

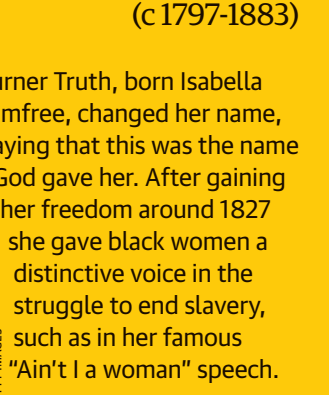


William Cuffay
 Fighter for universal suffrage (1788-1870)
 Cuffay's father came to Britain from St Kitts (a Caribbean island) on a British warship. After losing his job because of his involvement in a strike in 1834, Cuffay became a leading member of the Chartist movement (which campaigned for greater democracy) and was elected president of the London Chartists in 1842. He, along with other Chartist leaders, was tried, convicted and transported to Tasmania because of his political activism. He refused a royal pardon offered him later, on the grounds that he was continuing the fight he had helped develop in England.




Harriet Tubman
 Liberator of enslaved peoples (1820-1913)
 Harriet Tubman (pictured) was a leader of the Underground Railroad that helped free thousands of Africans in the period before the American civil war. During the war she was the first woman to lead American troops when rescuing enslaved Africans.

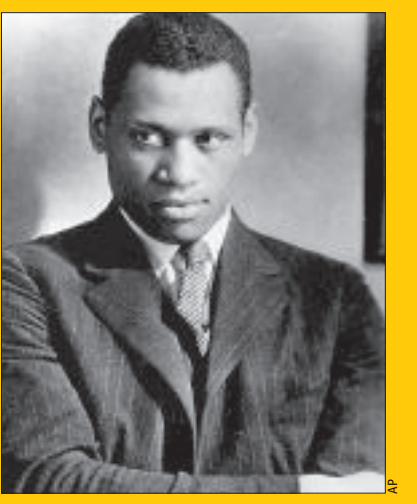
Sojourner Truth
 Great orator (c 1797-1883)
 Sojourner Truth, born Isabella Baumfree, changed her name, saying that this was the name God gave her. After gaining her freedom around 1827 she gave black women a distinctive voice in the struggle to end slavery, such as in her famous "Ain't I a woman" speech.

Frederick Douglass
 Abolitionist (1818-1895)
 Born a slave, Frederick Douglass went on to become one of slavery's most formidable critics, especially in his hardhitting autobiography *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. He was instrumental in the abolition of slavery in the United States. He also visited Britain and Ireland as well as being a strong supporter of the women's suffrage movement that fought for votes for women.



Paul Robeson
 Political activist, actor, singer (1898-1976)
 Born in Princeton, New Jersey, Paul Robeson — an outstanding athlete, singer and actor — first came to England in 1922 and developed a strong attachment to the working-class people he met. He was acclaimed for his performance of Othello in London in 1930, and later acted in CLR James's play *Black Majesty*, on the life of Toussaint L'Ouverture. He mixed with African liberation leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah and Jomo Kenyatta. In 1952 he was considered too close to Soviet Russia by the American government and was banned from travelling outside the US. A huge British-based campaign, *Let Paul Robeson Sing Again*, was launched and helped bring him back to Britain. In 1959 he became the first black man to sing in St Paul's Cathedral, London.



1800

1791 **The Haitian revolution**
 After a 12-year struggle in which thousands of formerly enslaved Africans overcame the British, Spanish and Napoleonic French armies, the first independent black republic in the Americas is established. Motivated by ideas of the French revolution and led by Toussaint L'Ouverture, Dessalines and Petion, this revolution destroys slavery in the most profitable French colony. William Wordsworth later dedicated a poem to L'Ouverture, including the lines: "There is not a breathing of the common wind ... That will forget thee ... thou hast great allies ... exultations, agonies, love and man's unconquerable mind."

1807 **Abolition of the Slave Trade Act**
 The British slave trade is abolished in parliament on March 25. However, many slave traders discover ways to circumvent the new law.

1818 **Shaka Zulu**
 The Zulu army conquers great areas of southern Africa under the leadership of Shaka Zulu. During a period of 10 years of warfare, Shaka Zulu quadruples the size of his army and the number of his subjects, absorbing them into the Zulu nation.

1820 **Repatriation**
 Having observed attempts by the British abolition movement to repatriate formerly enslaved Africans to Sierra Leone, the American Colonisation Society pays for 80 African Americans to be repatriated to Africa. They set sail on the Elizabeth to west Africa, and though their attempt to establish a colony almost fails, they are later followed by others and go on to establish Liberia.

1834 **Slavery abolished in British empire**
 An apprenticeship had to be served until 1838 by the formerly enslaved Africans. The owners received £20m in compensation. The freed received nothing.

1838 **Indentured labour**
 Indians are moved to the British Caribbean as indentured labourers (who worked for five years on plantations in exchange for wages and passage fares). Indentured labourers experienced terrible conditions as they had little rights.








1846 **The Count of Monte Cristo**
 The novel by Alexandre Dumas is published to great acclaim. Dumas's father was a Haitian-born general in Napoleon's army. Dumas also authors *The Three Musketeers*.

1851 **Uncle Tom's Cabin**
 Publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe. It is an instant bestseller and polarises opinion on the issue of slavery in the United States and Britain.

