

## **KS3/ YR 7 ENGLISH**

### **Research and Biography Projects**

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**Please find below:**

- a) information and teaching ideas for teachers of KS3 English, who would like to bring **Black History Month** to life in their work, but who don't know where to start. IT access is necessary.
- b) downloadable, adaptable / ready-to-go task sheets aimed at students. One route leads to a written project; the other to an oral presentation.

*(Written project involves Framework Objectives (FOs) 1, 2 and 4 for Reading and 1,2,4,10,11,and 15 for Writing*

*The oral presentation project involves the same reading FOs with appropriate written planning leading to Speaking and Listening FOs 1,2,3 and 5 and scope for 17 and 19 / drama.)*

**TEACHERS:** A great place to gain inspiration and resources is the website [www.100greatblackbritons.com](http://www.100greatblackbritons.com) Log on in advance to check out the site. The information is presented clearly and logically and you can quickly gain the confidence **you** need to introduce well-known and less well-known great black Britons to your students. Each person has a separate page, often with a photograph, and there are excellent further weblinks.

There are figures to interest all the class from performance poet **Benjamin Zephaniah** to **Francis Barber**, the assistant to Dr. Samuel Johnson; from **Viv Anderson**, the footballer to writer, musician and businessman **Ignatius Sancho**. **Ms Dynamite** is still a chart busting singer/ songwriter and **Dounne Alexander** has gained Businesswoman of the Millennium awards.

Draw up a list of names from the 100gbb site and jot down simple pointers for each, as above. You can also create individual cards for each to hand out to individual students as a starting point. See attached sheet of name cards.

**Other resources to organise in advance:** It can still be difficult to get hold of books with biographies and autobiographies for many of the black Britons who feature on the 100gbb web site, but do check out Tamarind Press, who publish books on Lord John Taylor, Benjamin Zephaniah and Malorie Blackman. Amazon offer a speedy ordering system on the net.

Build up a box of research materials to include Benjamin Zephaniah's poetry, plays and novels and those of other writers. NME (New Musical Express) magazine can be a good source of information on black musicians / singers. You can order a copy of Black Heritage Magazine via e-mail [livelistings@aol.com](mailto:livelistings@aol.com) or phone 0207 207 2734. Include history text books on the slave trade so that students can link Francis Barber to his past as well as to his work as Samuel Johnson's assistant.

**What will the students do?** The tasks involved for students will include research and note-making, followed by planning, drafting as appropriate and written presentation.

Alternatively, the research and note-making can lead to planning and preparation for an oral presentation. Students will only have 5 prompts or prompt questions on a postcard, to facilitate planned and structured free delivery i.e. not reading from a script. See below for examples of prompts / questions. Students can present their work in role as a TV presenter.

**How do I get the students started on their own project?** Allow students to opt for a person from your list. Hand out the relevant **Student Task Sheet** (See attached versions for **Research and Writing** or **Research and Oral Presentation**).

Enable students to access their chosen figure on the 100gbb website and follow links.

**Starter:** Students write down 5 interesting / surprising / unusual things about their person which they will tell the rest of the class before they read out the person's name. (The class might guess the name of some of the more well-known people before the pupil tells the person's name.)

**Class work and/ or homework:** Fold a piece of A5 coloured paper in half. On the front write down the 5 interesting / surprising / unusual things about your person. Lift the front and write the name of the person inside. Illustrate this appropriately. These flap-up cards make an excellent classroom display and encourage others to get involved with Black History Month.

**Teacher! Prepare an example(s) in advance:**

**Example One:**

- He was born in Nottingham in 1956
- He played for many clubs including Nottingham Forest and Arsenal.
- He got 30 caps for England
- He was a brilliant defender and played right back
- His last game for England was in 1988 against Columbia.

**Open the flap &.. : Viv Anderson, the first black player to represent England.**

**Example Two:**

- He was born in Jamaica in about 1737
- He was taken to England and treated quite well for a slave
- He went to school. This was very unusual.
- His owner died in 1754 and left him £12 and his freedom.
- He worked for a family friend who was very interested in words.

