

BLACK BRITISH CULTURE

The history of the British people is the history of migrants. Each group of people who moved to these grey-green, rainy islands – the Stonehenge builders, the Celts, the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons and more – brought with them a new culture that changed Britain. Modern Black people from Africa and the Caribbean have brought their cultures, too!

London's **NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL** is one of the biggest Caribbean carnivals in the world! It began in the 1960s to celebrate the joy, culture and music of the Caribbean.

Most modern British music is **BLACK MUSIC**. Soul, R&B, rock-'n'-roll, hip hop and garage began as Black American music. Reggae began in the Caribbean and Afrobeats in West Africa. They led to original Black British music like jungle, drum and bass and grime. Music by white musicians like The Beatles and Ed Sheeran use Black music styles. So many Black British musicians, like Winifred Atwell, Shirley Bassey and Sade, were superstars. And megastar Stormzy raps and sings, mixing grime, gospel, R&B, soul and Afro-styles to take the world by storm!

Most **BLACK CHURCHES** are full of gospel music. In fact, it was Black gospel singers in America who started rock-'n'-roll music!



Black people have changed the English **LANGUAGE** by bringing new meanings to old words. Black Americans reinvented words like 'cool' and 'chill'. Jamaicans did the same with words like 'fam', 'bruv', 'man' and 'galdem'. Black British English is spoken all over Britain.

Black British people from African countries brought their **HAIRSTYLES** to Britain, making box braids and extensions popular. They also brought their bright fabrics and make-up, and helped liven up British fashion!

RASTAFARIANISM is a modern Black religion from Jamaica, famous for its peaceful lifestyle and dreadlock (locs) hairstyle. Locs became a common hairstyle in Britain. A famous British Rastafarian is the poet Benjamin Zephaniah. British band Soul II Soul helped make locs popular in America!

Traditional African art inspired famous white artists like Picasso and led to what is called **MODERN ART**. The Blk Art movement was started in the 1980s to make sure modern Black artists got noticed, too. Now Black British artists, such as Chris Ofili and Lubaina Himid, win top prizes.

In 2021, Black British people were four per cent of the population in England and Wales – but Black culture is so popular that it has changed British culture and language FOREVER!

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