

Black History Month 2006

Celebrated in the UK since 1987, Black History Month (BHM) aims to:

- promote knowledge of Black history and experience;
- disseminate information on positive Black contributions to British society;
- heighten the confidence and awareness of Black people in their cultural heritage.

Black History Month (BHM) was initiated by Carter G Woodson in America in 1926 as a way to respond to the often expressed view that Black Americans and other peoples of African descent had made no significant contribution to human civilization.

We need to share knowledge of our common human ancestry in Africa and of the continuous presence of Black people in Britain for at least 500 years.

When will Mary Seacole be feted to the same degree as Florence Nightingale?

There remains a lack of knowledge about Black achievement. Norfolk, for example, is often perceived as a white county. Yet actually there is both a historical – with figures such as Allen Minns (Britain's first Black Mayor, elected in Thetford in 1904) and Pablo Fanque (Britain's only Black circus owner) – and a contemporary Black presence.

NEAD can help you teach about Black History in a variety of ways. We have teaching materials for sale and for loan – to receive our Resources Catalogue and/or Black History resources list, contact Sarah at NEAD on 01603 610993 / email: sarah@nead.org.uk. For a taster of one or two of the sorts of resources available, see back page of this newsletter, but there are many more besides.

We have contacts with 'artists/world voices' who can come into schools to run sessions with pupils in order that they may learn from first hand experience – visit

our website at www.nead.org.uk/resources/worldvoices to see who is available and what they can offer.

We can help with appropriate websites and links – a couple can be found on the back page of this newsletter; others, together with suggestions for activities and lesson plans, information about further teaching resources – including some free on-line ones, a recommended reading list, and more, can be found

on the Norfolk Black History Month website at www.norfolkblackhistorymonth.org.uk. This website also contains the full listings of events taking place in Norfolk during Black History Month 2006 including many exciting activities and workshops for young people.

Back issues of NEAD's Schools' Newsletters can be found on the NEAD website at www.nead.org.uk/schools/newsletters. This is the third year we have produced Schools' Newsletters focusing on Black History Month to help support you in your teaching of Black History during Black History Month and throughout the year.



NORFOLK
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

VISIT NEAD'S NEW WEBSITE AT:

www.nead.org.uk

For information about what we do:

- **Our schools' work – conferences, INSET, multicultural festivals, current projects, etc.**
- **Teaching resources – for sale and loan.**
- **'Artists & World Voices' who can visit your school.**
- **The World Shop – a valuable resource for teachers.**
- **Our community work – Black History Month, Fairtrade Fortnight, Refugee Week.**
- **And much more...**

CLASSROOMS and CORRIDORS

www.teachernet.gov.uk/racistbullying

The new DfES advice on racist bullying in schools

“The composer Nitin Sawhney enjoyed his schooldays, by and large, and had the good fortune to meet some inspirational teachers. ‘But I went through school,’ he writes, ‘with an uneasy suspicion that I was inferior’...

‘It may have been a product of the notion that the history of the non-white population of this world is embedded in slavery and colonisation, or perhaps the echoing resonance of the word Paki as it accompanied me through the hostile corridors of the science block.’”

Sawhney beautifully crystallises in this sentence the concerns of newly published advice from the DfES on dealing with racist bullying in schools. On the one hand, there are classrooms, and what is taught there about history and humanity. On the other, there are corridors, and all other such places where young people interact outside the supervision of adults, where a traumatic experience may be ‘the echoing resonance of the word Paki’, and many similar abusive, excluding, devastating words. Classrooms and corridors can reinforce each other to give out the message that certain pupils are inferior. Or classroom and corridor can reinforce each other with the opposite message, that all are equal and all belong; all stretch to define their identity and their history; all have a stake, to recall a fine phrase of curriculum developers in the 1960s, in ‘the unfinished business of humankind’s evolution’.

