



Teacher Notes to Accompany Lesson Plans

Introduction

Black History Month (October) and Africa Awareness Week are powerful opportunities to celebrate heritage, identity, and resilience while deepening students' understanding of history and culture.

The 2025 Black History Month theme, “**Standing Firm in Power and Pride**,” invites us to reflect on the resilience, strength, and unwavering conviction of Black leaders, activists, artists, and pioneers who have inspired change across generations. It encourages learners to explore what it means to stand firm – with inner strength, perseverance, and pride in identity – and to apply these values in their own lives.

Alongside this, **Africa Awareness Week** focuses on the theme of “**Identity**.” Together, these themes challenge students to examine how identity is shaped, celebrated, and reclaimed, while recognising the contributions of African, Caribbean, and diverse communities to our shared story.

As educators, you play a vital role in bringing these themes to life: guiding students to reflect, question, and celebrate; creating inclusive classrooms that affirm every child's identity; and encouraging dialogue that builds empathy and understanding.

Learning Objectives

By engaging with these lesson plans, students will:

- Understand the meaning of *Standing Firm in Power and Pride* in historical and contemporary contexts.
 - Explore how resilience, perseverance, and cultural pride have shaped the lives of Black leaders and communities.
 - Reflect on their own sense of identity and how it influences their values, choices, and relationships.
 - Recognise the global significance of African and Caribbean contributions, alongside other diverse voices, in building inclusive societies.
 - Develop skills in critical thinking, empathy, and appreciation for cultural diversity.
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Key Figures to Explore

From Africa

- **Nelson Mandela** – South Africa; stood firm against apartheid with resilience and forgiveness.
- **Wangari Maathai** – Kenya; Nobel Peace Prize winner, environmentalist, and advocate for women's rights.
- **Chinua Achebe** – Nigeria; writer who reclaimed African identity through storytelling.

From the Caribbean

- **Claudia Jones** – Trinidad & Tobago; activist, journalist, and “Mother of Notting Hill Carnival.”
- **Marcus Garvey** – Jamaica; leader of Pan-Africanism and advocate of Black pride.
- **Mary Seacole** – Jamaica; nurse who showed courage during the Crimean War.

From African Diaspora & Diverse Communities

- **Martin Luther King Jr.** – USA; civil rights leader, symbol of perseverance and nonviolent resistance.
- **Maya Angelou** – USA; poet and author whose works celebrated identity and resilience.
- **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie** – Nigeria; global voice on identity, feminism, and storytelling.
- **Angela Davis** – USA; activist and scholar advocating justice and equality.
- **Marcus Rashford** – UK; footballer and campaigner against child poverty.

Teacher Role

Teachers are not only knowledge-givers but also role models who inspire courage, empathy, and pride in young learners. By teaching these lessons, you help students see themselves in history, understand the importance of identity, and recognise the shared responsibility of building inclusive and equitable communities.

Encourage your learners to:

- Draw connections between historical figures and modern role models.
- Reflect on their own values of resilience and identity.
- Celebrate cultural pride through art, music, writing, and discussion.

Together, we can make Black History Month and Africa Awareness Week a transformative and affirming experience for every student.