

Celebrating Pioneers: Black History Month

Learning objective: To develop research skills and explore the significant contributions of Black historical figures to science, literature, and social change.

Use your knowledge of history and your research skills to answer the questions below. Think carefully about how these individuals helped to shape the world we live in today.

Throughout history, many Black individuals have overcome significant barriers to make life-changing contributions to the world. During Black History Month, we take time to reflect on these stories of courage and brilliance. From scientists who changed how we see the stars, to poets who used words to fight for equality, their legacies continue to inspire us. As Ellie the Elephant says, 'A good story is a bridge to the past, helping us understand how to build a fairer future.'

Word bank: contribution · legacy · pioneer · injustice · achievement · advocacy · perseverance · heroism

1. Why is it important to dedicate a specific month to celebrating Black history? Use at least one word from the word bank in your answer. (2 marks)

2. Think of a historical figure who fought for equality. Explain how their actions demonstrated 'perseverance'. (3 marks)

3. Nova the Owl loves science. Can you name one Black scientist or inventor and describe the impact of their work on our modern lives? (2 marks)

4. Choose one word from the word bank and write a sentence explaining how it relates to the life of a historical figure you have studied. (2 marks)

5. If you were to write a poem about a 'pioneer' of history, what three adjectives would you use to describe their character and why? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative stamp that features a symbol or object representing the achievements of a Black historical figure you admire. Include a short caption at the bottom.



Extension challenge: Research a lesser-known figure from Black history. Write a short 'Who Am I?' riddle for a partner to solve, describing three of their major achievements without mentioning their name.