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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. …… to edit something out</td>
<td>a. the time when work began to be done more by machines in factories than by hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. …… the Industrial Revolution</td>
<td>b. the system of forcing human beings to work without pay or basic human rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. …… a mill</td>
<td>c. when two or more people or groups communicate with or react to each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. …… a heritage site</td>
<td>d. small or not very important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. …… an export</td>
<td>e. a product that you sell in another country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. …… a raw material</td>
<td>f. to remove part of a text, film, etc. before it is published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. …… interaction</td>
<td>g. the invasion, occupation, division and colonisation of African territory by European powers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. …… slavery</td>
<td>h. a building or area which is historically important to society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. …… the Scramble for Africa</td>
<td>i. a material such as cotton or oil in its natural state, before it is processed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. …… marginal</td>
<td>j. a factory which produces something like cotton or paper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Task 1
Write a number (1–6) to put the ideas in the order they are mentioned.

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