

Celebrating Black History Month with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the purpose and importance of Black History Month within the context of British history.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions using full sentences. Remember to use evidence from the text to support your answers.

In the UK, Black History Month is celebrated every October. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, explains that this special time is dedicated to honouring the contributions of Black people throughout history. It is a time to learn about the people who helped shape our society, from inventors and scientists to writers and activists. Sometimes, these important stories were left out of history books in the past, so this month is a chance to make sure everyone's voice is heard. We look at the achievements of figures like Mary Seacole, a brave nurse who cared for soldiers, and Walter Tull, who was both a professional footballer and a heroic soldier. By celebrating these individuals, we learn about the diverse heritage that makes our country what it is today. Ellie says that history is not just about the past; it is about understanding each other better in the present. By sharing these stories, we celebrate the courage and talent of Black people who have made a lasting difference to our world.

Word bank: contribution · heritage · achievement · historical · diversity

1. In which month is Black History Month celebrated in the UK? (1 mark)

2. Name the two historical figures mentioned in the passage and the roles they held. (2 marks)

3. Why does the passage suggest that Black History Month is important even though these people lived in the past? (2 marks)

4. What does Ellie mean when she says history is about 'understanding each other better in the present'? (2 marks)

5. Why do you think it is important to include stories that were previously left out of history books? Explain your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a historical figure you admire, or draw a scene showing Ellie the elephant reading a book about inspiring people from history.



Extension challenge: Research one other person who made a positive impact on British history. Write three sentences explaining who they were and why they are remembered today.