

Black History Month: Celebrating Pioneers and Change-makers

Learning objective: To analyse the contributions of Black historical figures and express understanding through inference, explanation, and persuasive writing.

Read the text carefully and answer all questions in full sentences. Ensure your SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) is of a high standard.

History is a vast tapestry woven by the actions of many. During Black History Month, we reflect on the remarkable individuals who challenged injustice and pushed the boundaries of what was thought possible. From Mary Seacole, who provided compassionate care to soldiers during the Crimean War with remarkable resilience, to innovators who changed science and technology, these figures remind us that courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. Their legacies are not just chapters in a book; they are the foundations upon which our modern, diverse society is built. By studying their stories, we gain a deeper understanding of the struggles faced in the past and the importance of equality in our future.

Word bank: pioneer · legacy · injustice · advocacy · perseverance · contribution · civil rights · resilience

1. Based on the passage, explain what is meant by the phrase 'history is a vast tapestry'. (2 marks)

2. Identify one quality of Mary Seacole mentioned in the text and explain how this helped her in her work. (2 marks)

3. Explain why the author suggests that the legacies of these figures are 'foundations' for our society today. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the impact of a historical pioneer with someone who influences change in your local community today. What common traits do they share? (4 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Why is it important for Year 5 students to study Black history throughout the entire year, rather than just during one month? (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing: Imagine you are writing a speech to be delivered at a school assembly about a Black historical figure who inspires you. Write a persuasive paragraph (approx. 100 words) encouraging your peers to learn more about their achievements. (5 marks)

7. What might happen to our collective understanding of the world if we chose to ignore the stories of historical pioneers? Explain your reasoning. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a historical figure you admire. Surrounding the portrait, draw symbols that represent their greatest contribution to society (e.g., a quill for a writer, a beaker for a scientist, or a map for an explorer).



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Research a Black British historical figure not mentioned in this paper. Write a short biography (150 words) focusing on the 'legacy' they left behind and why their work remains significant to British history.