

Inspiring Change: The Story of Mary Seacole

Learning objective: To understand the contributions of significant individuals in Black history and their impact on society.

Read the passage below carefully. Use the information to answer the questions that follow, ensuring you write in full sentences.

Mary Seacole was a remarkable woman born in Jamaica in 1805. Growing up, she learned traditional medicine from her mother, who ran a boarding house for injured soldiers. Mary became a skilled nurse and traveller. When the Crimean War began in the 1850s, Mary travelled all the way to the battlefield to help. Despite being turned away by official groups because of her background, she used her own money to travel to the front lines. She opened the 'British Hotel', where she provided food, shelter, and medical care for soldiers. She often rode out to the battlefield with bandages and medicine in her pockets to help the wounded where they lay. Because of her kindness and bravery, the soldiers called her 'Mother Seacole'. Today, she is remembered as a pioneering figure in nursing history. In 2016, a statue was unveiled in London to honour her incredible life and her commitment to helping others, ensuring that her legacy of courage and compassion continues to inspire children and adults all over the world.

Word bank: pioneering · resilience · compassion · nursing · contribution · honour

1. Where was Mary Seacole born and what did she learn from her mother? (2 marks)

2. What was the name of the place Mary opened to help soldiers during the Crimean War? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think the soldiers gave Mary the nickname 'Mother Seacole'? (2 marks)

4. How can we tell that Mary was determined to help people even when others told her no? (2 marks)

5. Why do you think it is important for the country to have a statue of Mary Seacole in London? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Mary Seacole at her British Hotel, showing her helping a soldier with a kind smile.



Extension challenge: Ellie the elephant is learning about history! Research another person who made a positive change in the world and write three interesting facts about them to share with Ellie.