**Open the flap &..Francis Barber, assistant to Samuel Johnson, who wrote the first dictionary.**

**Teacher:** Use the **Research Prompts and Questions** and select **five** prompts for each student. These five pointers form the structure for an interesting research and presentation project. Tick the relevant box or highlight with the chosen figure and the ability of the pupil in mind. Allow more able students to select their own questions / prompts. Double check that the questions create a coherent structure. The list is only for guidance. You will need to add or amend prompts to suit the chosen figure and / or to suit the ability of the pupils. Students write their five prompts onto their *Student Task Sheet*

## Research Prompts and Questions:

- I have chosen someone who has
- This person is famous for
- Why has this person been chosen as a Great Black Briton?
- Why is this person popular?
  
- How did this person become interested in *music / poetry / sport / nursing*..
- What obstacles / difficulties did this person have in his / her early years?
  
- I had never heard of this person before. One reason could be that &.
  
- Why was this person unusual at the time?
- In what ways is was this person a ground breaker / record breaker?
  
- What has this person contributed *to the world / the world of sport / the world of books*.
  
- I was really surprised to find out
  
- I am most impressed by
  
- I would like to show you a photograph / a painting / a pop video song
- I would like to read you a poem / the verse of her latest song /
  
- I think that (my person) ..is interesting because.
  
- I asked other people for their opinions of (my person) & Fred said.
- Brenda thought that.
  
- I think that we should know about / know more about this person because.
  
- We should remember this person because.
- We should listen to this person because..

Example of prompts for a lower ability pupil:

**Benjamin Zephaniah**

1. This person is famous because he
2. When he was growing up he had problems. For example he
3. The poem I like best is because && (Read it out!)
4. I think that my person is interesting because
5. Young people like my person because

Example of prompts for a more able pupil:

**Mary Seacole**

1. I had never heard of my person before. One reason might be
2. She grew up
3. She became interested in healing when
4. She did not find it easy to become a nurse because
5. I think we should know more about this person because

**Teachers!** Please look at the student worksheets below. Each worksheet explains the set tasks clearly and logically. Your role is now to provide notebooks, support and encouragement to the students as they embark on their research and biography project(s). Set clear deadlines for the completion of sections and a definite deadline for handing in the final project or presenting their project to class.

# Student Task Sheet

## (Research and Written Presentation)

Name .....

Class / Form .....

English Teacher .....

### A Research and Biography Project

I am going to find out about .....



**TASK A:** Log onto [www.100greatblackbritons.com](http://www.100greatblackbritons.com). Read about your chosen person on that site. Follow the links to find out more. Write down five interesting, unusual or surprising things about your person here.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3
- 4.
- 5.

**TASK B:** Use this information to create a flap-up card. Put your five interesting things about the person on the front. Lift up the flap to write your person's name. Illustrate the inside, too.

**Question:** *Can you present your information in a sequence which keeps others really hooked, desperate for the next clue?*

**TASK C:** Choose five Research Prompts and Questions from your teacher's list. Your teacher will help you. Write these here.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4
- 5



**TASK D: This is the really exciting bit! You are a biography detective now. You need a detective's notebook!**

**Start with Number 1. Return to the [www.greatblackbritons.com](http://www.greatblackbritons.com) web site (and use any books or articles your teacher gives you.) Write out the heading for Number 1 in your notebook. Read the information you have, thinking about Number 1 as you go. Make a list of bullet points which help you complete number 1. When you have collected lots of evidence for Number 1, start on Number 2. You will need excellent detective notes for all the sections - Number 1 to Number 5.**



**TASK E: This is the really creative bit! You have now got plenty of information and notes about your person. It's now time to start on your final presentation! Design a front cover for your project. Design and create a project with five sections. You must read your detective notes again. and then write about your person using full, clear sentences.**

***Very, very, very important!* Write about your person using your own words. Do not copy what you read. This is your written project.**



**You can add illustrations, photos, colour and / or artwork to your project. Make it as clear and interesting as you can. Your project will be part of a Black History Month display, so make sure you are really proud of everything you do.**

**Enjoy the hard work and fun, as you get stuck into your research and note-making tasks. Make your project look and sound really professional.**

# Student Task Sheet

## (Research and Oral Presentation)

Name .....

