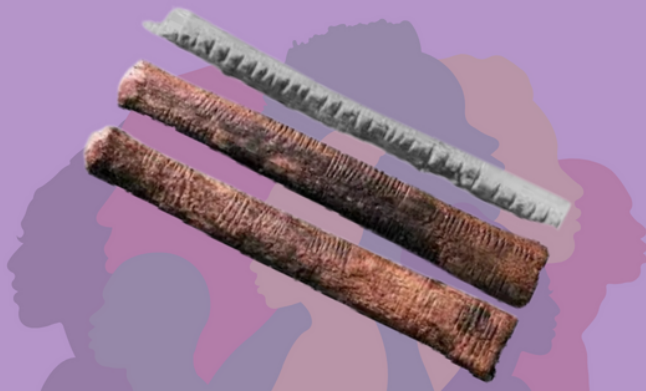


IVORY BANGLE LADY



In 1901, the remains of a woman were discovered in York, alongside jet and elephant ivory bracelets, earrings, pendants, beads, a blue glass jug and a glass mirror. These contents in her grave indicated she was a woman of means and high social status. Recent research dates her remains to the second half of the fourth century Roman Britain and reveals that she was of North African origin.

ISHANGO AND LEBOMBO BONES



The Lembo bone was discovered in Border Cave in the Lebombo Mountains located between South Africa and Eswatini (formerly known as Swaziland). According to radiocarbon datings it is thought to be between 43,000 and 42,000 years old. The bone features 29 distinct notches that were cut into a baboon's fibula. Due to these deliberate markings, it is thought to have been used as a lunar phase counter, leading to speculation that African women may have been the first mathematicians!

MANSA MUSA



Mansa Musa ruled the Mali empire in the 14th Century, successfully expanding the kingdom and annexing many cities, such as Timbuktu, during his reign. On a pilgrimage to Mecca, it was reported he travelled with an enormous entourage and a large amount of gold, giving money to the poor and spending many riches along the way. So much so, that it is believed his spending destabilised the regional economy! Historians say it is impossible to know for certain how much wealth he possessed as it was so abundant, but he is widely considered to have been the richest person ever.

JOHN BLANKE



John Blanke was a royal Tudor trumpeter of African descent, one of the earliest recorded Black people after the Roman period. Historians suggest that John may have come to England from Spain with the court of Katherine of Aragon in 1501. John was a trumpeter in the courts of Henry VII and Henry VIII, playing at royal funerals and coronations. Little is known about his life but he remains the only Black Tudor for whom we have an identifiable image, depicted twice on the 1511 Westminster Tournament Roll.

QUEEN AMINA



Also known as the warrior queen, Queen Amina was a Hausa woman who ruled during the 16th Century over what we now know as Zaria, Nigeria. Whilst her brother was reigning King of Zazzau, Amina trained ruthlessly to become a warrior, gaining respect from the male-dominated Zazzau military. Unlike other women of her time, Amina took a great interest in warfare and became an impressive and skilled fighter.

Following her brother's death, Amina became the first queen of her people and went on to successfully expand her empire and win countless battles and conquests.

MARY FILLIS



Mary was of Moroccan descent and moved to Britain in 1583 where she worked as a servant (not enslaved), and later as a seamstress. Although it was likely Mary was born into a Muslim family, she agreed to get baptised in order to fit into British culture. Little is recorded about Mary's later life following the death of her mistress in 1599, but her story of the remarkable rise from servant to dressmaker shows the important, but overlooked role of Black women in Tudor England.

QUEEN NANNY OF THE MAROONS



Queen Nanny of the Maroons was a great 18th Century military leader and is now a Jamaican hero, appearing on the country's \$500 note. Led by Nanny, a community of formally enslaved Africans known as the Windward Maroons sought refuge in Jamaica's Blue Mountains, where they could live in peace away from the European Settlements. With Nanny's great leadership strategies, she freed almost 1,000 enslaved people during her lifetime and helped orchestrate many successful battles, leaving the British colonies suffering great losses. She is currently the only woman to have received the Order of National Hero, Jamaica's highest civic award!

QUOBNA OTTOBAH CUGOANO



At 13 years old, Ottobah was captured and enslaved in modern-day Ghana and shipped to Grenada where he worked on plantations. In 1772, he was purchased by an English merchant and taken to England where he later gained freedom. After learning to read and write, Ottobah became one of the Sons of Africa, a group of Black abolitionists in Britain campaigning against slavery. Published in 1787, his book about his experience on the horrors of slavery, was one of the first abolitionist publications in English by a formerly enslaved person.

MARY PRINCE



Born in Bermuda to an enslaved family, Mary was brought to England in 1828 where she later fled her slave owners. Though a free woman in Britain, she risked becoming enslaved again if she were to travel back to Bermuda. She petitioned Parliament for the freedom of herself and all other enslaved people in the Caribbean, becoming the first woman in Britain to ever do so! In 1831, she published her book, *The History of Mary Prince*, and became the first Black woman in Britain to publish an autobiographical account of being enslaved. Its story had a great impact, with Britain seeing the total abolishment of slavery six months later.

LILIAN BADER



Born in 1918 to a Barbadian father and an Irish mother, Lilian Bader made history by becoming one of the first Black women to join the British Armed Forces! Despite facing discrimination, Lilian joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1941 as an instrument repairer, a role that only became available to women a year prior. She went on to become a first-class aircrafts woman, and was later promoted to acting corporal and leading aircrafts woman!

OLIVE MORRIS



Olive Morris was a Jamaican-born British activist, who campaigned for the rights of Black people, women and squatters. Nine-year-old Olive moved to south London during the 1960s, a turbulent time that saw rampant hostility and systemic racism against African and Caribbean migrants. Olive began tirelessly fighting for their rights – travelling, writing, advocating for squatting, organising protests and setting up support groups. In her short 27 years of life, Olive cofounded the Brixton Black Women's Group and the Organization of Women of African and Asian Descent, as well as being one of the first members of the British Black Panthers.

PAUL STEPHENSON



Paul Stephenson is an activist and Black civil rights campaigner. He became the first Black social worker in Bristol after moving to the city in 1962. The following year he co-organised the Bristol Bus Boycott which overturned the city's refusal to employ Black and Asian bus drivers and conductors. Racism and hostility were widespread nationally during the 1960s and this boycott had a great impact on the implication of the 1965 Race Relations Act, making racial discrimination unlawful in public places. Paul also gained national prominence in 1964 for refusing to leave a pub that attempted to kick him out for being Black.