This is an extract from an article by Robin Richardson in ‘Race Equality Teaching’ journal, volume 24 number 3 summer 2006, published by Trentham Books Limited – www.trentham-books.co.uk.

POETRY ON A POSTCARD COMPETITION

Celebrate this year’s Black History Month by entering our postcard competition. Write a poem or prose piece inspired by the picture on the postcard and send it in to Sarah Bower at Creative Arts East, Griffin Court, 6 Market Street, Wymondham. Three age categories: under 12, under 18 and over 18. The competition will be judged by Jackie Kay and the winners will have the chance to read alongside Jackie at Café Writers www.cafewriters.org.uk on 14th October. (Closing date: 2nd October)

For more information, to talk about postcard writing workshops, or to order (FREE) supplies of cards, contact Sarah Bower on 01953 713390 or sbower@creativeartseast.co.uk



Return to:

Sarah Bower
Creative Arts East
Griffin Court,
6 Market Street,
Wymondham, Norfolk
NR18 5GU

The picture on the front symbolises Gloria Ojulari-Sule's response to the complex histories of Black people in Britain. Use this image to celebrate these histories by writing your own poem or prose piece in the space below.

Name _____
Age (if under 18) _____
Address _____
Email/Phone _____

Closing Oct 2nd 2006. Prizes for 3 age categories.
Box entries to be shown around Norfolk.


NEAD
www.norfolkblackhistorymonth.org.uk

EVENT: Out of Africa: **A celebration of Black History Month**

WHERE: Norwich Castle

WHEN: 9, 10, 11 October
10.15 am – 12.30 pm

COST: £2.50 + Admission

A chance to celebrate **Black History Month** through some hands on workshops at **Norwich Castle Museum**.

Introducing Tanzania as a country of cities and developing technologies as well as rural communities and wildlife.

Pupils will:

- Explore and handle genuine everyday objects, music and costume from Tanzania today.
- Look at contemporary children's toys and make a moving toy from recycled materials.
- Explore the Castle's collection from an African perspective through a gallery trail.
- View the ancient stone chopping tools on loan from The British Museum with 'The Made in Africa' exhibition.

How to Book

School visits must be booked in advance. Telephone the booking line on **01603 493636** to book.

VOICES PROJECT

The Voices Project is a new and exciting project led by Norwich Mind, in collaboration with BBC Voices. It is about Black and Minority Ethnic people sharing their stories and if you have never had an opportunity to tell your story, this is your chance.

Are you a mother from Angola single-handedly raising your child? Or did you come here as a nurse in search of greener pastures? Were you forced to flee your country and seek refuge? Did you open the first Chinese or Indian take away on your street? Can you tell us what Norfolk was like back in the 50's, the 60's or the 70's? How did it feel growing up in Norfolk being of mixed heritage? Remember, it's all about telling your story - which can be about yourself, your loved ones, your home country or about life in Norfolk. You can use any format you feel comfortable in - written, audio or digital.

For more information, visit www.voicesproject.org.uk or ring 01603 432457



Norfolk VOICES Cover Design Contest

What does cultural diversity mean to you?

Paint us a picture. Or draw, sketch, or take a photograph! Use any medium you like: camera, oil, pastel, watercolour, crayon or a combination even! Just make it as vibrant as possible!

There are two categories:

- **15 years old and below**
- **16 and over**

A winner from each category will receive £50 each! The winning entries will be used as cover designs for Norfolk Voices – either as the front cover of the booklet or the cd/dvd. Please include the title 'Norfolk Voices' when designing your entry.

Closing date is 30 September 2006.

Winners will be announced on 26 October 2006.

Submit entries to the Voices Project, Cover Design Contest, Norwich Mind, 50 Sale Road, Norwich, NR7 9TP.

For more details and a copy of the entry form, ring 01603 432457

Or email voices@norwichmind.org.uk

Any entry becomes the property of Norwich Mind and can be used for any purpose we deem appropriate.

