.5 million signatures.



2013 JAN Obama's second inauguration

Drawing on the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, the inauguration's theme is "Faith in America's Future".

FEB African Manoeuvres

Former colonial ruler, France, sends troops to Mali to push back Islamist insurgents. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, where rebels had taken a major city, sees a peace deal backed by 11 African countries. This resource-rich country supplies tantalum, essential in mobile phones. It is still recovering from death of millions during the 19th century occupation by the Belgian King Leopold.



Black Victorian remembered

Mary Seacole's exploits caring for sick soldiers in the Crimean War kept on the UK schools' National Curriculum by a thousands-strong petition.

JUN Landmark ruling

The British government pays £2,600 compensation to 5,200 Kenyans who were tortured during the war of independence.

Poetic first

Malorie Blackman becomes the UK's first black Children's Laureate.



Photo: Shutterstock/Wikipedia/CC BY-SA 3.0

beyond 2013...

Brazil, the country with the largest population of African descent outside Africa, hosts the 2014 FIFA World Cup and 2016 Olympics. Black History Month marks 90 years in 2016.

Originator and author: Gaverne Bennett
Development and design: Jon Wedderburn algebra.design.com

More black history

Poster of the key figures and significant events for Africans and the diaspora over the past 2,000 years: www.guardian.co.uk/blackhistory
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