

How is Black History Recognized Around the World?

Black History is recognized in various ways around the world, with many countries celebrating it through dedicated events and observances. In the United States, Black History Month is celebrated in February to honor the achievements and contributions of Black Americans.

Other countries, such as Canada, Germany, Panama, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Australia, and Costa Rica, also have their own unique ways of recognizing Black History:

1. **In the United Kingdom**, Black History month is celebrated in October. The aim of this month is to celebrate the contributions of those with African and Caribbean heritages have made to British society and to foster an understanding of Black history. Akyaaba Addai-Sebo and other local community activists rallied together and successfully organized the UK's first Black History Month celebration in 1987 in London.

The inclusion of West Indian (Caribbean) and African communities' contributions is unique. Mainstream media often focuses on Black American culture, history, and achievements, but tends to overlook other Black cultures and communities.

2. **In Canada**, Black History Month is celebrated in February, the same as the United States. However, it was not officially recognized until 1995. The month serves to educate citizens about the often-overlooked contributions of Black Canadians and their communities to the country's history and culture.
3. **In Germany**, Black History Month was established in 1990 by the Initiative Schwarzer Deutscher (ISD). It is the second European country to observe the month after the United Kingdom. The month hosts events centered on knowledge sharing, where people of color gather to discuss the history and diversity of the African Diaspora in Europe.
4. **Panama** celebrates Black Heritage Month in May, marking the arrival of Africans and Antilleans to the country and their impact on Panamanian culture. The month celebrates the contributions of Africa, Africans, and people of African descent to world civilization.
5. **The Netherlands** also celebrates Black Achievement Month (BAM) in October, which was started in 2015 by Dutch artistic director and former politician John Leerdam. The month includes a variety of performances in the arts to honor the Black community and its contribution to Dutch culture.
6. **In Australia**, July is recognized as "Blak History Month" to promote greater awareness of the country's rich Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture.
7. And in **Costa Rica**, August is recognized as the Month of the History of African-Descended Peoples, commemorating the First International Convention of the Negro Peoples of the World in 1920.

Overall, Black History Month is recognized and celebrated around the world to honor the achievements and contributions of Black people and their communities, highlighting their impact on global history and culture.