

Year 4 English Assessment: Celebrating Black History

Learning objective: To demonstrate comprehension and critical thinking skills while exploring the contributions of significant historical figures.

Read the text carefully and answer all questions in full sentences. Ensure your spelling and grammar reflect your Year 4 learning.

History is a tapestry woven by many different hands. Throughout time, Black men and women have acted as pioneers, using their intellect and courage to change the world. Mary Seacole, a nurse from Jamaica, travelled thousands of miles to care for soldiers during the Crimean War, using her own money to set up the 'British Hotel' to provide food and medicine. In the world of science and engineering, figures like Katherine Johnson used complex mathematics to help humans reach the moon. These individuals show us that through determination and a strong belief in equality, one person can influence the course of history for the better. Their legacies continue to inspire us to be brave, curious, and kind.

Word bank: contribution · resilience · pioneer · legacy · inspiration · determination · advocate · achievement

1. Identify two specific ways Mary Seacole helped soldiers during the Crimean War. (2 marks)

2. Why does the author use the metaphor 'History is a tapestry woven by many different hands' at the beginning of the passage? (2 marks)

3. Explain why Katherine Johnson's work in mathematics was so important to the field of space exploration. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the roles of Mary Seacole and Katherine Johnson. How did they both demonstrate 'resilience' in their respective fields? (4 marks)

5. Justify why it is important for schools to celebrate the achievements of Black historical figures throughout the year, rather than just during one month. (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing: Imagine you are writing a letter to a historical pioneer mentioned in the text. Write a paragraph explaining which of their qualities you admire most and how you plan to use that quality in your own life. (5 marks)

7. If a modern-day scientist were to follow in Katherine Johnson's footsteps, what personal qualities would they need to possess to succeed in a difficult task? Explain your reasoning. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a person who inspires you, including symbols in the background that represent their greatest achievements or qualities.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Imagine a new historical figure has been discovered. Write a short biography (100 words) describing their contribution to society and the challenges they overcame to achieve it.