Legacy Builders: A Journey Through History

Learning objective: To explore the achievements of significant Black historical figures and understand how their contributions have shaped our society today.

In this activity, you are helping Ellie the elephant organise her history files. Match the historical figure to their contribution, then use your critical thinking skills to explain the impact of their bravery and innovation. For the final task, imagine you are a biographer documenting a hero who changed the world.

Word bank: Mary Seacole · Walter Tull · Benjamin Banneker · Rosa Parks · Trailblazer · Advocacy · Resilience · Contribution · Equality

1. Mary Seacole was known for her kindness and medical aid during the Crimean War. If you were a journalist at the time, how would you describe her resilience to the public? (2 marks)

2. Walter Tull was a pioneer in both football and the military. Compare and contrast the challenges he might have faced in these two very different roles. (3 marks)

3. Benjamin Banneker was a self-taught mathematician and astronomer. Explain why his achievements were particularly significant during the era he lived in. (2 marks)

4. Rosa Parks took a stand for civil rights. Justify why a single act of courage can lead to massive social change. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if these historical figures had not stood up for their beliefs? Discuss the potential impact on modern society. (3 marks)

6. Choose one figure from the word bank. If you had £10 to create a small exhibition display about their life, what three items would you buy to represent their story and why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Legacy Tree'. In the roots, write the names of historical figures who paved the way. On the branches, draw symbols representing the positive changes they helped bring to the world, such as equality, education, or justice.

Extension challenge: Research a lesser-known figure from history who made a positive impact on the UK. Write a persuasive paragraph explaining why this person deserves to be commemorated with a statue in your local town centre.