

Celebrating Pioneers: Black History Month

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Black History Month and recognise the contributions of inspirational Black historical figures.

Read the passage below carefully. Use your retrieval skills and your ability to infer meaning to answer the questions that follow. For the final question, ensure you provide a reason for your opinion.

Every October, the United Kingdom celebrates Black History Month. It is a dedicated time to recognise and honour the incredible contributions that Black people have made to British history and culture. While it is vital to celebrate these achievements all year round, October allows us to shine a special spotlight on stories that were often overlooked in the past. We remember pioneers like Mary Seacole, a brave nurse who travelled to the Crimean War to care for wounded soldiers, and Olaudah Equiano, whose powerful writing helped the world understand the need for justice. Learning about these figures helps us appreciate the diverse heritage that makes our society strong. It is not just about looking at the past; it is about celebrating the innovators of today who continue to shape our future. By sharing these narratives, we ensure that the lessons of history are remembered, valued, and respected by everyone. As Ellie the elephant often says, 'History is a collection of stories that, when remembered, help us walk forward with a kinder heart.'

Word bank: contribution · pioneer · inspirational · legacy · heritage · activism

1. In which month does the United Kingdom celebrate Black History Month? (1 mark) (1 mark)

2. Name two historical figures mentioned in the text and describe their primary contribution. (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Why does the author suggest that Black History Month is important even though we should celebrate these achievements all year? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'shine a special spotlight' suggest about how we should treat these historical stories? (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is more important to study historical figures from the past or the innovators of today? Justify your answer. (3 marks) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of an inspirational figure you have learned about, surrounded by symbols that represent their achievements (e.g., a book for a writer, a medical cross for a nurse).



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1. Explain why it is important for historians to ensure diverse voices are included in our national records. 2. Compare and contrast the impact of a historical pioneer with a modern-day activist. 3. Justify why Ellie's quote about history helping us 'walk forward' is significant. 4. What might happen to our understanding of the world if we only studied one perspective of history? 5. Research a Black British inventor or scientist and create a short biography. 6. Compose a poem, in the style of Leo the lion, celebrating the legacy of a person who has made a positive change in their community.