

Celebrating Pioneers: Black History Month

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by retrieving information, making inferences, and evaluating themes within a non-fiction text about Black History Month.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences. Ensure you refer back to the text to support your answers.

In the United Kingdom, Black History Month is celebrated annually throughout October. It is a vital time to honour the immense contributions that Black individuals have made to British society, culture, and history. While these achievements deserve recognition all year round, October provides a dedicated space to shine a light on stories that have often been overlooked in traditional textbooks.

From the wind-rush generation who helped rebuild the nation after the Second World War, to scientists, artists, and political activists, Black history is woven into the very fabric of Britain. Ellie, the elephant who loves history, often reminds us that understanding our past is key to building a brighter future. By celebrating these pioneers, we learn about courage, resilience, and the power of standing up for equality. Schools across the country take this opportunity to explore diverse perspectives, ensuring that every child sees their own potential reflected in the achievements of others. As we look back, we do not just celebrate names and dates; we celebrate the spirit of those who challenged barriers and paved the way for the generations that follow.

Word bank: Pioneer · Heritage · Contribution · Resilience · Legacy · Significance

1. During which month does the United Kingdom celebrate Black History Month? (1 mark)

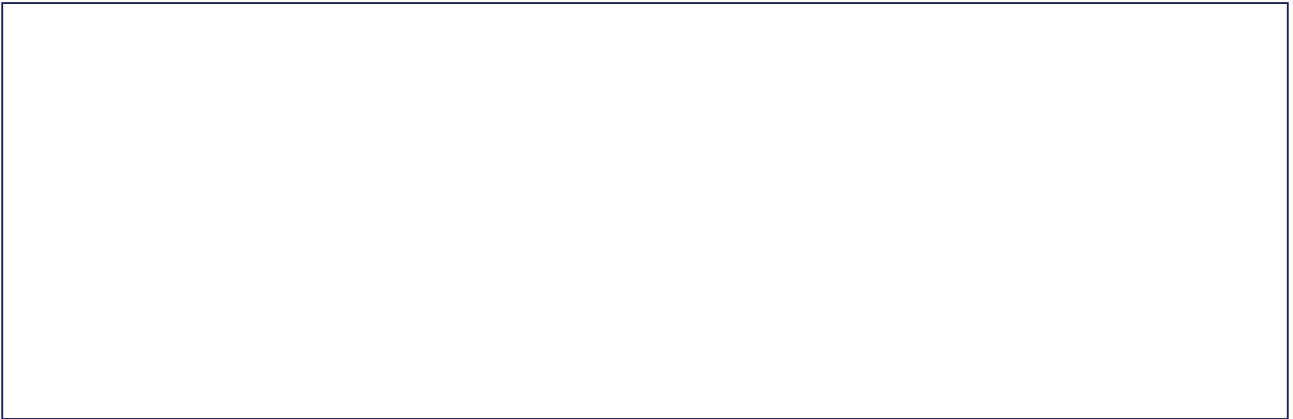
2. Identify two specific groups or types of people mentioned in the text who have made contributions to British society. (2 marks)

3. Why does the author suggest that it is important to celebrate these stories in October, even though they deserve recognition all year? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'Black history is woven into the very fabric of Britain' suggest about the relationship between Black history and British history? (2 marks)

5. Ellie the elephant says that understanding the past is key to building a brighter future. Do you agree with this? Give a reason for your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a poster celebrating a historical figure you admire. Include symbols that represent their achievements and a short, inspiring quote.



Extension challenge: Research a Black British historical figure not mentioned in this text. Write a short biography of 100 words explaining why they are considered a pioneer.