**BLACK HISTORY timeline**

These are historic times. Next month Barack Obama will become the first man of African descent to stand for a mainstream party in the US presidential election. In Britain, this year marked the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush which began the wave of postwar migration that has made Britain a modern multicultural society.

It is fitting, therefore, that this particularly significant Black History Month, The Guardian marks the contributions of Africans and their descendants to British and global history.

This poster, published in five parts starting today, celebrates some of the greatest stories almost never told. Stories of world-shaping individuals, from emperors to writers, freedom fighters to inventors. But let us be clear: this is not about creating a separate history; it is about adding a rarely heard story to the history we are already familiar with. A story which shows that African people’s history did not begin with slavery, but, from the Romans onwards, has been intertwined with Europeans and others around the world. Along the top of the chart are mini-profiles of some of the key history-making individuals - below our main timeline charts African people’s global story; below that is our selection cannot be comprehensive, but we hope it will provide an introduction to the many powerful stories and key events that have so often gone untold.

If you have any comments, please visit our website guardian.co.uk/blackhistory.