

# 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 Month  Breast Cancer Awareness Month  The Big Draw Festival  International School Library Month  4–10 October: World Space Week | 1 October: National Grandparents’ Day  4 October: National Dyslexia Awareness Day  4 October: National Poetry Day  10 October: World Mental Health Day  12 October: World Arthritis Day | 2 October: Anniversary of the birth of Gandhi, 1869  9 October: Independence from Great Britain was achieved in Uganda, 1962  14 October: Battle of Hastings, 1066  21 October: Battle of Trafalgar, 1805  24 October: Eruption of Vesuvius, 79 AD  25 October: Battle of Agincourt, 1415  26 October: Death of King Alfred, 899  29 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), 2013  6-25 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, 1973  29 October: 100th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey, 1923 | 15 October: Navaratri  31 October: Halloween |
| **November 2023** | UK Disability History Month  19–26 November: Road Safety Week | 1 November: National Stress Day  11 November: Armistice Day  12 November: Remembrance Sunday  18 November: Children in Need  30 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, 1973  28 November: 80th anniversary of the Tehran conference, the first WWII conference between the Big Three Allied leaders, 1943  22 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 Day  2 December: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery  10 December: World Human Rights Day | 1 December: Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on the bus in Montgomery, Alabama, 1955  6 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, 2013  10 December:  75 years since the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Paris, 1948  16 December: 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, 1773 | 7–15  December: Hanukkah  25 December: Christmas |

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| **January 2024** | 30 January–6 February: National Storytelling Week | 15 January: Martin Luther King Day  26–28  January: Big Garden Bird Watch | 8 January: rationing introduced – Second World War, 1940  15 January: Elizabeth I crowned Queen of England in Westminster Abbey, 1559  16 January: Julius Caesar was granted the title Augustus by the Roman Senate, marking the beginning of the Roman Empire, 27 BCE  20 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', 1265  27 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, 1924  22 January: 100 years since Ramsey MacDonald became the first Labour PM in the UK, 1924  25 January: 70 years since the Berlin Conference, 1954  31 January: 175 years since the abolition of the Corn Laws, 1849 | 7 January: Eastern Orthodox Christmas  14 January: Eastern Orthodox New Year  25 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 Day  4 February: British Yorkshire Pudding Day  6 February:  Safer Internet Day  12 February: National Charles Darwin Day | 6 February: British women over the age of 30 obtain the right to vote, 1918  11 February: Henry VIII recognised as Supreme Head of the Church of England, 1531 | 4 February: 20 years since the start of Facebook 2004  11 February: 45 years since Monarchy was officially abolished in Iran and the Theocracy established, 1979  15 February: 150 years since the birth of explorer Ernest Shackleton, 1874  19 February: 350th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Westminster that ended the Third Anglo-Dutch War, 1674  23 February: 550 years since France began the 5th war of religion against the Huguenots, 1474 | 10 February: Chinese New Year  14 February: Valentine’s Day  13 February: Shrove Tuesday |
| **March 2024** | Women’s History Month  Cancer Awareness Month  8–17 March:  National Science and Engineering Week | 7 March: World Book Day  8 March: International Women’s Day  11 March: Commonwealth Day  23 March: World Maths Day | 2 March: Alexander II becomes Tsar of Russia, 1855  10 March: Charles I dissolves Parliament, beginning his 11-year Personal Rule, 1629  21 March: Martin Luther King Jr. leads the third civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, 1965  23 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, 1924  5 March: 200 years: First Burmese War: the British officially declared war on Burma, 1824  31 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 Sunday  10 March: Ramadan begins  17 March: St Patrick’s Day  29 March: Good Friday  31 March: Easter Sunday |
| **April 2024** | National Pet Month  Stress Awareness Month | 2 April: World Autism Day  7 April: World Health Day  22 April: Earth Day  23 April: St George’s Day  23 April: Shakespeare Day | 6 April: The opening of the first modern Olympic Games was celebrated in Athens, 1896  10 April: The Good Friday Agreement was signed in Northern Ireland, 1998  15 April: Liberation of Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp by the British Forces, 1945  16 April: The Battle of Culloden, 1746  19 April–16 May: Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, 1943  23 April: King Charles II was crowned in Westminster Abbey, 1661  30 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), 1949  3 April: 90 years since Percy Shaw patented the cat’s eye road safety invention, 1934  6 April: 50 years since Swedish group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest in Brighton, UK with the song ‘Waterloo’, 1974  7 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-Fitr  22–30 April: Passover |
