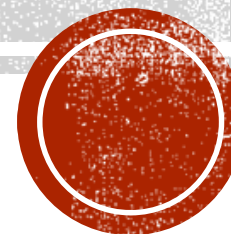


# BLACK HISTORY



**There are a lot of protests going on right now about the treatment of Black people.**

A lot of people are now realising how badly Black people have been always been treated.

But where did this all start?

# The Slave Trade

In the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, people that lived in countries in Africa were taken from their homes by Portuguese and Spanish traders. They were treated as objects instead of humans and sold as slaves to what would later be called the United States of America.

Slaves are people that have to work for their 'owners'. Slaves have to do whatever their owner tells them to do. Slavery is against the law now, but lots of people used to have slaves.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, British sailors began buying and selling slaves. The British people made a lot of money from this so they didn't care that slavery was horrible and unfair.

Lots of slaves would be put in small spaces in ships and carried across the sea to different countries. These journeys could take months, with the slaves chained together the whole time.

# The Slave Trade

Slaves that became ill on slave ships weren't worth much money to slave owners. So the owners would throw them in the sea and ask insurance companies for money.

What would it feel like if you were treated like property?

Should a human be treated as property?

Slave owners treated slaves as property. They thought their slaves were just like one of their toys or like one of their pets.

Should Black people be treated as less important than white people?

# Abolition of the Slave Trade

Abolition means to get rid of something.

Abolition of the slave trade means stopping people being used as slaves.

At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century people began to realise that slavery was wrong, and slaves began to protest their slavery.

Slaves were becoming more expensive to buy so slave traders weren't making as much money.

# How did people protest against slavery?

Lots of different people started protesting against slavery. They did this in many different ways.

They created leaflets showing how bad slavery was.

They stopped buying things – like sugar – that slave owners sold.

They taught other people about how bad slavery was.

They wrote letters to powerful people.

Slaves fought back.

They signed petitions.

Petitions are like letters written to powerful people – like the government – which ask them to change something. Lots of people sign the petition before it is sent to the powerful person. Petitions are free to sign and are a common way to protest.

# Abolition of the Slave Trade

In 1772 a man named Lord Mansfield made it illegal to take slaves from Britain and sell them in other countries.

**But people still bought and sold slaves in England.**

In 1807 the slave trade was made illegal in England.

A man named William Wilberforce was the leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade. Between 1789 and 1807 he went to the British Parliament and tried to have slavery made illegal every year.

In 1865 the slave trade was made illegal in the United States.

# So was that the end of slavery?

No. For slaves to be freed, the British Government had to pay money to the slave owners because the slave owners didn't want to lose their slaves.

Slaves also had to work for slave owners for 12 years after slavery was made illegal.

Even after slaves were freed, lots of them found it very hard to find a job and so were stuck with no money.

The Government had to borrow money to pay these slave owners. The Government only finished paying back the money they borrowed in 2015.

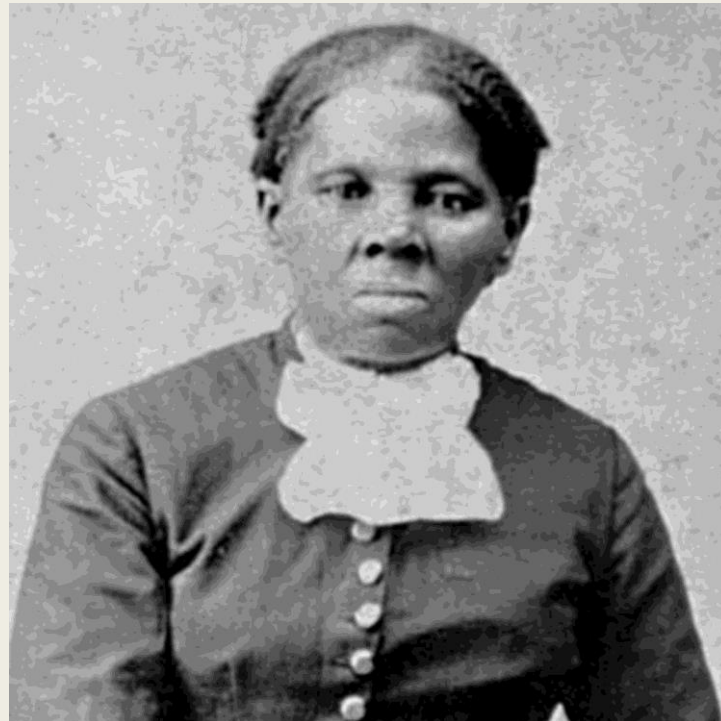
That means that until 5 years ago, our country was still paying off slave owners.



# Who was Harriet Tubman?

Harriet Tubman was a Black woman in America born into slavery, before it was abolished.

She managed to escape from slavery and led many other slaves to freedom.



Click this picture of Harriet Tubman to watch a video about her life.

# But what happened to Black people after slavery?

The end of slavery was not the end of the horrible treatment of Black people.

There were still a lot of white people that didn't like Black people. Groups of white people would attack Black people.

Black people were still treated like they weren't as important as white people.

In America, Black people weren't allowed to use the same toilets as white people. They weren't allowed to go to the same schools as white people. They weren't allowed to go to the same parks as white people. They had to sit at the back of buses and give up their seats if a white person wanted to sit there.

**This was called segregation.**



Click this picture to watch a video about segregation.

# But what happened to Black people after slavery?

Eventually, in America, people started to realise that it was not okay to have segregation. So people started protesting.

Groups of people formed to persuade the American Government to look after Black people and to stop segregation.

Lots of people went to protests and marches to demand equality and eventually protests worked and segregation was abolished.