Teaching Resources for teaching Black History

Two Lives: Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole – The achievements of two Victorian heroines are brought to life by contrasting their backgrounds and contributions to society. (KS2/3, £5.95)

Black Scientists and Inventors Books 1 and 2 – These books address the theme of Black scientists and inventors from the UK, the Caribbean, Africa and the Americas through biographies, questions & answers, activities, timelines, glossary and bibliography for further reading. (KS2/3/4, £6.99 each)

Black Profiles Series: Chinwe Roy – Artist – The inspiring story of Chinwe Roy, an accomplished British artist born in Nigeria. Her work includes specially-commissioned portraits, including the Queen, and paintings on African themes. Roy survived the Biafran War, only to be struck down by a devastating illness. She then settled in England and achieved her dream of becoming an artist. The story is beautifully illustrated with paintings by Roy. Available in the same series:

- Malorie Blackman – Author
- Jim Braithwaite – Entrepreneur
- Baroness Scotland of Asthal – Queen’s Counsel and Politician
- John Taylor, Lord Taylor of Warwick – Barrister
- Samantha Tross – Surgeon
- Benjamin Zephaniah – Poet

(KS2, £6.99 each)

The Life of Stephen Lawrence – On 22nd April 1993, 18 year-old Stephen Lawrence was brutally murdered while waiting for a bus. This is his life story in a positive and unsentimental style, using extensive interviews with family, friends and teachers. (KS2, £10.99)

Plus resources available on, for example: Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Louis Armstrong, Muhammad Ali, Venus & Serena Williams, and many more.

Teaching resources available from NEAD – drop in at NEAD’s World Shop to see what we have for sale and/or for loan; for further information, to order resources, to request a copy of our Resources Catalogue or Black History Resources List, contact Sarah on 01603 610993 / email: sarah@nead.org.uk, or visit our website at www.nead.org.uk.

Web Links

Here are just a couple of web links, but for others see the back issues of our Schools’ Newsletters at www.nead.org.uk/schools/newsletters and the Norfolk BHM website at www.norfolkblackhistorymonth.org.uk.

Biographies of Black People in History <http://www.100greatblackbritons.com/bios/> - for example:

Septimus Severus

“York based 3rd century Black Roman emperor”

“Septimus Severus was born at Leptus Magna in AD 146. He belonged to a class of Romanised Africans and received a good education in his native province.

He first adopted an official career and became a civil magistrate, later he became a military commander, and this took him to Rome. He proved to be an able and popular military leader, and after the murder of Marcus Aurelius’ son Commodus, Septimus, supported by the provincial legions, made good his claim to the imperial throne of Rome in AD 193. He quickly defeated and killed Rome governor Clodius Albinus in a great battle in Lyon in France, and became emperor of Rome.

He rebuilt and restored Hadrian’s Wall and gave Britain a century of peace; throughout his life he never lost his taste for African cooking. When he first entered Britannia, he was welcomed and hailed as the deliverer from the Gauls and Germans who continually pillaged and ravaged the island.

He quickly drove the aliens back across the English Channel, and gave Britannia semi-autonomous home rule status. In 208 AD, he supervised, refurbished, repaired and upgraded the mechanical defence system of Hadrian’s Wall. In 211 AD, Septimus Severus dies in York, of pneumonia at the age of 64.”

Migration Histories

<http://www.movinghere.org.uk/galleries/histories/default.htm> - This site has a timeline of major events in the migrations of different groups of people.

Regional Development Education Centres (DECs)

DEEL (DevEdEssex Ltd): 12 Museum Street, Colchester, CO1 1TN. Tel: 01206 763380

Harambee Centre: Emmanuel United Reform Church, Trumpington St, Cambridge, CB2 1RR. Tel: 01223 358116

NEAD (Norfolk Education & Action for Development): 38 Exchange St, Norwich, NR2 1AX. Tel: 01603 610993