

Black Soul

A FILM BY
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BLACK HISTORY
SOME HISTORICAL DATES AND FACTS

MORE THAN 6,000 YEARS AGO...

Nomads from East Africa settle the Nile River Valley. Their descendants create Egyptian dynasties, build pyramids and rule the Nile empires.

900–1100

The West African Ashanti (Asante) kingdom in Ghana trades gold. The Akua'ba sculpture is worn to ensure fertility and the health and beauty of children.

1734

Slave Marie-Joseph Angélique is accused of arson in Montreal. She is tried, tortured and hanged. Her body is then burned and her ashes scattered in the wind.

1444–1865

12 to 15 million Africans are forcibly brought to the Americas. African-slave-trading islands like Gorée and St. Louis in Senegal and Arguin in Mauritania process millions of people.

1783–1784

Free Black Loyalists settle in Nova Scotia and Quebec. Other American Loyalists bring Black slaves with them as they settle British North America.

1604–1606

Black people come to British North America along with European explorers. Black seaman Mathieu da Costa works as an interpreter, assisting Samuel de Champlain in Nova Scotia.

1796–1801

The British deport the Jamaican Maroons to Nova Scotia, where they build one tower of the Halifax Citadel. Dissatisfied, hundreds repatriate to Sierra Leone.

1632

English explorer David Kirke sells Olivier Le Jeune, Canada's first African slave, to Olivier Le Baillif, a French clerk, who gives Le Jeune to Guillaume Couillard in Quebec. Thereafter, Amerindians and Blacks are used as slaves.

1807–1834

The British ban their ships from carrying African slaves. In 1833, Britain passes the *Slave Emancipation Act*, and on August 1, 1834, all slaves in the British territories are liberated.



1820s to 1860s

The Underground Railroad was maintained by those willing to assist runaway Black slaves. Harriet Tubman made 19 trips into America to bring escapees into Canada.

1920s to 1950s

A jazz scene develops in Montreal's Little Burgundy neighbourhood. Musicians from Africa, the Caribbean and South America bring the world's sounds to Montreal.

1914-1917

Despite lobbying, Black soldiers in Canada are not permitted to enlist in the regular forces. Instead, they build bridges, roads, and latrines as part of the No. 2 Construction Battalion.

1940s

The Second World War forces racial integration in factories and the military in Canada. For the first time, Black people are allowed to work in the industrial sector.

1919

The first Canadian division of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) opens in Montreal. The UNIA is very African-centric and Black Montrealers, including Henry J. Langdon, are active in it.

1963-1968

Martin Luther King, Jr., gives his "I Have a Dream" speech to an audience of 250,000 people in Washington, D.C., and wins the Nobel Peace Prize. Though he is murdered in 1968, his dream lives on.