



BLACK HISTORY MONTH: AN INTRODUCTION



INQUIRE!

What is Black History Month, and why does it matter?

What is Black History Month? Why do we celebrate it?

Black History Month is a time to reflect on the stories, experiences and accomplishments of Black Canadians. During Black History Month, Canadians celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians who, throughout history, have done much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation it is today.

When did it start in Canada?

The commemoration of Black History Month dates back to 1926, when Harvard-educated African American historian Carter G. Woodson proposed setting aside a time devoted to honour the accomplishments of African Americans and to heighten awareness of Black history in the United States. This led to the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926. Celebrations of Black history began in Canada also shortly thereafter. During the early 1970s, the week became known as Black History Week. This event was expanded into Black History Month in 1976.

- *Government of Canada, Canadian Heritage*

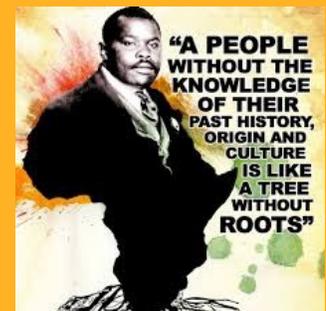


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- Online Resources
- Documentaries
- Experiences

Here is 1 minute short video from ABC News on the personal importance of Black History Month to Black Americans.

EXPLORE!

ONLINE RESOURCES



THE CANADIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

The Canadian Encyclopedia has several pertinent entries. [Black History Month in Canada](#) provides a concise introduction to Black History Month, including its origins in the United States and Canada. They also include a [timeline of Black history in Canada](#). To test knowledge on Black history in Canada for fun, there are also [easy](#), [medium](#), and [hard](#) quizzes. Finally, there is a free online [teacher guide](#) for secondary teachers drawing upon Lawrence Hill's, *The Book of Negroes*.



BCTF

The BCTF provides a [list of facts and resources](#) for Black History Month for BC teachers.



CBC KIDS

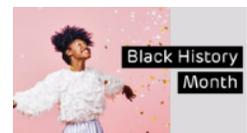
CBC Kids has an [article](#) for younger learners all about Black History Month.

WATCH!

DOCUMENTARIES

CURIO.CA

To celebrate the achievements of Black Canadians and reflect on the stories, experiences and accomplishments of Canada's Black community, curio.ca has curated a [collection](#) of teacher resource guides, videos and audio series that honour Black history in Canada. As a district, we have a subscription to curio, so please see your TL if you have questions about access. (ages 13-14+)



In this 2 minute CBC video, Canadian writer Bee Quammie gives an [alternative viewpoint](#) as to why it's time to rethink Black History Month.



EXPERIENCE!

LOCAL EVENTS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021 EXHIBITION



The City of Richmond has partnered with Black History Month to celebrate the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present and their contributions to Canada's history and culture through a Black History Month 2021 Exhibition, from February 1 - 22, 2021 at the Richmond Cultural Centre Upper Rotunda.

CELEBRATIONS AND REVELATIONS 2021



Four talented young black musicians will introduce audiences everywhere to little-known Black composers from the 17th to the 21st century as a part of TD 2021 Black History Month Series. This free concert will be streamed online from February 1 to February 28, 2021 with opportunities for unlimited viewing. The opening performance will be on February 1 at 5 - 6:30 pm.



While we have done our best to provide material that is appropriate for students, each classroom and teacher is different, and previewing all resources is essential! These resources are meant to be helpful and not prescriptive.