

Year 5 English Assessment: Celebrating Pioneers of Change

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Black History Month by analysing historical contributions and demonstrating empathy through descriptive writing.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure your answers are written in full sentences where requested. Check your spelling and punctuation.

Black History Month is a time to reflect on the stories and achievements of people of African and Caribbean heritage. For centuries, individuals have fought against inequality to build a better, fairer world. From Mary Seacole, who bravely travelled to the Crimean War to nurse wounded soldiers, to inventors and civil rights leaders who changed how society functions today, their work continues to inspire us. Celebrating this month reminds us that anyone can be a pioneer. By remembering these figures, we learn how their courage helped to shape the rights we enjoy in Britain today. History is not just about the past; it is about learning from those who stood up for what was right so that we can create a brighter future for everyone.

Word bank: contribution · resilience · pioneer · injustice · legacy · courage · equality · advocate

1. Based on the passage, why is it important to learn about the people who fought against inequality? (2 marks)

2. Identify one specific historical figure mentioned in the text and describe the role they played in history. (2 marks)

3. The text mentions that Black History Month is about more than just the past. Explain what the author means by 'creating a brighter future'. (3 marks)

4. Find and copy two words from the word bank that describe the character of a pioneer. Explain why you chose these words. (4 marks)

5. Explain how the work of pioneers mentioned in the text influences our lives in the United Kingdom today. (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Imagine you are interviewing a pioneer who fought for equality. Write a short paragraph (5–7 sentences) describing a moment where they showed great courage. Use at least two words from the word bank. (10 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a person you admire who has made a positive difference in the world. Include a symbol next to them that represents their main achievement.



Extension challenge: Research a Black British historical figure not mentioned in the text. Write a short biography of 100 words explaining why their legacy is still important to us today. Total: /25