

# Historical anniversaries calendar, October 2023–December 2024

Historical anniversaries can be a great way to engage in a topical subject or raise awareness about a particular issue. This calendar puts together just a selection of the key historical anniversaries coming up over the next 12-18 months to get you started. It also includes the regular themed months, major national days, and seasonal events. The list is by no means exhaustive, simply a starting point. You may find it useful to develop and customise your calendar to include events relevant to your locality and interests, or if you are in a school, to significant individuals and topics you study.

### **2023 anniversaries**

Anniversaries this year (from October onwards):

* 1153 (930th anniversary): Treaty of Westminster/Winchester that allowed King Stephen to remain king but to pass the throne on his death to the heir of Queen Matilda (Henry II); treaty signed in November
* 1773 (250th anniversary): Boston Tea Party – the beginnings of the American Revolution on 16 December
* 1923 (100th anniversary): The Republic of Turkey established on 29 October
* 1948 (75th anniversary): The Convention of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was adopted by the United Nations on 9 December
* 1963 (60th anniversary): The assassination of US President J.F. Kennedy on 22 November

**2024 anniversaries**

* 1174 (850th anniversary): William I of Scotland captured by Henry II forces at Alnwick on 13 July
* 1324 (700th anniversary): Mansa Musa, the most prominent ruler of Mali, Africa made a pilgrimage to Mecca
* 1434 (590th anniversary): Portuguese traders established outposts on the West African coast
* 1494 (530th anniversary): Explorer Christopher Columbus claimed Jamaica for the Spanish in May
* 1854 (170th anniversary): Start of the Crimean War: France and Britain declared war on Russia on 28 March
* 1854 (170th anniversary): Florence Nightengale and a team of Nurses arrived in the Crimea on 4 November
* 1864 (160th anniversary): Samuel Crowther, a former enslaved African became the first African Anglican bishop and was appointed to serve in what is now Nigeria
* 1884 (140th anniversary): European Powers met in Berlin and divided up Africa – The Berlin Conference (started on 15 November)
* 1914 (110th anniversary): the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo on 28 June, which was a key trigger to the start of the First World War
* 1944 (80th anniversary): Third Battle of Monte Cassino during WW2, 17 January–18 May
* 1944 (80th anniversary): the D-Day landings in Normandy on 6 June
* 1994 (30th anniversary): the 100 Days of the Rwandan Genocide, 7 April–15 July
* 2004 (20th anniversary): *Small Island* by Andrea Levy was published
* 2014 (10th anniversary): Russia formally annexed Crimea from Ukraine in March

| **Month** | **Themed** **Month/Weeks**  | **Themed days** | **Historical anniversary** | **Key historical anniversary** | **Seasonal or cultural** **Anniversary/ event** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **October 2023** | Black History MonthBreast Cancer Awareness MonthThe Big Draw Festival International School Library Month4–10 October: World Space Week | 1 October: National Grandparents’ Day4 October: National Dyslexia Awareness Day4 October: National Poetry Day10 October: World Mental Health Day12 October: World Arthritis Day | 2 October: Anniversary of the birth of Gandhi, 18699 October: Independence from Great Britain was achieved in Uganda, 196214 October: Battle of Hastings, 106621 October: Battle of Trafalgar, 180524 October: Eruption of Vesuvius, 79 AD25 October: Battle of Agincourt, 141526 October: Death of King Alfred, 89929 October: Stock Market Crash of 1929: the start of the Great Depression in the United States | 3 October: 10th anniversary of the *Lampedusa* shipwreck (when a boat carrying migrants from Libya to Italy sank), 20136-25 October: 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War (armed conflict between Israeli and a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria), 1973 20 October: 50th anniversary of the opening of the Sydney Opera House, 197329 October: 100th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey, 1923  | 15 October: Navaratri 31 October: Halloween |
| **November 2023** | UK Disability History Month19–26 November: Road Safety Week | 1 November: National Stress Day11 November: Armistice Day 12 November: Remembrance Sunday18 November: Children in Need30 November: St Andrew’s Day | 9 November: Fall of the Berlin Wall, 1991 | 14–17 November: 50th anniversary of the Athens Polytechnic Uprising – a huge student demonstration against the Greek Military Junta, 197328 November: 80th anniversary of the Tehran conference, the first WWII conference between the Big Three Allied leaders, 194322 November: 60 years since the assassination of US President J.F. Kennedy, 1963 | 5 November: Guy Fawkes Night |
| **December 2023** |  | 1 December: World AIDS Awareness Day2 December: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery10 December: World Human Rights Day   | 1 December: Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on the bus in Montgomery, Alabama, 19556 December: The Thirteenth Amendment of the US Constitution was ratified, abolishing slavery in the United States, 1865 | 5 December: 10th anniversary of Nelson Mandela’s death, 201310 December: 75 years since the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Paris, 194816 December: 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, 1773 | 7–15December: Hanukkah25 December: Christmas |

