

Black History Month 2023

Celebrating Our Sisters



Black History Month is a time set aside each year to celebrate the achievements of Black people in the past and today. In the UK, it takes place in October; in America, it is in February. In some countries in the past, Black people were treated unfairly purely because of the colour of their skin. For example, they had to sit in different seats on the bus and did not have access to the same education and opportunities.



In 2023, the theme of Black History Month is Celebrating Our Sisters; the accomplishments of Black women have often not been given the credit and recognition they deserve. This year's theme aims to draw focus to some of these incredible achievements and celebrate their impact and importance.

'Throughout history, the resilience and accomplishments of Black women have frequently been overshadowed or taken for granted. This year, the Black History Month Magazine, in a pivotal collaboration with the esteemed Black Writers Guild (BWG), seeks to shine a light on these unsung heroines.'

www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk

Sharon White OBE

A stylized illustration of Sharon White, a Black woman with long dark braids, smiling. She is wearing a light-colored top. The background is a warm orange with silhouettes of people and sparkling star effects.

True leadership
is when you can
help others be at
their best.

Sharon has firmly stamped her name on the business world through several important roles. As the former CEO of Ofcom (an independent group that monitors standards in radio and television) and in her current role leading the John Lewis Partnership, she has continuously shown inspiring leadership and determination, improving things for the companies she works for. Sharon's varied roles are a testament to her hard work and versatility across different sectors.

Dina Asher-Smith

A stylized illustration of Dina Asher-Smith, a Black woman with short dark curly hair, smiling. She is wearing a blue and white striped athletic top and a necklace. The background is a warm orange with silhouettes of people and sparkling star effects.

When I was in primary
school, aged eight, I was
asked what I wanted to be.
I said: 'An Olympian – on
the podium.'

Dina is the fastest British woman in history. She is an exceptional athlete and a role model for young women on and off the track. She currently holds a plethora of sporting records, including the 100m (10.83 secs), 200m (21.88 secs) and 4x100m relay (41.77 secs). Aside from her relentless training regime, Dina dedicates much of her time to encouraging young women to pursue their sporting goals and ambitions.

Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE

Dr Anne-Marie was academically outstanding from an incredibly young age; she became the youngest person to pass an A-level in computing at the tender age of 11. Continuing her studies, she went on to receive a master's degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Oxford aged only 20.

Concerned by the lack of women training for careers in STEM, Anne-Marie founded the Stemettes in 2013. Her mission is to ensure every young woman knows her potential in the fields of science and innovation.

I quickly realised that the only way to address the lack of women in STEM was to inspire the next generation.



Disclaimer: All facts and statistics correct as of September 2023.

Questions

1. Which two positions were held by Sharon White? Tick **two**.

- ☐ founder of Black History Month UK
- ☐ John Lewis Partnership leader
- ☐ founder of the Stemettes
- ☐ CEO of Ofcom

2. Look at this sentence. Underline one word which is a synonym for 'routine'.

Aside from her relentless training regime, Dina dedicates much of her time to encouraging young women to pursue their sporting goals and ambitions.

3. Look at the section about **Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE**.

Find and copy the name of the organisation she founded.

4. Fill in the missing words.

Sharon's varied roles are a _____ to her hard work and

_____ across different sectors.

5. When is Black History Month in America?

6. Why do you think schools and organisations celebrate Black History Month?

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-
-

-
-
-

Answers

1. Which two positions were held by Sharon White? Tick **two**.

- ☐ founder of Black History Month UK
- ☒ **John Lewis Partnership leader**
- ☐ founder of the Stemettes
- ☒ **CEO of Ofcom**

2. Look at this sentence. Underline one word which is a synonym for 'routine'.

Aside from her relentless training regime, Dina dedicates much of her time to encouraging young women to pursue their sporting goals and ambitions.

Award 1 mark for:

- **regime**

3. Look at the section about **Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE**.

Find and copy the name of the organisation she founded.

the Stemettes

4. Fill in the missing words.

Sharon's varied roles are a **testament** to her hard work and **versatility** across different sectors.

5. When is Black History Month in America?

February

6. Why do you think schools and organisations celebrate Black History Month?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that schools and organisations celebrate Black History Month because it is an important opportunity to make sure that the achievements of Black people are celebrated.

7. Summarise everything you learnt about Dina Asher-Smith from this text in 35 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Dina Asher-Smith holds a number of records including the 100m, 200, and 4x100m. She is the fastest British woman in history and spends lots of time encouraging women and girls to take up sports.

8. If you planned a Black History Month event for your school or community, what would it involve?

Pupils' own responses, such as: If I was planning a Black History Month event, I would ask someone from our local community to give a speech. I would make sure the atmosphere was fun with lots of music and food. I would also ask children to present things that they had learnt.

