A TIMELINE OF BLACK BRITISH HISTORY
The end of the Roman Empire brought to end waves of migration and multiculturalism across Europe. The intercontinental pathways which made travel over vast distances possible for the Beachy Head Lady and the Ivory Bangle Lady were swept away. It is clear that through the Anglo-Saxon and Viking period migration to Britain came predominantly from Northern and Western Europe. However, evidence of Viking raids in North Africa, burials of African people across Britain and documentary evidence of important black Britons at court show these isles were far from a monochrome society.
Adrian, also spelt Hadrian, was a North African abbot who in AD 668 travelled from Rome to Kent with his friend, Theodore of Tarsus, (present day Turkey), the newly appointed bishop of Canterbury. Along with Theodore, Adrian was instrumental in re-establishing and strengthening the Church in England. Theodore was the first to style himself Archbishop of Canterbury.
In the Fragmentary Annals of Ireland c. 1003–39, an intriguing event is recorded; a bloody raid by Vikings in Mauritania (modern day Morocco). The same basic story is recorded elsewhere by medieval Muslim writers, telling of slaughter and kidnapping of a host of captives. These people were taken by boat to Ireland and their remained.
In 2013, two school boys received the fright of their lives upon discovering a human skull in the River Coln in Fairford, Gloucestershire. Excavation of the sight allowed the entire skeleton to be exhumed and analysed. It was discovered that the bones belonged to a sub-Saharan African woman of 18-24 year of age who died in the vicinity of Fairford sometime between AD 896 and 1025.
The skeletal remains of another young sub-Saharan African woman were uncovered at a tenth century burial site in North Elmham near Norwich.
DOMESDAY ABBREVIATO

c. AD 1241

The Domesday Book was William the Conqueror’s great survey of the land and resources of England. Mostly completed in 1086, it names 13,418 places and runs to over 2 million words.

Domesday Abbreviato is an illustrated copy made of the original text in c. 1241. The entry for Derbyshire begins with the pictured illuminated letter – a black man hanging one-handed from a capital I. What does this mean? Had the scribe himself seen an African man? Was there an African population in Derbyshire? All we can say is that the man’s depiction in a short tunic, marks him as a simple working class individual. A fictional imagining or real man we cannot say.
In 2010, the team working on the BBC documentary series, History Cold Case, looked at a number of skeleton excavated from the cemetery of the Greyfriars monastery in Ipswich, Suffolk.

Buried between 1258 and 1300, the Ipswich man was found to have originated from Africa. It has been suggested that he may have been one of ‘four captive Saracens’ brought from Tunis to Ipswich by Robert Tiptoft and Richard de Clare following their military expedition their in 1270 as part of the crusades.
AFRICA MYTHOLOGISED

The semi-fictional accounts of Africa penned by Roman and Greek writers lived long in the European consciousness. When Mandeville’s Travels were published in the mid 1300s, these fantastical fables were repeated and solidified. Accounts of Blemmyes, headless men, Cyclops, a dog-headed race, a mono-pod people who sheltered from the sun beneath their one gigantic foot were immortalised in medieval writing, illustrations and maps, such as the famous Mappa Mundi. Sounding as far-fetched as any fantasy to modern ears, these imaginings were widely held as truthful depictions of the peoples of Africa and fuelled the othering of one continent from another for centuries to come.
Towards the start of the middle ages, a very important person moved to Britain. Theodore of Tarsus came with his friend Adrian. They changed Britain forever.
Before we continue our learning about black British history in the Middle Ages, let’s put our learning so far on a timeline. Draw a line across a double page spread for left to right Split it into three equal parts Label the start of the line AD 1 Label the next mark AD 500 Next AD 1000 Final one AD 1500
WE HAVE LEARNT SO FAR

Can you place these people and times on your timeline in the correct place?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE AFRICAN EMPEROR</th>
<th>THE BEACHY HEAD LADY</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AD 208 - 211</strong></td>
<td><strong>c. AD 200 - 250</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Septimius Severus</strong>, Roman Emperor from AD 193-211, was born in Leptis Magna in present day Libya. In AD 208, the African Emperor moved the seat of power to Britain. He brought forces to strengthen Hadrian's Wall, later invading Caledonia, modern Scotland. His ambition were cut short, contracting an infection in AD 210 which would lead to his death in early AD 211. He was buried in Eboracum, present day, York.**</td>
<td><strong>There is a lot we do not know about the Beachy Head Lady. We do not, for instance, know when or exactly where her skeleton was excavated. However we do know when she lived and where she grew up — Around AD 250-200 on the south coast of England. We can be quite certain too, that she originated from sub-Saharan Africa. At what young age did she make the journey across the Empire to Britain? Did she leave behind children of her own? Why did she die at such a young age? We do not know.</strong></td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE AURELIAN MOORS</th>
<th>THE IVORY BANGLE LADY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>c. AD 258-253</strong></td>
<td><strong>c. AD 300-400</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Roman army drew men from across the diverse Empire. Named in honour of Emperor Marcus Aurelius, the Aurelian Moors were a unit of soldiers raised from Northern African provinces and later stationed at Aballava in Cumbria. This fortified position on Hadrian’s Wall is now buried under the small town of Burgh-by-Sands, however at least two pieces of written evidence place these Afro-Roman soldiers at this furthest border of the Empire.</strong></td>
<td><strong>The skeleton of the Iron Bangle Lady was found in a stone coffin in Sycamore Terrace, York in 1901. She is named for one of the pieces of jewellery which she was buried alongside. These included ivory and jet bangles, a bracelet of blue glass beads, silver and bronze pendants and two yellow-glass earrings, all marking her out as a woman of wealth and high status. Among other items accompanying her to the grave was bone shard which read, ‘Hail sister, may you live in God.’ Although buried in York, the Ivory Bangle was originally from North Africa.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AN AFRICAN ABBOT

As we learn about this man, we are going to place the important places to him on a map of the world. Let’s start by lightly shading those seas blue.
Adrian was from North Africa and may have been a Berber, a group of people who lived all across North Africa. He may have been from around the same place as Emperor Septimius Severus, Lybia.
Adrian of Canterbury was born in North Africa.
ADRIAN OF CANTERBURY
AD 630 - 710

Adrian was an Abbot – that’s the head of a monastery – near Naples in Italy.