| **May 2024** | Local and Community History Month  6–12 May: Deaf Awareness Week | 1 May: May Day/International Workers’ Day  5 May: African World Heritage Day | 6–12 May: King Alfred defeats the Viking Army, 878 AD  8 May: VE Day anniversary, 1945  11 May: Alexander became emperor of the Byzantine Empire, 912  12 May: Birth of Florence Nightingale, 1820; National Nurses Day  30 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, 1954  9 May: 150 years since the birth of Howard Carter, the archaeologist and Egyptologist who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in Egypt, 1874  10 May: 200 years since The National Gallery in London opened to the public, 1824  18 May: 80 years since the end of the Battle of Monte Cassino and the defeat of Italy during the Second World War, 1944  19 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 Month  National Smile Month  1–7 June: National Volunteering Week  3–10 June: Child Safety Week  16–22 June: Refugee Week  24–28 June: School Diversity Week | 20 June: World Refugee Day  20 June: Clean Air Day  21 June: National Writing Day  22 June:  National Armed Forces Day | 6 June: Normandy Landing  7 June: First Crusade: The Siege of Jerusalem began, 1099  8 June: Death of Emily Davison at Epsom after being hit by the King’s horse, 1913  8 June: First of the Viking attacks on Lindisfarne, 793  12 June: Anniversary of the birth of Anne Frank, 1929  15 June: Magna Carta sealed by King John, 1215    22 June:  Dismantling of Checkpoint Charlie, 1990  22 June: *Empire Windrush* arrived at Tilbury Docks in Essex, 1948  25 June: The start of the Korean War, 1950 | 6 June: 80 years since the D-Day Normandy landings by the Allies against Nazi Germany, 1944  7 June: 70 years since the death of Alan Turing who took his own life at the age of 41 years, 1954  8 June: 75 years since the publication of George Orwell’s dystopian fantasy *1984*, 1949  13 June: 80 years since the start of the V1 World rocket attacks against Britian by Nazi Germany, 1944  19 June: 60years since Lyndon B Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act, 1964 | 16 June: Father’s Day  16-20 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 London  1 July:  Start of the Battle of the Somme, 1916  10 July: Start of the Battle of Britain, 1940  14 July: French Revolution: citizens of Paris stormed the Bastille, 1789  17 July: Start of the Potsdam Conference, 1945, Second World War  17 July: Spanish Civil War began, 1936  25 July: George Stephenson built the first practical steam locomotive, 1814  27 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), 1984  4 July: 90 years since the death of Marie Curie, twice Nobel Prize winner, 1934  4 July: 70 years since the end of rationing that started in 1939 at the start of the Second World War, 1954  5 July: 70 years since the BBC broadcasts its first television news bulletin, 1954  13 July: 70 years since the death of the artist Frida Kahlo, 1954  13 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, 1945  15 August:  VJ Day, 1945  The Mesoamerican Long Count calendar used by the Maya began, 3114 BC  28 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, 1964  30 August: 100 years since Britain accepted the Dawes Plan for receiving German war reparations, 1924 |  |
| **September 2024** | 9–22 September: Fairtrade fortnight begins  16–22  September: Jeans for Genes Week  16–22 September: National Recycle Week | 10 September: World Suicide Prevention Day  13 September: Roald Dahl Day  26 September: International Day of Languages  27 September: World’s Biggest Coffee Morning | 2–6 September: The Great Fire of London, 1666  28 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; 1974  17 September: 70 years since *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding was published, 1954  21 September: 80 years since Malta became independent from the United Kingdom, 1964 |  |
| **October 2024** | Black History Month  Breast Cancer Awareness Month  The Big Draw Festival  International School Library Month | 2 October: National Grandparents’ Day  5–13 October: National Dyslexia Awareness  5 October: National Poetry Day  10 October: World Mental Health Day  12 October: World Arthritis Day | 2 October: Anniversary of the birth of Gandhi, 1869  9 October: Independence from Great Britain was achieved in Uganda, 1962  14 October: Battle of Hastings, 1066  21 October: Battle of Trafalgar, 1805  24 October: Eruption of Vesuvius, 79 AD  25 October: Battle of Agincourt, 1415  26 October: Death of King Alfred, 899 | 14–15 October, 60 years: Nikita Khruschev was deposed as leader of the USSR, 1964  29 October, 95 years: Stock Market Crash of 1929: the start of the Great Depression in the United States | 2 October: Rosh Hashanah begins  11 October: start of Yom Kippur  31 October: Diwali  31 October: Halloween |
| **November 2024** | UK Disability History Month | 6 November: National Stress Day  10 November: Remembrance Sunday  11 November: Armistice Day  30 November: St Andrew’s Day | 9 November:  Fall of the Berlin Wall, 1991 | 12 November: 70 years since Ellis Island closed  4 November: Florence Nightengale and a team of Nurses arrived in the Crimea, 1854  25 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 Day  2 December: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery  10 December: World Human Rights Day |  | 1 December: 40 years since Kenya and Somalia signed a peace agreement in Cairo, 1984  10 December: 60 years since Dr Martin Luther King Jr was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, 1964  24 December: 500 years since the death of Vasco da Gama, 1524 | 25 December: Christmas Day  25 December: Hanukkah begins |