

Pioneers of Change: Black History in Britain

Learning objective: To identify and describe the contributions of significant Black individuals to British history and understand their impact on society.

Read each question carefully and use your historical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Remember to use full sentences and explain your reasoning clearly.

Throughout history, Black individuals have played vital roles in shaping British society. From the 18th-century writers who campaigned against slavery, to the nurses who travelled across the world to support the British war effort, and the generations who arrived on the HMT Empire Windrush to help rebuild the country after the Second World War, their stories are an essential part of our national narrative. Ellie the Elephant, our history expert, reminds us that history is not just about dates, but about the brave people who stood up for what was right.

Word bank: Mary Seacole · Olaudah Equiano · Windrush · Injustice · Pioneer · Contribution · Healthcare · Abolition

1. Mary Seacole is famous for her work during the Crimean War. Briefly describe her contribution to British healthcare and why she is remembered as a pioneer. (2 marks)

2. Who was Olaudah Equiano and why was his autobiography, published in 1789, so important to the movement to abolish the slave trade in Britain? (2 marks)

3. What was the 'Windrush generation'? Explain why their arrival in 1948 is considered a significant turning point in British social history. (2 marks)

4. If you were to create a memorial to honor a Black British historical figure, which person would you choose and what symbols would you include to represent their achievements? (2 marks)

5. Why is it important for historians today to ensure that the contributions of Black people are included in the study of British history? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a historical figure who has made a positive impact on Britain. _____
Around the portrait, draw three symbols that represent their main achievements or the change they brought to society.



Extension challenge: Research a Black British person from the 21st century who is making history today in science, arts, or sport. Write a short 'Did You Know?' fact file about them to share with your class.