

Black British history

October is Black History Month in the UK. Watch historian David Olusoga explain what he thinks black British history really is about.

Tasks

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–j) with the vocabulary (1–10).

Vocabulary

1. to edit something out
2. the Industrial Revolution
3. a mill
4. a heritage site
5. an export
6. a raw material
7. interaction
8. slavery
9. the Scramble for Africa
10. marginal

Definition

- a. the time when work began to be done more by machines in factories than by hand
- b. the system of forcing human beings to work without pay or basic human rights
- c. when two or more people or groups communicate with or react to each other
- d. small or not very important
- e. a product that you sell in another country
- f. to remove part of a text, film, etc. before it is published
- g. the invasion, occupation, division and colonisation of African territory by European powers
- h. a building or area which is historically important to society
- i. a material such as cotton or oil in its natural state, before it is processed
- j. a factory which produces something like cotton or paper

Task 1

Write a number (1–6) to put the ideas in the order they are mentioned.

_____ Black British history shouldn't just be of interest to black people – it belongs to us all.

_____ Black British history explains the diversity of people in Britain today.

_____ A history of the cotton industry is incomplete if it doesn't include the enslaved African Americans who produced the raw materials.

_____ Britain's interaction with Africa, such as the Atlantic slave trade, is often not explained.

_____ Cotton clothing was Britain's biggest export in the Industrial Revolution.

_____ Black British history is more than just the story of black people in Britain.

Task 2

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

central	edited out	explains	importantly
marginal	miss out	partial	shared

1. This is the history that why Britain looks the way it does today.
2. It's also a story that's been of British history.
3. We've got in the habit of telling histories that bits of our history.
4. Over and over again, the story of Africa and Africans has been very to British history.
5. Black British history isn't a subject.
6. Most of all, it's a history.

Discussion

What did you learn from the video?

Answers

Preparation task

1. f
2. a
3. j
4. h
5. e
6. i
7. c
8. b
9. g
10. d

Task 1

- | | |
|----------|---|
| <u>6</u> | Black British history shouldn't just be of interest to black people – it belongs to us all. |
| <u>2</u> | Black British history explains the diversity of people in Britain today. |
| <u>4</u> | A history of the cotton industry is incomplete if it doesn't include the enslaved African Americans who produced the raw materials. |
| <u>5</u> | Britain's interaction with Africa, such as the Atlantic slave trade, is often not explained. |
| <u>3</u> | Cotton clothing was Britain's biggest export in the Industrial Revolution. |
| <u>1</u> | Black British history is more than just the story of black people in Britain. |

Task 2

1. explains
2. edited out
3. partial | miss out
4. central
5. marginal
6. importantly | shared