

Celebrating Pioneers: Black History Month with Ellie

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by identifying key information, inferring meaning, and explaining the impact of historical figures.

Read the passage below carefully. Use the information to answer the questions that follow. Ellie the Elephant has gathered these facts to help us learn about inspiring individuals who shaped our world.

Black History Month is a time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black people throughout history. Ellie the Elephant loves looking back at history to find people who showed great courage when facing challenges. One such figure was Mary Seacole. Born in Jamaica, she was a brilliant nurse who travelled to the Crimean War in the 1850s. She used her own money, often spending her own £, to set up the 'British Hotel' to provide food, medicine, and comfort to wounded soldiers. Despite facing prejudice, her kindness and nursing skills saved many lives. Another inspiring figure is Walter Tull. He was a professional footballer and later became the first Black officer to lead white British soldiers into battle during the First World War. His bravery on the football pitch and the battlefield reminds us that talent and leadership know no boundaries. By learning about these pioneers, we honour their legacy and understand how their actions helped build a fairer society for everyone.

Word bank: contribution · resilience · injustice · pioneer · legacy · advocacy

1. Why does Ellie the Elephant suggest that we celebrate Black History Month? Use evidence from the text. (2 marks)

2. How did Mary Seacole demonstrate resilience when she was working in the Crimean War? (2 marks)

3. Identify two different roles that Walter Tull held during his life. Why is his story significant? (3 marks)

4. What do you think the phrase 'legacy' means in the context of this passage? (2 marks)

5. If you were to create a small fund of £10 to help a local community project like Mary Seacole did, what kind of project would you choose and why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative stamp that features either Mary Seacole or Walter Tull. Include one symbol that represents their main achievement (for example, a medical cross for nursing or a football for sport).



Extension challenge: Research another historical figure who has made a significant contribution to science, the arts, or civil rights. Write a short paragraph in the style of Ellie the Elephant explaining why their story is important to remember today.