

Celebrating Black History: A Journey Through Time

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Black History Month and recognise the contributions of individuals from Black heritage to British and global society.

Read the passage below carefully. Use the information to answer the questions that follow, ensuring your answers are written in full sentences.

In the UK, October is designated as Black History Month. This important time is dedicated to celebrating the diverse history and the remarkable achievements of Black people who have helped shape our world. While it is vital to recognise these contributions throughout the entire year, October provides a special opportunity to focus on stories that have often been overlooked in history books. We celebrate pioneers like Mary Seacole, who bravely travelled to the Crimea to care for wounded soldiers, and Walter Tull, who overcame barriers to become one of the first Black professional footballers and a British Army officer during the First World War. Black History Month is not just about looking at the past; it is about honouring the ongoing influence of Black communities in science, politics, literature, and the arts. By sharing these stories, we learn more about our shared history and the importance of equality. Ellie the elephant, with her incredible memory, reminds us that remembering these stories helps us build a kinder, more inclusive future for everyone.

Word bank: contributions · heritage · significant · achievements · pioneers · injustice · commemorate

1. In which month does the UK celebrate Black History Month, and what is its primary purpose? (2 marks)

2. Name two historical figures mentioned in the text and briefly describe one thing each of them achieved. (2 marks)

3. Why does the author suggest that it is important to learn about stories that were previously 'overlooked' in history books? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, what might happen if we only focused on Black history during the month of October? (2 marks)

5. Ellie says that remembering stories helps us build a 'kinder, more inclusive future'. Do you agree with this? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative stamp featuring an inspirational figure from Black history. Include symbols that represent their achievements (e.g., a football for Walter Tull or a medical symbol for Mary Seacole).



Extension challenge: Choose one Black historical figure not mentioned in the text. Research their life and write a short, three-sentence biography to share with your class.