

Celebrating Pioneers: Black History Month Heroes

Learning objective: To recognise and celebrate the contributions of significant Black individuals to British history and culture.

Ellie the elephant has been busy visiting archives to learn about inspiring people from the past. Below is a list of remarkable figures. Match each person to their incredible achievement by drawing a line or writing the correct letter next to the name. Once matched, complete the questions to reflect on their impact.

Word bank: Mary Seacole · Walter Tull · Lenny Henry · Olive Morris · John Blanke

1. A. John Blanke: Match with 'The first recorded Black trumpeter in the royal court of King Henry VIII'. How does knowing about him change your understanding of Tudor history? (2 marks)

2. B. Mary Seacole: Match with 'A nurse who set up the British Hotel to care for soldiers during the Crimean War'. Why do you think her dedication to helping others is remembered today? (2 marks)

3. C. Walter Tull: Match with 'One of the first Black professional footballers and a brave officer in the First World War'. What qualities do you think he needed to succeed in two very different careers? (2 marks)

4. D. Olive Morris: Match with 'A community leader who fought for better housing and education for young people in the 1970s'. Why is it important to have people who advocate for their community? (2 marks)

5. E. Lenny Henry: Match with 'A famous comedian and actor who co-founded the charity Comic Relief'. How does using one's fame to raise money for charity help society? (2 marks)

Draw: Choose one of the figures above and draw a 'hero statue' of them. Include a small plaque at the base of the statue explaining in one sentence why they are an inspiration to you.



Extension challenge: Research one modern-day Black British person who is making a difference in science or technology. Write a short paragraph for Nova the owl explaining why their work is important for our future.