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What Happens during Black History Month?

Schools, communities and organisations observe Black History Month in various creative ways, such as assemblies, focused topics, celebratory events and film screenings. It is a time to acknowledge the history and accomplishments of Black people, glorifying achievements and honouring the past.

In 2023, the theme of Black History Month is **Celebrating Our Sisters**; the accomplishments of Black women have often not been given the credit and recognition they deserve. This year's theme aims to shine a light on inspiring Black women throughout history, focusing on their achievements and resilience.

'Throughout history, the resilience and accomplishments of Black women have frequently been overshadowed or taken for granted. This year, the Black History Month Magazine, in a pivotal collaboration with the esteemed Black Writers Guild (BWG), seeks to shine a light on these unsung heroines.'

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Sharon White OBE

Sharon has firmly stamped her name on the business world through several crucial roles. As the former CEO of Ofcom (an independent organisation that controls standards in radio and television) and in her current role leading the John Lewis Partnership, she has continuously shown inspiring leadership and determination, improving things for the companies she works for. Sharon's varied roles are a testament to her hard work and versatility across different sectors.



True leadership is when you can help others be at their best.

Baroness Valerie Amos

Baroness Valerie Amos had the important role of serving in the British Cabinet (the senior team of politicians selected by each Prime Minister). Through her political work, both in the UK and internationally, she has continuously sought to achieve global change to improve people's lives worldwide. Through her roles as UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Head of an Oxford University College and Director of SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), she has paved the way for other women to follow her into positions of leadership and influence.



We need more leaders who will stand up for justice, fairness and human rights.

Dina Asher-Smith

Dina is the fastest British woman in history. She is an exceptional athlete and a role model for young women on and off the track. She currently holds a plethora of sporting records, including the 100m (10.83 secs), 200m (21.88 secs) and 4x100m relay (41.77 secs). Aside from her relentless training regime, Dina dedicates much of her time to encouraging young women to pursue their sporting goals and ambitions.



When I was in primary school, aged eight, I was asked what I wanted to be. I said: 'An Olympian – on the podium.'

Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE

Anne-Marie was academically outstanding from an incredibly young age; she became the youngest person to pass an A-level in computing at the tender age of 11. Continuing her studies, she went on to receive a master's degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Oxford aged only 20.

Concerned by the lack of women embarking on careers in STEM, Anne-Marie founded the Stemettes in 2013. Her mission is to ensure every young woman knows her potential in the fields of science and innovation.



I quickly realised that the only way to address the lack of women in STEM was to inspire the next generation.

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Questions

1. Which of these records is **not** held by Dina Asher-Smith? Tick one.

- ☐ 200m
- ☐ 100m
- ☐ 4x400m
- ☐ 4x100m

2. Draw **four** lines and match each person to the correct fact.

Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE

Baroness Valerie Amos

Dina Asher-Smith

Sharon White OBE

a former member of the British Cabinet

a prominent businesswoman

founder of the Stemettes

a successful Olympian

3. Look at the quote on the first page.

Find and copy one phrase which means 'to draw attention to something'.

4. What is the theme of Black History Month 2023?

5. Fill in the missing words.

Aside from her _____ training regime, Dina dedicates much of her time to encouraging young women to pursue their sporting goals and _____.

6. Look at this section from the text:

Concerned by the lack of women embarking on careers in STEM, Anne-Marie founded the Stemettes in 2013. Her mission is to ensure every young woman knows her potential in the fields of science and innovation.

What does this tell you about Anne-Marie's personality?

