

# Black History Month



**Article 8**  
You have the right  
to an identity.

Name: Saneey  
Class: Rainbowfish  
Age: 7 years old



# What is Black History Month

Black History Month is a time we set aside each year to celebrate the achievements of black people in the past and today.

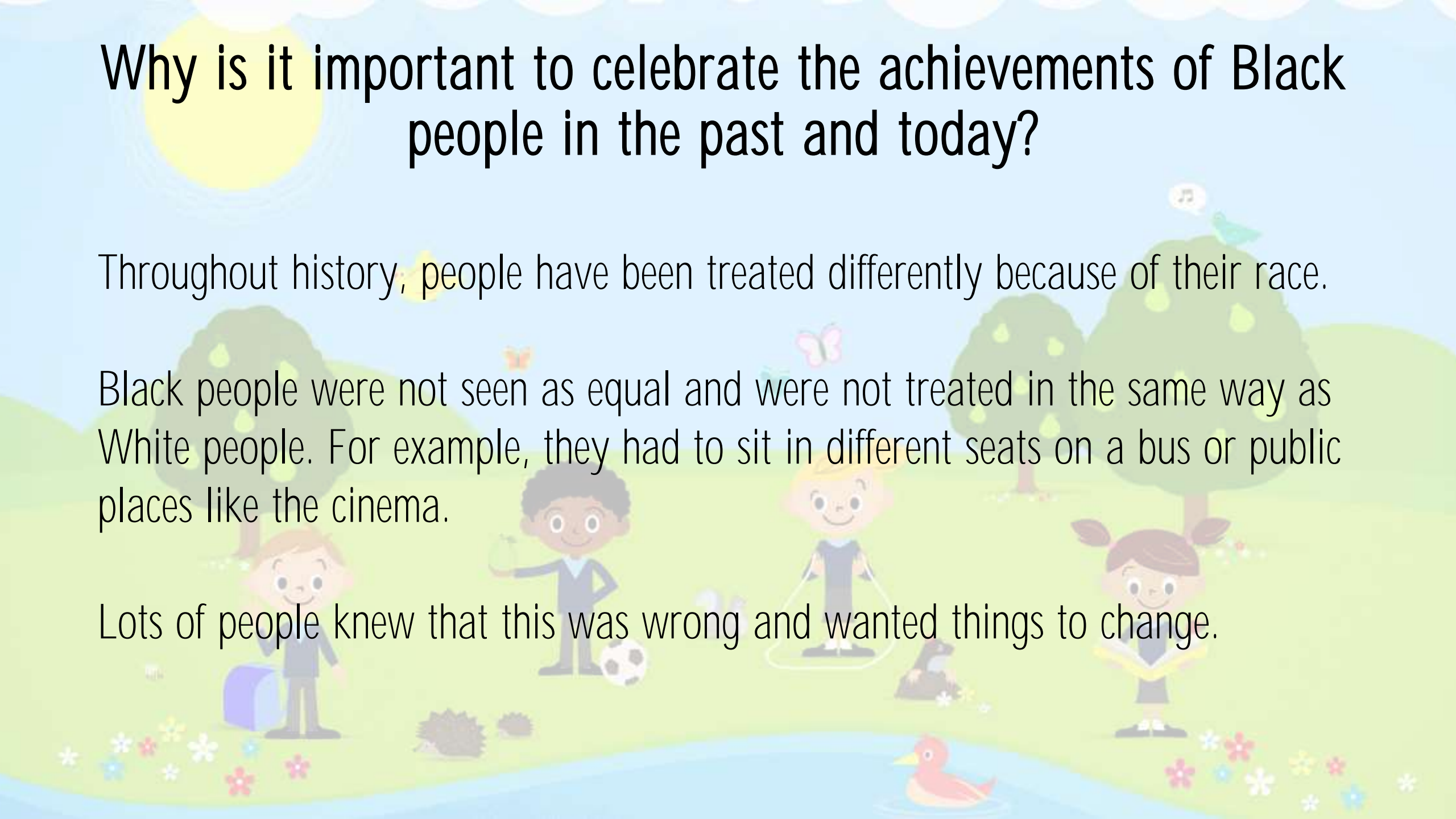


# Why is it important to celebrate the achievements of Black people in the past and today?

Throughout history, people have been treated differently because of their race.