# Who was Rosa Parks?

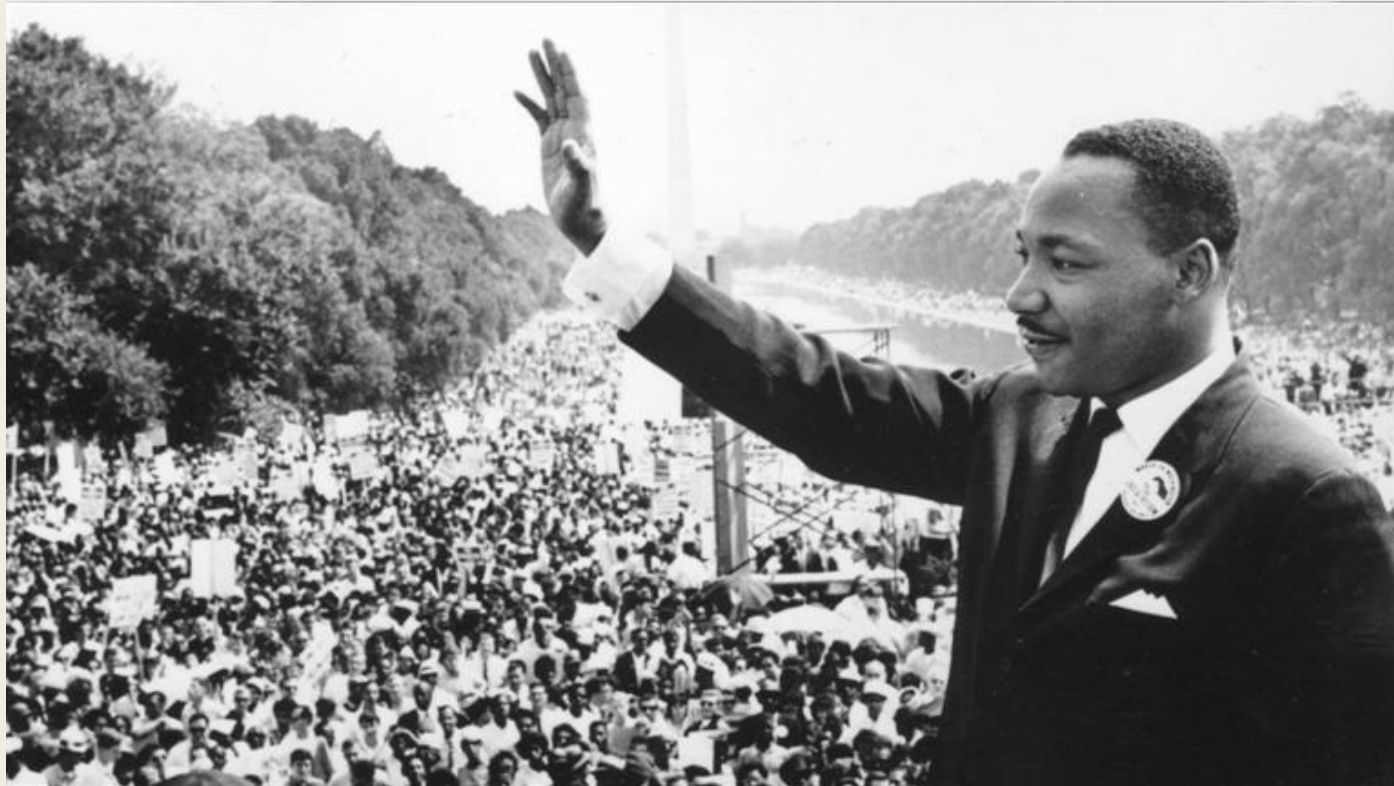
On December 1<sup>st</sup> 1955, in the city of Montgomery in Alabama, United States, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus for a white person. This started a protest which led to the removal of segregation on buses in the United States.



Click this picture of Rosa Parks to watch a video about her life.

# Who was Dr Martin Luther King Jr.?

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave powerful speeches and led peaceful protests in America to fight for equal rights for Black people. He did a very famous speech called the 'I Have a Dream' speech and inspired lots of people to protest for fair treatment of Black people.



Click this picture of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. to watch a video about his life.

# Who is Barack Obama?

He was born in Hawaii.

Barack Obama became the first ever Black president of the United States in 2009.

He ended the US involvement in the war in Iraq.



He is a member of the Democratic party.

He passed the 'Patient Protection and Affordable Healthcare Act' which meant that people in the US could get medical help easier if they didn't have much money.

# What about Black people in the United Kingdom?

Whilst we did not have segregation laws quite like America, Black people here were still treated like they weren't as important as white people.

Lots of businesses wouldn't let Black people work for them so Black people found it harder to get jobs.

During World War 2 American soldiers came over to the United Kingdom. The American army **segregated** black and white people. So when the American army was here, the British Government allowed them to be segregated and lots of British businesses, like shops and pubs, were told to segregate Black and white people too.

There were lots of protests here to fight for equal treatment of everyone.

# The Bristol Bus Boycott

In Bristol there was a 'colour bar' which meant that the owners of bus companies wouldn't let non-white people work on their buses.

So a lot of people in Bristol took part in the Bristol Bus Boycott. This was where people didn't use buses and did protest marches around the city.

People also organised sit-down protests, where they would sit down in front of buses so that the buses couldn't get to the city centre.

A boycott is when a lot of people stop using something, like a bus, or stop buying something.

This is just one example of a lot of protests against racism in the United Kingdom.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of August, 1963, a big bus company in Bristol decided to let non-white people work for them. The 'colour bar' was over.



It took a long  
time before  
Black people  
stopped being  
treated like  
they weren't  
important.

A lot of people still think that Black  
people aren't important.

**This is not true.**