1852 **Great Exhibition**
 As the British empire is approaching its zenith, the Great Exhibition is held in Hyde Park in London. Over 6 million visitors view goods from Africa, India and the West Indies. It is here that jewels taken from an Indian protectorate are "donated" to Queen Victoria. They become part of the crown jewels.

1863 **Abolition of slavery in the US**
 Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation. Many free African Americans and runaway slaves join the Union armies in the ongoing American civil war. Slavery is formally abolished after the war ends, in 1865.

1864 **A bishop ordained**
 Samuel Ajayi Crowther (from Nigeria) is the first African to be ordained a bishop by the Anglican church.

November President Ronald Reagan passes a bill to make Martin Luther King's birthday an annual national holiday.

1983 **Guion "Guy" Bluford Jr** is the first African American to go into space, on the Challenger space shuttle.

1986 **A bronze bust of Martin Luther King** is set in the halls of Congress, the first of any African American.

1988 **Congress overrides a presidential veto** to pass the Civil Rights Restoration Act (the original act was temporary).

July 20 **Jesse Jackson** gains 1,218 votes at the Democratic convention but fails to win his party's nomination.

1989 **The Oprah Winfrey Show** begins its run.

African American Douglas Wilder is elected state governor in Virginia.

1992 **Colin Powell** is appointed head of the US's armed forces, another African American first.

April **Riots in Los Angeles** as four white police officers are acquitted after being filmed by a passer-by beating up an African American, Rodney King.

1993 **Toni Morrison** (left), author of *Song of Solomon* and *Beloved*, becomes the first African American woman to win the Nobel prize for literature.



1995 **Million Man March** is organised by Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam. The aim of the march is one of "atonement" for African American males.

1997 **Black women march** in their thousands in a reprise of the Million Man March earlier in Washington. The focus this time is on healthcare, education and self-help.

2001 **Colin Powell** becomes secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice becomes foreign policy adviser, and Roderick Paige secretary of education. The cabinet of the incoming president George W Bush contains more African Americans than any before.

August 29 **An estimated 1,700 people** die as Hurricane Katrina passes over the United States gulf coast. The African American population bears the brunt of the flood when the levees break around New Orleans, but the federal government is slow to respond.

2005 **Barack Obama** becomes the first African American to secure the Democratic nomination.

The National Front, an extreme rightwing party, is prevented by anti-Nazi protestors from marching through Lewisham, south-east London.

1977 **Viv Anderson** is the first black footballer to play for England.

1978 **Rock Against Racism carnival** brings together black and white teenagers. This movement helps introduce reggae to a wider audience and changes the nature of punk. Artists like Johnny Rotten of the Sex Pistols and Big Youth in Jamaica form a musical symbiosis that helped shape the parameters in which British music developed.

1979 **Margaret Thatcher**, Conservative leader, says that many British people feel "swamped" by an alien culture, during the build-up to the following year's general election. In doing so, she wins over voters from the far-right National Front.

1980 **Blair Peach** is killed during an anti-racist demonstration. The circumstances of his death remain unanswered to this day.

1981 **Riots in St Paul's**, a district of Bristol. This was a harbinger of the far more serious riots to come a year later.

A disproportionate number of young black men are stopped under the 1824 Vagrancy Act (originally designed to stop begging) during this period. This stop and search was more commonly known as the "sus law". Black people, while a small part of the general population, were 17% of the prison population by this point; 36% of young prisoners were black. This fed much of the resentment that was to explode in riots the following year.

1984 **Moira Stuart** becomes Britain's first black woman news presenter.

1985 **New Cross fire**. Thirteen young African-Caribbeans are burned to death in a house fire. The seeming refusal of the police to take seriously claims by witnesses that the house had been bombed by racists led to a deepening anger.

1987 **The Brixton riots** break out in April and are replicated up and down the country (most notably in Liverpool). Years of marginalisation, heavy-handed policing and general alienation explode, leaving millions of pounds worth of damage and injuring hundreds. In their wake, the Scarman report makes recommendations to challenge racial disadvantage. The sus laws are also repealed.

1988 **Police and Criminal Evidence (Pace) Act** stipulates that the police must give a reason why they are stopping someone.

1989 **Riots in Tottenham** occur around the issue of police brutality.

1991 **Bill Morris** becomes the first black leader of a major British trade union.

1993 **Paul Ince** becomes the first black captain of the England football team.

1995 **Stephen Lawrence** is murdered at a bus stop in London.

1997 **Chris Ofili** wins the Turner Prize.

1999 **The Macpherson report** on the police investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence is published. The report's recommendations represent a watershed in UK race relations, identifying institutional racism for the first time.

2000 **Damilola Taylor** is murdered. This incident raises questions about gang culture and urban poverty.

2002 **Paul Boateng** is appointed chief secretary to the Treasury, becoming the first black cabinet minister. The following year Baroness Amos (pictured) becomes the first black woman cabinet minister.

2004 **Jason Robinson** becomes the first black captain of the England rugby union team.

2005 **John Sentamu** (pictured) becomes the first black Archbishop of York.

2006 **Frank Bowling** becomes the first black artist to be elected to the Royal Academy of Art.

2008 **Barack Obama** flies in to the UK in the run-up to the US presidential election. His visit prompts the question: will there ever be a black British prime minister?







