

Trailblazers of Change: Black History Month

Learning objective: To analyse the impact of significant Black historical figures and articulate their contributions to equality, science, and the arts through formal writing.

Read the prompts carefully. Use your knowledge of historical figures to construct thoughtful, analytical responses. Ensure you use precise vocabulary and clear, logical arguments.

Black History Month is a dedicated time to celebrate and honour the achievements, culture, and resilience of Black individuals throughout history. From innovators who transformed science and technology to courageous figures who fought for civil rights and equality, their legacies continue to shape our society today. By studying these stories, we gain a deeper understanding of how perseverance and bravery can challenge injustice and inspire future generations to strive for a fairer world.

Word bank: pioneer · resilience · advocacy · contribution · legacy · systemic · injustice · empowerment

1. Ellie the elephant has an incredible memory for history. She says that studying the past helps us build a better future. Explain why it is important for historians to document the achievements of individuals who were previously overlooked in textbooks. (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the methods used by two different historical figures you have studied who fought for social change. How did their unique approaches influence their outcomes? (4 marks)

3. Max the monkey enjoys solving puzzles. If you were tasked with organising an exhibition about a Black inventor, which figure would you choose and how would you justify their significance to a museum audience? (3 marks)

4. What might happen if we only ever studied one perspective of history? Justify your answer using the concept of a 'balanced historical narrative'. (3 marks)

5. Identify a modern-day challenge that you believe requires the same level of resilience shown by historical pioneers. How could a person today use lessons from the past to address this issue? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Legacy Tree'. In the roots, write the names of historical figures who fought for equality. In the branches, draw symbols representing the positive changes that have grown from their actions, such as a book for education or a globe for global unity.



Extension challenge: Write a formal letter to a local councillor explaining why you believe Black History Month should be celebrated throughout the entire school year, rather than just in October. Use persuasive language and refer to the 'legacy' of at least two historical figures to support your argument.