

Celebrating Pioneers and Change-Makers

Learning objective: To recognise the significant contributions of Black historical figures and understand the importance of equality and representation in British history.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge and PSHE understanding to provide thoughtful, well-reasoned answers. Remember to use full sentences.

Ellie the elephant has a wonderful memory for history. She loves to share stories about people who stood up for what was right and changed the world for the better. During Black History Month, we look at the achievements of Black individuals who, despite facing barriers, made lasting impacts on science, literature, music, and civil rights. Their stories are an essential part of our shared history.

Word bank: Equality · Injustice · Diversity · Pioneer · Representation · Courage · Legacy · Contribution

1. Ellie believes that learning about history helps us create a fairer future. Explain why it is important to celebrate the achievements of people from diverse backgrounds throughout the year, rather than just during one month. (3 marks)

2. A 'pioneer' is someone who is the first to do something or opens up new areas of thought. If you were going to write a biography about a historical figure who showed great courage, what three qualities would they need to possess? Justify your choices. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the challenges faced by someone fighting for equality in the past with the challenges we might face today. How has society changed? (4 marks)

4. What might happen if we only ever heard one type of story or learned about only one group of people in our history lessons? Explain the impact this would have on our understanding of the world. (3 marks)

5. Think of a community project that could promote inclusivity in your school. Describe your idea in two sentences. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Tree of Legacy'. On the roots, write the names or achievements of historical figures who paved the way for others. On the leaves, draw or write about how you can contribute to a kinder, more equal school community today.



Extension challenge: Research a Black British historical figure who has made a contribution to science or the arts. Create a 'Legacy Profile' explaining their specific achievements, the obstacles they overcame, and a quote you have written that captures their spirit. Why should this person be remembered by future generations?