

Trailblazers of Change: A Historical Timeline Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the significant contributions of key figures in Black history by sequencing events and evaluating their impact on society.

Ellie the elephant has been busy gathering historical records! Below are six significant events involving inspiring figures from Black history. Your task is to sequence these events chronologically (from earliest to most recent). Once you have ordered them, use your historical enquiry skills to answer the questions below.

Word bank: Mary Seacole · Walter Tull · Windrush Generation · Rosa Parks · Martin Luther King Jr. · Benjamin Zephaniah

1. Place the six figures listed in the word bank into the correct chronological order based on when they made their primary historical impact. Explain why it is important for historians to consider the sequence of events when studying the past. (4 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the contributions of Mary Seacole and Walter Tull. How did both individuals demonstrate resilience in the face of societal challenges during their respective eras? (3 marks)

3. The arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush in 1948 changed British society significantly. Justify why this event is considered a turning point in modern British history. (3 marks)

4. Explain why the actions of Rosa Parks were a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement in America during the 1950s. (2 marks)

5. 5. What might happen if the voices of poets and writers like Benjamin Zephaniah were missing from our historical records? Discuss the role of literature in documenting social change. (3 marks)

6. 6. If you were to add one more person to this timeline who has made a positive impact on your community today, who would it be and why? Justify your choice. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Tree of History'. On the roots, write the names of the historical figures mentioned in the activity. On the branches, draw symbols representing their achievements (e.g., a pen for a writer, a map for a traveller, or a badge for a leader).



Extension challenge: Research a figure from Black history who lived in your local area or city. Create a short 'Blue Plaque' design for them, including their name, the dates they lived, and a one-sentence summary of why they deserve to be remembered.