

Unsung Heroes: Celebrating Black Social Studies / History

Learning objective: To research, organise, and write a biographical account of a significant figure from Black history, identifying their contribution to society.

Use the scaffold below to structure your biography. Remember to use formal language, third-person perspective, and historical evidence to support your writing. Ensure you focus on the impact the individual had on the world around them.

Social Studies / History is a vast tapestry woven by many voices, yet some of the most influential stories have remained hidden for far too long.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · notably · in addition to · despite the challenges · groundbreaking · legacy · pivotal moment · demonstrated · transformative

1. Introduction: Who is the individual you have chosen to study, and what is their primary claim to fame? Start by saying: 'A truly remarkable figure in history is...' (2 marks)

2. Early Life and Challenges: Describe the environment or obstacles they faced early on. Explain why these challenges make their later achievements even more impressive. Start by saying: 'Growing up, [Name] encountered several difficulties, such as...' (3 marks)

3. Significant Contribution: What specific action, discovery, or movement did this person lead? Compare this to the situation before they took action. Start by saying: 'The turning point for [Name] occurred when they...' (3 marks)

4. The Impact: Justify why this person is remembered today. How did they change the world or influence future generations? Start by saying: 'Their efforts were transformative because...' (3 marks)

5. Reflection: What personal qualities did this individual possess? Explain how these qualities helped them succeed. Start by saying: 'It is evident that [Name] possessed great strength of character, particularly when...' (2 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise their legacy. What might happen if this person had never taken their stand? Start by saying: 'In conclusion, the legacy of [Name] continues to inspire us today by...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: Imagine you are interviewing the person you have written about. Write three 'higher-order' questions you would ask them to understand their motivations more deeply. Then, write a short paragraph explaining why their specific contribution was not just important for their time, but remains vital for the world today.