| **Month** | **Themed** **Month/Weeks**  | **Themed days** | **Historical anniversary** | **Key historical anniversary** | **Seasonal or cultural** **Anniversary/ event** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **January 2024** | 30 January–6 February: National Storytelling Week | 15 January: Martin Luther King Day 26–28January: Big Garden Bird Watch  | 8 January: rationing introduced – Second World War, 1940 15 January: Elizabeth I crowned Queen of England in Westminster Abbey, 155916 January: Julius Caesar was granted the title Augustus by the Roman Senate, marking the beginning of the Roman Empire, 27 BCE20 January: The first English parliament to include representatives of the major towns held its first meeting in the Palace of Westminster, now commonly known as the 'Houses of Parliament', 126527 January: Holocaust Memorial Day – anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps by the Soviets, 1945 | 8 January: 200th anniversary of the birth of Wilkie Collins, English novelist and playwright credited with started the modern British detective novel, 1824 21 January: 100 years since the death of Vladimir Lenin, founder of the USSR, 192422 January: 100 years since Ramsey MacDonald became the first Labour PM in the UK, 192425 January: 70 years since the Berlin Conference, 195431 January: 175 years since the abolition of the Corn Laws, 1849 | 7 January: Eastern Orthodox Christmas14 January: Eastern Orthodox New Year25 January: Burns Night |
| **February** **2024** | LGBT History Month 30 January-6 February: National Storytelling Week 14-21 February: National Nestbox Week | 4 February: World Cancer Day and National Wear Red Day4 February: British Yorkshire Pudding Day6 February: Safer Internet Day12 February: National Charles Darwin Day | 6 February: British women over the age of 30 obtain the right to vote, 191811 February: Henry VIII recognised as Supreme Head of the Church of England, 1531 | 4 February: 20 years since the start of Facebook 200411 February: 45 years since Monarchy was officially abolished in Iran and the Theocracy established, 197915 February: 150 years since the birth of explorer Ernest Shackleton, 187419 February: 350th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Westminster that ended the Third Anglo-Dutch War, 167423 February: 550 years since France began the 5th war of religion against the Huguenots, 1474 | 10 February: Chinese New Year 14 February: Valentine’s Day13 February: Shrove Tuesday  |
| **March 2024** | Women’s History MonthCancer Awareness Month 8–17 March: National Science and Engineering Week | 7 March: World Book Day8 March: International Women’s Day11 March: Commonwealth Day23 March: World Maths Day | 2 March: Alexander II becomes Tsar of Russia, 185510 March: Charles I dissolves Parliament, beginning his 11-year Personal Rule, 162921 March: Martin Luther King Jr. leads the third civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, 196523 March 1603 death of Queen Elizabeth I 28 March: Crimean War: France and Britain declare war on Russia, 1854 | 4 March: 200 years since Sir William Hillary founded the National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck, which became the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, 19245 March: 200 years: First Burmese War: the British officially declared war on Burma, 182431 March: 250 years since Britain ordered the port of Boston, Massachusetts to be closed in the Boston Port Act in an escalation of tensions between the UK crown and the New World, 1774 | 1 March: St David’s Day 10 March: Mothering Sunday10 March: Ramadan begins17 March: St Patrick’s Day29 March: Good Friday31 March: Easter Sunday  |