7. Why do you think the 'Celebrating Our Sisters' theme was chosen for Black History Month this year?

8. What impact do you predict Dina Asher-Smith's achievements will have on future generations?

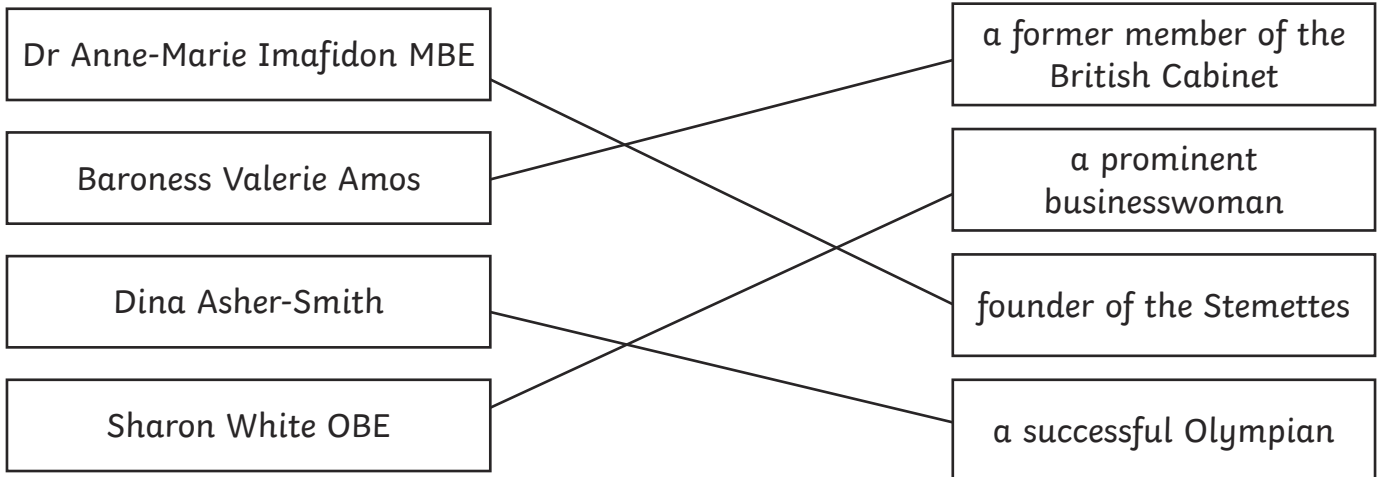
9. Discuss the ways you think your school or community could celebrate Black History Month this year.

Answers

1. Which of these records is **not** held by Dina Asher-Smith? Tick one.

- ☐ 200m
- ☐ 100m
- ☒ **4x400m**
- ☐ 4x100m

2. Draw **four** lines and match each person to the correct fact.



3. Look at the quote on the first page.

Find and copy one phrase which means 'to draw attention to something'.

to shine a light on

4. What is the theme of Black History Month 2023?

The theme of Black History month 2023 is 'Celebrating Our Sisters'.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Aside from her **relentless** training regime, Dina dedicates much of her time to encouraging young women to pursue their sporting goals and **ambitions**.

6. Look at this section from the text:

Concerned by the lack of women embarking on careers in STEM, Anne-Marie founded the Stemettes in 2013. Her mission is to ensure every young woman knows her potential in the fields of science and innovation.

What does this tell you about Anne-Marie's personality?

Pupils' own responses, such as: This quote tells me that Anne-Marie is a determined and driven person. She identified a problem and decided to take personal action to address it, rather than waiting for somebody else to do it.

7. Why do you think the 'Celebrating Our Sisters' theme was chosen for Black History Month this year?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Often, Black women haven't received the credit they deserved for their achievements. This theme celebrates all the amazing accomplishments of Black women both today and in the past.

8. What impact do you predict Dina Asher-Smith's achievements will have on future generations?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I predict that Dina Asher-Smith's achievements will have a very positive impact on future generations because they will encourage young women and girls to take up sports and follow their sporting dreams and ambitions.

9. Discuss the ways you think your school or community could celebrate Black History Month this year.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that it would be great to have a BHM party where different parts of our school celebrate different aspects of Black culture and history. Each class could present or perform something and we could have lots of food and music too. We could run a competition to design a poster to advertise the event as well.

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Black History Month is a time set aside annually to celebrate the achievements of Black people throughout history and today. In the UK, it takes place in October; in America, it is in February. Throughout history, people have been treated unfairly purely because of the colour of their skin. Black people were not seen as equal and were not treated in the same way as White people. For example, laws were passed to force Black people to sit in different seats on a bus and they did not have access to the same education and opportunities as White people.



Celebrating Our Sisters

In 2023, the theme of Black History Month is Celebrating Our Sisters; the accomplishments of Black women have often not been given the credit and recognition they deserve. This year's theme aims to shine a light on inspiring Black women throughout history, focusing on their achievements and resilience.

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How Is Black History Month Observed?

Black History Month is a momentous occasion to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions of Black people to British society. Through activities such as community celebrations, museum exhibitions and film screenings, schools and organisations across the country mark these important events, also encouraging the study of achievements by Black people in the year-round curriculum.

Sharon White OBE

Sharon has firmly stamped her name on the business world through several pivotal roles. As the former CEO of Ofcom (an independent organisation that controls standards in radio and television) and in her current role leading the John Lewis Partnership, she has continuously shown inspiring leadership and determination, improving things for the companies she works for. Sharon's varied roles are a testament to her hard work and versatility across different sectors.



True leadership is when you can help others be at their best.

Baroness Valerie Amos

Baroness Valerie Amos had the important role of serving in the British Cabinet (the senior team of politicians selected by each Prime Minister). Through her work in international diplomacy and politics, she has continuously sought to achieve tangible global change in order to improve the lives of people across the world. Through her roles as UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Head of an Oxford University College and Director of SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), she has paved the way for other women to follow her into positions of leadership and influence.



