

Celebrating Remarkable Lives: A Black History Month Profile

Learning objective: To research and write a biography of a significant Black historical figure, justifying their impact on society.

Use this scaffold to structure your biography. Select a significant Black historical figure—such as Mary Seacole, Olaudah Equiano, or Walter Tull—and use the prompts below to organise your research. Ensure you use formal, historical language to explain their achievements.

Throughout history, many individuals have displayed incredible courage and resilience, leaving a lasting mark on the world we live in today.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · significantly · nevertheless · in addition · pivotal · legacy · resilience · contribution · overcoming

1. Introduction: Briefly introduce the individual you have chosen and explain why they are considered a significant historical figure. Begin with: 'The person I have chosen to research is... because...' (2 marks)

2. Early Life and Challenges: Describe the early life of your chosen figure. What obstacles did they face, and how did they demonstrate resilience? Begin with: 'During their early life, they encountered several challenges such as...' (3 marks)

3. Key Achievements: Identify the specific actions or contributions that make this person famous. Explain why these actions were important at the time. Begin with: 'The most significant achievement of this individual was...' (3 marks)

4. Historical Impact: Explain the lasting legacy of this person. How does their work affect our lives today? Begin with: 'Their influence remains relevant today because...' (3 marks)

5. Critical Reflection: Justify your choice. Why do you believe it is important for historians to study this person's life? Begin with: 'I believe it is vital to study their life because...' (4 marks)

6. Compare and Contrast: If you have studied another historical figure, briefly compare their achievements. How were their approaches to making a change similar or different? Begin with: 'In contrast to...' (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: Imagine you are interviewing this historical figure. Write three challenging questions you would ask them to understand their motivations better. Then, write a one-paragraph 'What might happen if...' scenario: how might history be different if this person had never existed?