| **April 2024** | National Pet MonthStress Awareness Month | 2 April: World Autism Day 7 April: World Health Day22 April: Earth Day23 April: St George’s Day23 April: Shakespeare Day | 6 April: The opening of the first modern Olympic Games was celebrated in Athens, 189610 April: The Good Friday Agreement was signed in Northern Ireland, 199815 April: Liberation of Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp by the British Forces, 194516 April: The Battle of Culloden, 1746 19 April–16 May: Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, 1943 23 April: King Charles II was crowned in Westminster Abbey, 166130 April: Start of the Bristol Bus Boycott, 1963 | 4 April: 75 years since 12 nations signed the North Atlantic Treaty creating the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), 19493 April: 90 years since Percy Shaw patented the cat’s eye road safety invention, 19346 April: 50 years since Swedish group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest in Brighton, UK with the song ‘Waterloo’, 19747 April: 30 years from the start of the Rwandan Genocide when the Tutsi ethnic group in Rwanda were murdered by the Hutu ethnic group, 1994 | 10 April: Eid-al-Fitr22–30 April: Passover |
| **May 2024** | Local and Community History Month6–12 May: Deaf Awareness Week | 1 May: May Day/International Workers’ Day5 May: African World Heritage Day | 6–12 May: King Alfred defeats the Viking Army, 878 AD8 May: VE Day anniversary, 194511 May: Alexander became emperor of the Byzantine Empire, 91212 May: Birth of Florence Nightingale, 1820; National Nurses Day30 May: Founding of the European Space Agency, 1975 | 6 May: 70 years since Roger Bannister became the first person to run the mile in under four minutes, 19549 May: 150 years since the birth of Howard Carter, the archaeologist and Egyptologist who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in Egypt, 187410 May: 200 years since The National Gallery in London opened to the public, 182418 May: 80 years since the end of the Battle of Monte Cassino and the defeat of Italy during the Second World War, 194419 May: 40 years since the death of the British Poet Sir John Betjeman, Poet Laureate 1972–1984 | 5 May: Orthodox Easter Sunday 10–11 May: Historical Association annual conference in Birmingham |
| **June 2024** | Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History MonthNational Smile Month1–7 June: National Volunteering Week3–10 June: Child Safety Week16–22 June: Refugee Week24–28 June: School Diversity Week | 20 June: World Refugee Day20 June: Clean Air Day21 June: National Writing Day 22 June: National Armed Forces Day | 6 June: Normandy Landing7 June: First Crusade: The Siege of Jerusalem began, 10998 June: Death of Emily Davison at Epsom after being hit by the King’s horse, 19138 June: First of the Viking attacks on Lindisfarne, 79312 June: Anniversary of the birth of Anne Frank, 192915 June: Magna Carta sealed by King John, 1215 22 June: Dismantling of Checkpoint Charlie, 199022 June: *Empire Windrush* arrived at Tilbury Docks in Essex, 194825 June: The start of the Korean War, 1950 | 6 June: 80 years since the D-Day Normandy landings by the Allies against Nazi Germany, 19447 June: 70 years since the death of Alan Turing who took his own life at the age of 41 years, 19548 June: 75 years since the publication of George Orwell’s dystopian fantasy *1984*, 194913 June: 80 years since the start of the V1 World rocket attacks against Britian by Nazi Germany, 194419 June: 60years since Lyndon B Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act, 1964 | 16 June: Father’s Day16-20 June: Eid-al-Adha begins  |
