

Trailblazers of Change: A History Challenge

Learning objective: To recognise and evaluate the contributions of significant Black historical figures to British and global society, and understand the importance of Black History Month.

Ellie the Elephant has been researching historical figures who changed the world. Look at the list of achievements below. Match each achievement to the correct historical figure using the word bank, then use your historical reasoning skills to explain the impact of their work. For the final questions, use your own knowledge to justify why these stories are vital to our shared history.

Word bank: Mary Seacole · Olaudah Equiano · Walter Tull · Rosa Parks · Lenny Henry · Benjamin Zephaniah

1. Identify the figure who established the 'British Hotel' to care for wounded soldiers during the Crimean War. Why was her bravery significant for the medical profession? (2 marks)

2. Which individual wrote an autobiography detailing his experiences of enslavement, which helped influence the movement to abolish the slave trade in Britain? (2 marks)

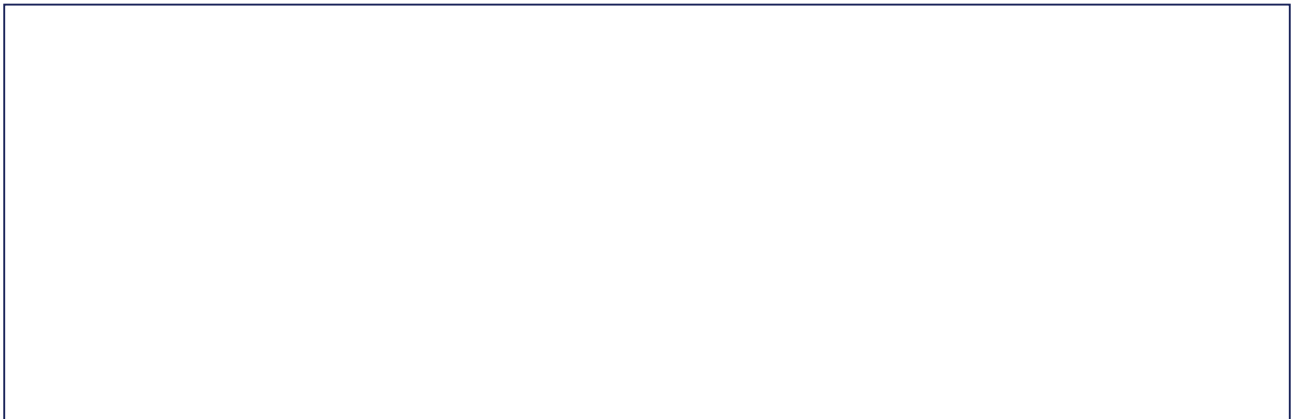
3. Compare and contrast the roles of Walter Tull (a professional footballer and officer) and Rosa Parks (a civil rights activist). How did both challenge the social rules of their time? (3 marks)

4. Explain why it is important for historians to study the lives of people like Benjamin Zephaniah, who used poetry to share his culture and voice. (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: If we only studied the lives of kings and queens, what might happen to our understanding of the 'ordinary' people who shaped British history? (3 marks)

6. What might happen if these trailblazers had never taken a stand against injustice? Describe one change you think would be missing from the world today. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Timeline Tree'. On the roots, write the names of the figures you studied. On the branches, draw symbols representing their achievements (e.g., a pen for a writer, a medal for a soldier, or a bus for an activist).



Extension challenge: Research a local figure from your own town or city who has made a positive impact on the community. Write a short biography (150 words) explaining how their contribution reflects the spirit of Black History Month.