Class / Form .....

English Teacher .....

### My research and Oral Presentation Project

I am going to find out about ..... and prepare an original and interesting talk for others about this person.



**TASK A:** Log onto [www.100greatblackbritons.co](http://www.100greatblackbritons.co). Read about your chosen person on that site. Follow the links to find out more. Write down five interesting, unusual or surprising things about your person here.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3
- 4
- 5

**TASK B:** Use this information to create a flap-up card. Put your five interesting things about the person on the front. Lift up the flap to write your person's name. Illustrate the inside, too.

*Question: Can you present your information in a sequence which keeps others really hooked, desperate for the next clue?*

**TASK C:** Choose five Research Prompts and Questions from your teacher's list. Your teacher will help you. Write these here.

- 1.
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5



**TASK D: This is the really exciting bit! You are a biography detective now. You need a detective's notebook.**

**Start with Number 1. Write out the heading for Number 1 in your detective's notebook. Return to the [www.100greatblackbritons.com](http://www.100greatblackbritons.com) website (and use any other books or articles your teacher gives you.)**

**Read the information you have, thinking about Number 1 as you go. Make a list of bullet points which help you complete Number 1.**

**When you have collected lots of evidence for Number 1, start on Number 2. You will need excellent detective notes on all the sections - Number 1 to Number 5.**



**TASK E: This is the really creative bit! You have now got plenty of information and notes about your person. It's now time to start on you final oral presentation. Turn over the page and look at the five sections you have for TASK C. Mime holding a microphone and read out your heading for Number 1. Tell your microphone everything you can to complete Number 1. Do not look at your notes unless you get really stuck. You will be really surprised at how much you can remember without looking! You are the expert! Rehearse all your sections with your microphone.**



**TASK F: How are you going to do your final presentation? You can keep the mimed microphone or make your own. A hair brush makes an excellent microphone, too! You can, of course, get rid of the microphone altogether and have your hands free to show the audience a photo or an interesting object. You can act out a poem or point to the words of a song. You can sit or stand. Make sure you look as if you are an adult, a professional TV presenter.**

**TASK G: Rehearse your presentation. Rehearse to a friend. Rehearse at home. You can have your five questions / prompts if you need them, but that's all. You can make a larger version of your questions / prompts to place behind the audience. You can use it from there and this will also help you to look up when you are presenting your project. You are a professional presenter, not someone who reads with his or head stuck in notes.**



**TASK H: Present your work to others in role as a professional presenter! You can present your work in a formal adult style, like that of the Sir Trevor Macdonald or get into role as an upbeat cbbc presenter, following in the footsteps of Ortis or Angellica Bell.**



# Biography Research Project

## Black History Month

For this project we will be learning about famous Black people for Norfolk Black History Month. This work could be made into a display or put on-line at [www.norfolkblackhistorymonth.org.uk](http://www.norfolkblackhistorymonth.org.uk)

We are going to:

1. Research famous (and not so famous) black people who have contributed in some way to our history.
2. Find out the problems they have faced and discover why we haven't heard very much about them before.
3. Prepare a project; leaflets, posters, PowerPoint slide shows about the person.
4. Give a talk sharing our knowledge about the person's work / accomplishments.

This is an exciting project and there could be some surprises in store!

Today you will choose your person and begin your research. Presentations must be completed by ..... to present to the class.

Good Luck

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Queen Phillipa</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">England's first 'Black' Queen.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>George of Lydda</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Patron Saint of England</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lenny Henry</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Comedian Founder of Comic Relief</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ms. Dynamite</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Singer / Songwriter</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ignatius Sancho</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Musician / Businessman</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Francis Barber</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Historical Figure - Slave</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Viv Anderson</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Black Footballer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Benjamin Zephaniah</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Poet</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>John Agard</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Poet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mary Seacole</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nurse in Crimean War (A Black Florence Nightingale)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Linford Christie</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sportsman</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tessa Sanderson</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sportswoman</p>