| **July 2024** | 18 July–17 August: South Asian Heritage Month | 1 July: Canada Day**6** July: Children’s Art Day | July–October 1665: Peak of the Great Plague of London1 July: Start of the Battle of the Somme, 191610 July: Start of the Battle of Britain, 194014 July: French Revolution: citizens of Paris stormed the Bastille, 178917 July: Start of the Potsdam Conference, 1945, Second World War17 July: Spanish Civil War began, 193625 July: George Stephenson built the first practical steam locomotive, 181427 July: Korean War ended with an Armistice, 1953 | 1 July: 40 years since Lichtenstein gave women the vote (the last country in Europe to do so), 19844 July: 90 years since the death of Marie Curie, twice Nobel Prize winner, 19344 July: 70 years since the end of rationing that started in 1939 at the start of the Second World War, 19545 July: 70 years since the BBC broadcasts its first television news bulletin, 195413 July: 70 years since the death of the artist Frida Kahlo, 195413 July: 850 years since William I of Scotland was captured by Henry II forces at Alnwick, 1174 | 14 July: Bastille Day (France) |
| **August 2024** |  |  | 6 August: Dropping of the first deployed Atomic Bomb, 194515 August: VJ Day, 1945The Mesoamerican Long Count calendar used by the Maya began, 3114 BC28 August: The Bill for the Abolition of Slavery in the UK (and Empire) was given Royal Assent, 1833 | 13 August: 60 years since the last execution in the UK when Peter Anthony Allen and Gwynne Owen Evans were hanged for the murder of John Alan West, 196430 August: 100 years since Britain accepted the Dawes Plan for receiving German war reparations, 1924 |  |
| **September 2024** | 9–22 September: Fairtrade fortnight begins16–22September: Jeans for Genes Week16–22 September: National Recycle Week | 10 September: World Suicide Prevention Day13 September: Roald Dahl Day26 September: International Day of Languages27 September: World’s Biggest Coffee Morning | 2–6 September: The Great Fire of London, 166628 September: Invasion of England by William of Normandy, 1066 | 12 September: 50 years since Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia is deposed, ending the Solomonic dynasty rule that had begun in 1270; 197417 September: 70 years since *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding was published, 195421 September: 80 years since Malta became independent from the United Kingdom, 1964 |  |
| **October 2024** | Black History MonthBreast Cancer Awareness MonthThe Big Draw Festival International School Library Month | 2 October: National Grandparents’ Day5–13 October: National Dyslexia Awareness 5 October: National Poetry Day10 October: World Mental Health Day12 October: World Arthritis Day | 2 October: Anniversary of the birth of Gandhi, 18699 October: Independence from Great Britain was achieved in Uganda, 196214 October: Battle of Hastings, 106621 October: Battle of Trafalgar, 180524 October: Eruption of Vesuvius, 79 AD25 October: Battle of Agincourt, 141526 October: Death of King Alfred, 899 | 14–15 October, 60 years: Nikita Khruschev was deposed as leader of the USSR, 196429 October, 95 years: Stock Market Crash of 1929: the start of the Great Depression in the United States | 2 October: Rosh Hashanah begins11 October: start of Yom Kippur 31 October: Diwali31 October: Halloween |
| **November 2024** | UK Disability History Month | 6 November: National Stress Day10 November: Remembrance Sunday11 November: Armistice Day 30 November: St Andrew’s Day | 9 November: Fall of the Berlin Wall, 1991 | 12 November: 70 years since Ellis Island closed4 November: Florence Nightengale and a team of Nurses arrived in the Crimea, 185425 November: 40 years since Bob Geldof assembled musicians in London to record the single for Band Aid, 1984. 30 November, 90 years: *The Flying Scotsman* steam locomotion officially exceeded 100mph, 1934 | 5 November: Bonfire Night (Guy Fawkes Night) |
| **December 2024** |  | 1 December: World AIDS Awareness Day2 December: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery10 December: World Human Rights Day  |  | 1 December: 40 years since Kenya and Somalia signed a peace agreement in Cairo, 198410 December: 60 years since Dr Martin Luther King Jr was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, 196424 December: 500 years since the death of Vasco da Gama, 1524 | 25 December: Christmas Day25 December: Hanukkah begins  |