Champions of Change: Understanding Civil Rights

Learning objective: To understand the meaning of civil rights, identify why equality is important, and recognise the impact of historical figures who campaigned for fair treatment.

Read the questions carefully and use your historical knowledge to answer in full sentences. Remember to think about the importance of fairness and equality in society.

Ellie the elephant has an incredible memory and loves to look back at history. She has been researching the global struggle for civil rights, where people fought to ensure that everyone, regardless of their background, was treated with fairness and respect. From the fight against segregation to the movement for equal voting rights, these brave individuals changed the world for the better. Civil rights are the basic rights that every person should have, such as the right to be treated equally by the law and the right to live without discrimination.

Word bank: Equality · Segregation · Campaign · Justice · Protest · Human rights · Discrimination

1. Using your own words, explain what is meant by the term 'civil rights'. (2 marks)

2. Why is 'equality' a central idea in the history of civil rights movements? (2 marks)

3. Describe one method that people in the past used to peacefully campaign for change when they felt they were being treated unfairly. (2 marks)

4. If you were organising a peaceful protest today to support a fairer school environment, what two things would you need to make sure were included to keep it positive and effective? (2 marks)

5. Ellie the elephant says that history is a tool for the future. How can learning about civil rights struggles help us make better decisions in our own lives today? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Tree of Equality'. On the leaves, write or draw symbols representing the rights that all children should have, such as the right to learn, the right to be safe, and the right to be heard.

Extension challenge: Research a historical figure who fought for civil rights. Write a short diary entry from their perspective on the day they took a stand for justice.