Can you find Naples on your map?
Adrian was an Abbot in Naples.

Adrian of Canterbury was born in North Africa.
Pope Vitalian asked Adrian to be the Bishop of Canterbury, a very important position. Instead, Adrian suggested his friend Theodore of Tarsus should be the bishop.

Can you find Tarsus on your map?
Adrian of Canterbury was born in North Africa.

Adrian was an Abbot in Naples.

Theodore was from Tarsus.

Adrian of Canterbury was born in North Africa.
Theodore agreed but only if his friend, Adrian would come with him. They went to Canterbury together. Where’s Canterbury?
Adrian of Canterbury was born in North Africa. Adrian was an Abbot in Naples. Theodore was from Tarsus. Adrian and Theodore moved to Canterbury. Adrian of Canterbury was born in North Africa.
ADRIAN OF CANTERBURY

AD 630 - 710

Theodore and Adrian travelled all over England and did lots of things to change the churches. Theodore was the first Archbishop of Canterbury, a position that still exists today.
Like the evidence from the Roman times, there is evidence of African people in Britain that covers the length and breadth of the country.
A WOMAN OF FAIRFORD

c. AD 896 -1025

In 2013, two school boys received the fright of their lives upon discovering a human skull in the River Coln in Fairford, Gloucestershire. Excavation of the sight allowed the entire skeleton to be exhumed and analysed. It was discovered that the bones belonged to a sub-Saharan African woman of 18-24 year of age who died in the vicinity of Fairford sometime between AD 896 and 1025.
LENGTH AND BREADTH

Find Fairford and label.
The skeletal remains of another young sub-Saharan African woman were uncovered at a tenth century burial site in North Elmham near Norwich.
LENGTH AND BREADTH

Find North Elmham and label.
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LENGTH AND BREADTH

Find Ipswich and label.
WE HAVE LEARNT SO FAR

Let’s add these new people to our timelines from yesterday.

**THE IPSWICH MAN**
c. AD 1258 - 1300

In 2010, the team working on the BBC documentary series, History Cold Case, looked at a number of skeleton excavated from the cemetery of the Greyfriars monastery in Ipswich, Suffolk.
Buried between 1258 and 1300, the Ipswich man was found to have originated from Africa. It has been suggested that he may have been one of ‘four captive Saracens’ brought from Tunis to Ipswich by Robert Tiptoft and Richard de Clare following their military expedition there in 1270 as part of the crusades.

**NORTH ELMHAM LADY**
c. AD 1000

The skeletal remains of another young sub-Saharan African woman were uncovered at a tenth century burial site in North Elmham near Norwich.

**A WOMAN OF FAIRFORD**
c. AD 896 - 1025

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**ADRIAN OF CANTERBURY**
AD 630 - 710

Adrian, also spelt Hadrian, was a North African abbot who in AD 688 travelled from Rome to Kent with his friend, Theodore of Tarsus, (present day Turkey), the newly appointed bishop of Canterbury. Along with Theodore, Adrian was instrumental in re-establishing and strengthening the Church in England. Theodore was the first to style himself Archbishop of Canterbury.
It’s impossible to say how common it was for people of African origin to be living in Britain in the Middle Ages but a very famous document gives us a clue.
DOMESDAY ABBREVIATO

c. AD 1241

The Domesday Book was William the Conqueror’s great survey of the land and resources of England. Mostly completed in 1086, it names 13,418 places and runs to over 2 million words.
Hoxton is first mentioned in the Domesday book. It was called "Hogesdon", meaning an Anglo-Saxon farm (or "fortified enclosure") belonging to Hoch, or Hocq.
DOMESDAY ABBREVIATO

c. AD 1241

Let’s write a Domesday entry for our home.

Start with the people who run the household and where it is.

*Mr and Mrs Bloggs live in Crondall Court.*
Let’s write a Domesday entry for our home.

Next you need to add the people who also lived in the home.

*Mr and Mrs Bloggs live in Crondall Court. Their household is made up of 2 adults, 3 children and a cat.*
DOMESDAY ABBREVIATO

c. AD 1241

Let’s write a Domesday entry for our home.

Finally add some of their possessions.

*Mr and Mrs Bloggs live in Crondall Court. Their household is made up of 2 adults, 3 children.*
Let’s write a Domesday entry for our home.

Finally add some of their possessions.

*Mr and Mrs Bloggs live in Crondall Court. Their household is made up of 2 adults, 3 children. The Bloggs have a cat, a television and fifteen pairs of shoes.*
The Domesday book was made so that the king knew exactly how much everyone had so he could tax them the right amount.

Domesday Abbreviato is an illustrated copy made in c. 1241.
The entry for Derbyshire begins with the pictured illuminated letter – a black man hanging one-handed from a capital I. What does this mean? Had the scribe himself seen an African man? Was there an African population in Derbyshire? All we can say is that the man’s depiction in a short tunic, marks him as a simple working class individual.
DOMESDAY ABBREVIATO

c. AD 1241

Let’s create our own illuminated letters.

Draw a capital letter of your families name.

Add an illustrated figure somewhere on the letter.

Apply colour with pencils.