We need more leaders who will stand up for justice, fairness and human rights.

Dina Asher-Smith



When I was in primary school, aged eight, I was asked what I wanted to be. I said: 'An Olympian – on the podium.'

Dina is the fastest British woman in history. She is an exceptional athlete and a role model for young women both on and off the track. She currently holds a multitude of sporting records including the 100m (10.83 secs), 200m (21.88 secs) and 4x100m relay (41.77 secs). Aside from her relentless training regime, Dina dedicates much of her time to encouraging young women to both embark upon and persevere with sporting goals and ambitions.

Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE

Anne-Marie was academically outstanding from an incredibly young age, becoming the youngest person to pass an A-level in computing at the tender age of 11. Continuing her studies relentlessly, she went on to receive a master's degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Oxford, aged only 20.

Concerned by the lack of women embarking on careers in STEM, Anne-Marie founded the Stemettes in 2013. Her mission is to ensure every young woman knows her potential in the fields of science and innovation.

I quickly realised that the only way to address the lack of women in STEM was to inspire the next generation.



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Questions

1. Which organisation is Sharon White connected to? Tick one.

- ☐ SOAS
- ☐ Oxford University
- ☐ John Lewis Partnership
- ☐ the Stemettes

2. Look at this sentence. Underline the subordinate clause.

Aside from her relentless training regime, Dina dedicates much of her time to encouraging young women to both embark upon and persevere with sporting goals and ambitions.

3. Look at the section about Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE.

Find and copy a word which means the same as 'to begin something'.

4. Fill in the missing words.

Black History Month is a _____ occasion to recognise and celebrate the
_____ contributions of Black people to British society.

5. Which important group of individuals was Baroness Amos a part of?

6. Why do you think Dr Imafidon set up the Stemettes?

7. Look at this quote:

“True leadership is when you can help others be at their best.”

Why do you think the author chose to include this in the text?

8. How are the achievements of Dina and Anne-Marie similar?

9. Discuss the reasons why you think this year’s Black History Month theme was chosen.

10. Which of the women mentioned in this text do you think has had the most significant impact? Tick the name of the individual you have chosen and then explain your answer fully.

☐ Dina Asher-Smith

☐ Sharon White OBE

☐ Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE

☐ Baroness Valerie Amos

Answers

1. Which organisation is Sharon White connected to? Tick one.

- ☐ SOAS
- ☐ Oxford University
- ☒ **John Lewis Partnership**
- ☐ the Stemettes

2. Look at this sentence. Underline the subordinate clause.

***Aside from her relentless training regime,** Dina dedicates much of her time to encouraging young women to both embark upon and persevere with sporting goals and ambitions.*

Award 1 mark for:

- **Aside from her relentless training regime,**

3. Look at the section about Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE.

Find and copy a word which means the same as 'to begin something'.

embarking

4. Fill in the missing words.

Black History Month is a **momentous** occasion to recognise and celebrate the **invaluable** contributions of Black people to British society.

5. Which important group of individuals was Baroness Amos a part of?

Baroness Amos was a part of the British Cabinet.

6. Why do you think Dr Imafidon set up the Stemettes?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Dr Imafidon set up the Stemettes because she felt that more support and guidance was needed in order for young Black women to begin careers in STEM subjects. Instead of allowing the problem to continue she decided to do something about it.

7. Look at this quote:

“True leadership is when you can help others be at their best.”

Why do you think the author chose to include this in the text?

Pupils’ own responses, such as: I think the author chose to include this in the text because it gives an interesting insight into Sharon White’s personality and what she thinks is important. It tells us that Sharon’s leadership skills are very strong and that she values the people that she works with and wants them to do well.

8. How are the achievements of Dina and Anne-Marie similar?

Pupils’ own responses, such as: Dina’s achievements are similar to Dr Imafidon in some ways because they have both dedicated their time and effort into encouraging young women to enter a world that they are usually absent from. In Dina’s case: sports and in Dr Imafidon’s: STEM. They are both keen to ensure that women are properly represented in their areas.

9. Discuss the reasons why you think this year’s Black History Month theme was chosen.

Pupils’ own responses, such as: I think that this year’s Black History Month theme was chosen because it will help lots of people learn about amazing women that they may never have heard of.

10. Which of the women mentioned in this text do you think has had the most significant impact? Tick the name of the individual you have chosen and then explain your answer fully.

☒ **Dina Asher-Smith**

☐ Sharon White OBE

☐ Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE

☐ Baroness Valerie Amos

Pupils’ own responses, such as: I think that Dina Asher-Smith has had the most powerful impact because she is encouraging women across the world to take up sports and stick with them. Lots of girls give up sports because they are embarrassed but Dina is showing that women and girls can be amazing at sports and there is no reason for them to not be taking part.