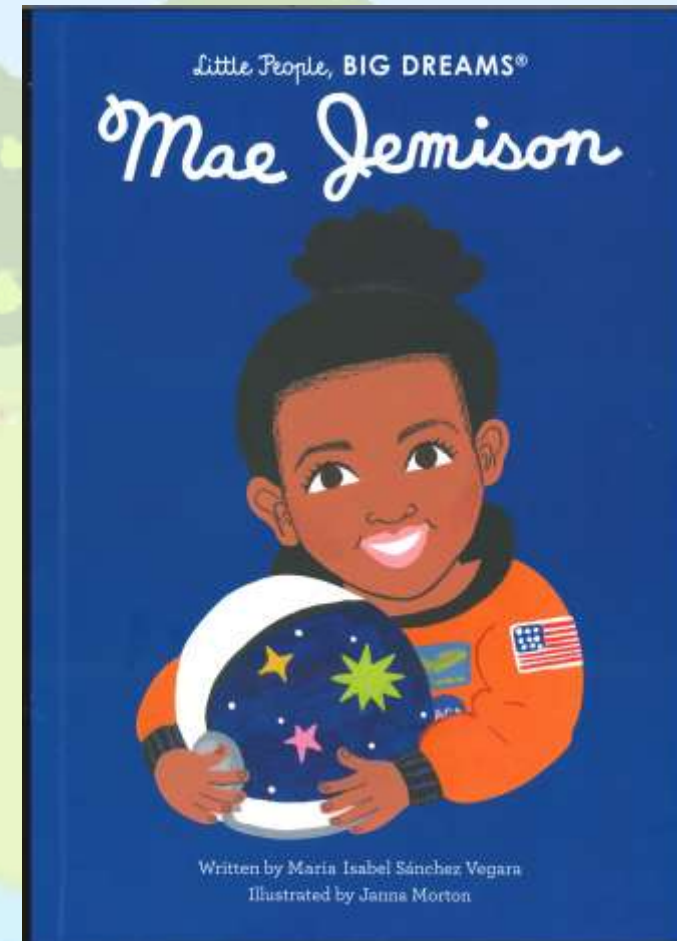
Black people were not seen as equal and were not treated in the same way as White people. For example, they had to sit in different seats on a bus or public places like the cinema.

Lots of people knew that this was wrong and wanted things to change.



There are many Black people who are famous for their amazing work and achievements they have made.

Today we are going to learn about a lady called Mae Jemison who became the first woman of colour to explore space.





Little Mae was a bright girl who lived in a small flat in Chicago, USA, with her parents and two siblings. Her dreams were infinite, which meant that they had no ending, just like the countless stars she saw in the night sky.

At school, most of the children wanted to be nurses, teachers or firefighters when they grew up. But Mae had other plans: she wanted to be a scientist. Her teacher thought this goal was too hard for her to reach. Of course, Mae knew better.

What do You Want to Be  
When You Grow Up?



When she was older, Mae left the big city to go to a camp with her class. Listening to her teacher's lesson about the stars, she felt part of the universe. She couldn't wait to visit the library and discover all the secrets of space.



One day Mae picked a very special book. It was a science-fiction novel! Inside its pages, she discovered an imaginary world where humans explored other galaxies. That night she dreamt that she was the one travelling on a spaceship.





Every Thursday, after her ballet class, Mae sat in front of the TV to watch her favourite sci-fi series. It followed the voyages of a starship in outer space. Her hero was an officer called Uhura, who looked very much like her.



Sadly, in real life, things were quite different. At that time no women or people of colour were sent on space missions in her country. Moe worried that if aliens were watching, they would think white men were the only people on Earth.



When she was just 16, Mae went to university and graduated with degrees in chemical engineering and African-American studies. She realised that many scientists in ancient African kingdoms had also explored the heavens. Space belonged to everyone!



Next, Mae went to medical school. During her training she travelled to Cuba, Thailand and Kenya to help people. Later, as a doctor, she volunteered across Africa with the Peace Corps, an organisation that supports people worldwide.



