



# TIMELINES FROM BLACK HISTORY

## Discussion Guide

Written by *Timelines from Black History* contributor, consultant, and foreword writer, Mireille Harper.

Mireille Harper is an award-winning editor, freelance writer, sensitivity reader, and PR/comms consultant. She writes about race and identity, as well as arts and culture. Mireille is also known for her posts "10 Steps to Non-Optical Allyship," a distillation of the principles outlined in anti-racist works. She has written for the likes of *British Vogue*, *GUAP*, *Nataal*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Digital Spy*, and more. Mireille is also a contributor to DK's *Timelines of Everyone*.

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## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Discussion Questions

1. Before reading this book, how much did you know about Black history? What did you hope to learn?
2. In her foreword, contributor and consultant Mireille Harper talks about the lack of Black history in her school curriculum. What has your educational experience been like? Have you learned much about Black history thus far?
3. *Timelines from Black History* features a plethora of inspirational and influential names throughout history. Who did you find the most significant and why?
4. How does this book's timeline approach help you to understand the figures and events featured in the book? Can you see how these influenced those of the future?
5. Of all the events in the book, which did you find the most interesting to learn about? Why?
6. Which African kingdoms did you enjoy reading about the most? Why?
7. Which figure had you never heard of before reading *Timelines from Black History*?
8. What did you find the most surprising to learn about when reading this book?
9. Which country's history did you not know much about until you read *Timelines from Black History*?
10. In this book, we learn that many leaders in history were women. Before reading this book, how aware were you that women held these positions historically?
11. Many figures in the book left a legacy long after their lives had come to an end. Discuss two examples.
12. Oftentimes, Black history is only mentioned in the context of the slave trade. How did *Timelines from Black History* expand your knowledge beyond this?
13. In this book, we learn about the impact of colonialism. How much did you know about colonialism before reading? What have you learned now?
14. A lot of the individuals in this book fought against unjust and unequal systems. How did they do this?
15. How does Black history in the UK and elsewhere differ from Black history in the US? Did you find any comparisons? Why is it important that we learn about Black history with a global perspective?
16. *Timelines from Black History* features a lot of writers, including Maya Angelou and Zora Neale Hurston. Have you read any of their works before? If so, what have you taken away from them?
17. Many of the legends in this book overcame much adversity to achieve great things. Name one example and discuss how they navigated the obstacles they faced.
18. In the back of the book is a "Black History Stars" page that showcases more figures, including modern-day leaders, politicians, and activists. Who did you recognize?
19. Of the leaders, legends, and legacies mentioned, was there a figure or event you didn't see featured in *Timelines from Black History* which you think should have been? Who were they or what was it, and why do you think it is or they are significant?
20. With the topic of racial equality brought to the forefront as a result of recent events such as the Black Lives Matter protests, how do you hope to further your learning of Black history after reading *Timelines from Black History*?

