

Trailblazers of History: A Legacy of Courage

Learning objective: To develop comprehension skills by identifying key information, inferring character motivations, and evaluating the significance of historical figures during Black History Month.

Read the text carefully. Use evidence from the passage to support your answers. Remember to use full sentences and check your spelling.

October marks Black History Month in the United Kingdom, a significant period dedicated to honouring the achievements and resilience of Black individuals throughout history. It is a time when Ellie the elephant shares stories of unsung heroes who fought against systemic injustice to create a fairer society. From pioneering scientists who revolutionised medicine to courageous civil rights advocates who marched for equality, these figures have left an indelible mark on our world. During this month, we reflect on the challenges they faced and celebrate their monumental triumphs. Their stories teach us that one person's determination can ignite global change. By studying their lives, we acknowledge that history is not just about dates and battles, but about the people who bravely stood up for what is right. Whether they were poets, inventors, or community leaders, their legacies continue to inspire new generations to speak out against unfairness. As we learn about these remarkable lives, we are reminded that our own actions, no matter how small, contribute to the ongoing story of human progress and equality.

Word bank: courageous · legacy · pioneer · injustice · triumph · contribution · advocate

1. Identify two specific types of roles held by the historical figures mentioned in the text. (2 marks)

2. According to the passage, what specific purpose does Black History Month serve in the United Kingdom? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author suggest that studying history is about more than just 'dates and battles'? (3 marks)

4. Explain why the author uses the phrase 'ignite global change' when describing the impact of these individuals. (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Do you believe it is important to dedicate a specific month to celebrating Black history? Why or why not? (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative plaque for a historical figure of your choice. Include symbols that represent their contributions and a short, inspiring quote you have written about their legacy.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the impact of a historical pioneer with a modern-day leader. Write a paragraph explaining how their methods of advocating for equality differ, and justify which approach you believe is more effective in today's society.