

Celebrating Pioneers: A Tribute for Black History Month

Learning objective: To research and write a balanced, respectful biography about a significant Black historical figure, reflecting on their impact and legacy.

Use this writing frame to structure your biography. Begin by introducing your chosen figure, then explain why they are considered a pioneer. Use the word bank to help you link your ideas together.

Throughout history, there have been individuals whose remarkable courage and vision have fundamentally changed the world for the better.

Word bank: extraordinary · courageous · pioneering · furthermore · consequently · in addition to · notably · a lasting legacy · overcoming adversity · significant contribution

1. Introduction: Who have you chosen to write about, and what is one brief, interesting fact to introduce them? Start with: 'I have chosen to research [Name] because...' (2 marks)

2. Early Life and Challenges: What were some of the obstacles this person faced, and how did they show resilience? Start with: 'During their early life, [Name] encountered challenges such as...' (3 marks)

3. Major Achievements: What were their most significant contributions to society? Start with: 'The most notable achievement of [Name] was... which helped to...' (3 marks)

4. Impact and Legacy: Why does their story still matter today? Start with: 'Their work remains important today because...' (3 marks)

5. Personal Reflection: How does learning about this person make you feel about the importance of equality? Start with: 'Reflecting on their life, I believe that equality is essential because...' (2 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise their character in one final, powerful sentence. Start with: 'Ultimately, [Name] should be remembered as...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1. Explain why it is important to celebrate Black history all year round, rather than just in October. 2. Compare and contrast the challenges faced by your chosen figure with the challenges faced by someone in a different historical era. 3. Justify your answer: If you could interview this person, which three questions would you ask to better understand their motivation? 4. What might happen if this person had never stood up for their beliefs? 5. Create a timeline of five key events in their life. 6. Write a poem in the style of Leo the Lion celebrating the courage of your chosen figure.