

All About LGBT History Month

What Is LGBT History Month?

Every February, LGBT History Month is celebrated in the UK. LGBT History Month aims to raise awareness of the prejudice often faced by people in the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus) community and to promote tolerance.

LGBT History Month can help to remove many years of discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community and make the LGBTQ+ community more visible to everyone in society.

When Was the First LGBT History Month?

The first LGBT History Month was over twenty years ago in October 1994 in the USA. LGBT History Month was created by a teacher named Rodney Wilson who wanted to teach people about gay history. He hoped that the more people who knew about LGBT history, the less LGBTQ+ people would feel a minority and the more visible the LGBTQ+ community would be. In the past, LGBTQ+ people have been afraid to attract attention for fear of consequences such as verbal abuse, attacks and exclusion.



LGBT History Month is celebrated every October in the USA and Canada. Wilson's idea of LGBT History Month has become a global event and is celebrated all around the world.

In 2003, the UK government passed laws which protected LGBTQ+ people in work and ended a law called Section 28, which stopped teachers talking to children in schools about LGBTQ+ issues.

In 2004, teachers Sue Sanders and Paul Patrick created the LGBT History Month UK. They saw how important Black History Month had been in schools in tackling racism and highlighting the importance of Black history. Their aim was to raise the profile of LGBTQ+ people and issues in schools across the country.

How Is It Celebrated?

LGBT History Month is a time of celebration with over 1500 events organised in 2018 for LGBT History Month. These included festivals, theatre performances, art exhibitions and conferences.

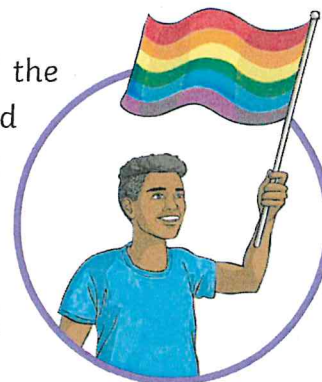
All About LGBT History Month

All the events are organised by volunteers who rely on sponsors and fundraising to cover costs. It is hoped that there will be more events in 2021!

The theme of each year's LGBT History Month is always different and the theme for 2021 is 'peace, reconciliation, activism.' People are encouraged to celebrate diversity in their schools by celebrating LGBT History Month.

The Rainbow Flag

The rainbow flag is a very recognisable symbol of the LGBT community. It was created by an artist named Gilbert Baker. The colours were chosen to represent the diversity and differences of people within the LGBTQ+ community.



It is a positive symbol of all people being equal and being proud of who they are.

Important Individuals and Events

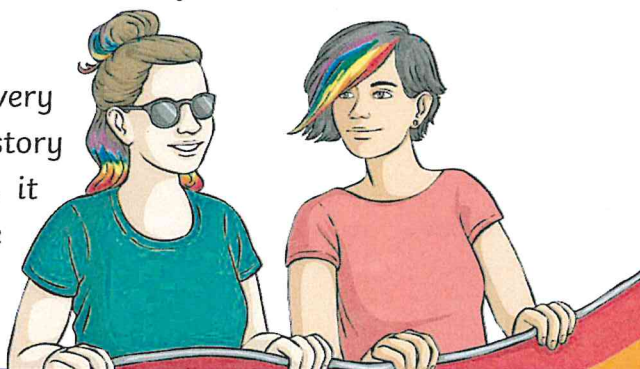
There are many significant events which are remembered during LGBT History Month. One of these is the Stonewall riots in New York in 1969. The riots occurred because of a police raid on the Stonewall Inn. Police raids were common because to be gay or dressed in clothes which are not stereotypically for your gender was illegal. This raid was important because the LGBTQ+ community fought back and inspired the Pride events which take place all over the world every year.

Important individuals, such as Harvey Milk and Gladys Bentley, are also celebrated. Milk was a politician and the first openly gay man to be elected to the US office.

Why Is LGBT History Month Important?

In 2010, the UK government passed a law called the Equality Act. This law made it compulsory to actively challenge any LGBTphobia (hatred toward LGBT) and negativity, as well as meet the needs of all students, including LGBTQ+.

So not only is LGBT History Month very important for teaching children the history and story of the LGBTQ+ community, it also highlights that it is illegal to ignore the LGBTQ+ community.



Questions

1. When is UK LGBT History Month? Tick one.

- February
- September
- April
- October

2. How often is LGBT History Month celebrated? Tick one.

- every two years
- every year
- twice a year
- every month

3. What does LGBT History Month celebrate?

4. Finish the sentence by filling in the missing words.

He hoped that the more people who knew about _____, the less LGBTQ+ people would feel a _____ and the more _____ the LGBT community would be.

5. What did the law Section 28 prevent?

6. What inspired the creation of LGBT History Month in the UK?

7. Why do you think the Stonewall riots of 1969 created the Pride festivals?

Questions

-
8. Look at the final paragraph. What words are used to make LGBT History Month sound very important?

Answers

1. When is UK LGBT History Month? Tick one.

February

- September
- April
- October

2. How often is LGBT History Month celebrated? Tick one.

- every two years
- every year**
- twice a year
- every month

3. What does LGBT History Month celebrate?

Pupils' own responses, such as: LGBT History Month remembers and celebrates well-known LGBT people and the achievements of LGBT communities.

4. Finish the sentence by filling in the missing words.

He hoped that the more people who knew about **LGBT history**, the less LGBTQ+ people would feel a **minority** and the more **visible** the LGBT community would be.

5. What did the law Section 28 prevent?

Section 28 stopped teachers talking to children in schools about LGBT issues.

6. What inspired the creation of LGBT History Month in the UK?

The success of Black History Month in fighting racism and promoting Black history.

7. Why do you think the Stonewall riots of 1969 created the Pride festivals?

Pupils' own responses, such as: It was a point of LGBT people starting to fight back against intolerance by the police. This is a point of pride for LGBT community.

8. Look at the final paragraph. What words are used to make LGBT History Month sound very important?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Words like law, equality, phobia and hatred make LGBT History Month sound very important; LGBT History Month sounds very important through the tone of the paragraph stating that it is illegal to ignore the LGBT community.