Learning about Mary Seacole

Learning objective: To learn about the life and contributions of Mary Seacole, a significant historical figure.

Read the story about Mary Seacole carefully. Then, answer the questions below to show what you have learned.

Ellie the elephant loves learning about important people from history. Today, she is telling us about Mary Seacole. Mary was born in Jamaica a long time ago. She learned how to use plants and herbs to make medicine from her mother. When Mary grew up, she heard that soldiers were hurt in a faraway war. Even though it was a long journey, Mary wanted to help. She travelled all the way to the Crimea to look after the soldiers. She built a place called the 'British Hotel' where she gave the soldiers food, a warm bed, and medicine to help them feel better. Mary was very brave and kind. She worked hard every single day to make sure the soldiers were cared for. Many people called her 'Mother Seacole' because she was so caring. Today, we remember Mary Seacole as a hero who showed great courage and helped people when they needed it most. We can learn a lot from her big heart and her determination to help others, no matter how far she had to travel.

Word bank: nursing · history · hospital · kindness · brave · medicine

1. Where was Mary Seacole born? (1 mark)

2. What was the name of the place Mary built to help the soldiers? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think the soldiers called her 'Mother Seacole'? (2 marks)

4. How do we know that Mary was a determined person? (2 marks)

5. Why is it important to remember people like Mary Seacole today? Give a reason for your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Mary Seacole helping a soldier at the British Hotel. You might want to include some medicine bottles or a warm blanket in your drawing.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in history. Write two sentences explaining why Mary Seacole was a hero to the soldiers she looked after.