Cuba



Thailand



Sierra Leone

Dear Ms. Temison,  
Congratulations! You have been accepted  
to the NASA astronaut class!



Mae was back home when she received a long-awaited letter. She had earned a place in NASA's astronaut class!

The training included parachuting, survival lessons and tips on how to be a helpful crew member of a supersonic aircraft.





In 1992 Mae became the first woman of colour to enter space. She took three things that represented her and her roots: a statue from a women's community in Africa, a poster of her favourite dancer and a flag from the student society she belonged to.



Mae spent eight days spinning around the planet doing all kinds of scientific experiments. And every time she contacted Earth, she used a quote from the TV series she loved so much as a kid: "Hailing frequencies open!"

Mae had fulfilled her childhood dream, but she wanted others to keep dreaming alongside her. She became the leader of an organisation with an inspiring goal: for humans to travel to another star in the next 100 years.



# 100 YEAR STARSHIP







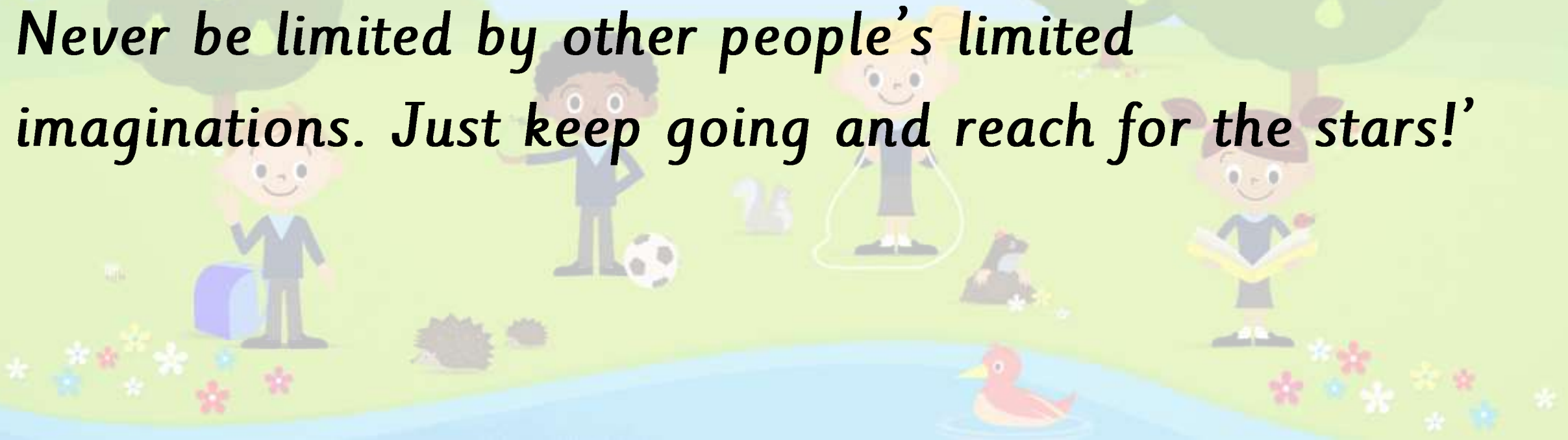
And little Mae – the girl who knew that our dreams are never too big – continues to share with children her universal advice:

'Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations.'  
Just keep going and reach for the stars!

Think about Mae and how she achieved her goals.

*‘And little Mae – the girl who knew that our dreams are never too big – continues to share with children her universal advice:*

*Never be limited by other people’s limited imaginations. Just keep going and reach for the stars!’*



# Learning Time!

Throughout the month, your teachers will spend some time looking at different famous people from Black history.

It will be a time to share how you feel and think about why it is important to be tolerant and respectful to everyone around you.



# Reflection

This is our school,  
Let peace dwell here,  
Let the rooms be full of contentment.  
Let love abide here,  
Love of one another,  
Love of mankind,  
Love of life itself.  
Let us remember



That as many hands build a house,  
So many hearts make a school  
Help us to learn, play and share  
together.

We hope our school will be place of  
great discovery, adventure and  
creativity.

May it be a place where we love to  
learn and where we learn to love,  
A place where everyone is respected  
and all are deeply valued.