

Trailblazers of Change: Celebrating Black History

Learning objective: To analyse non-fiction text and identify the contributions of significant historical figures.

Read the passage below about historical figures who changed the world. Answer the questions in full sentences, using evidence from the text to support your ideas.

Throughout history, individuals from the Black community have shown immense courage in the face of injustice. In the 20th century, many people fought for equality and civil rights, ensuring that future generations could live in a fairer society. One such pioneer was Mary Seacole, a nurse from Jamaica who travelled to the Crimean War. Despite being told she could not join official nursing groups, she used her own money to travel to the front lines. She set up the 'British Hotel', a place where she provided food, shelter, and medical care to wounded soldiers. Her kindness and determination saved countless lives. In another part of the world, others were working to dismantle systems of segregation. By speaking out against unfair treatment, these figures helped reshape laws and public opinion. Their stories are not just a part of Black history; they are a vital part of our shared human history. Today, we remember these trailblazers for their resilience and for the doors they opened for everyone.

Word bank: courage · contribution · resilience · pioneer · legacy · injustice

1. Based on the text, why was Mary Seacole considered a pioneer? Provide two reasons. (2 marks)

2. What does the phrase 'dismantle systems of segregation' imply about the work these historical figures were doing? (2 marks)

3. According to the passage, why is the history of these individuals considered 'our shared human history' rather than just 'Black history'? (2 marks)

4. Find and copy a word from the text that means the same as 'the ability to recover quickly from difficulties'. (1 mark)

5. Why do you think it is important for us to learn about these figures during Black History Month? Use your own opinion supported by the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative stamp featuring an image of Mary Seacole and a symbol that represents the 'legacy' she left behind for nurses today.



Extension challenge: Research another historical figure who fought for equality. Write a short, formal biography of 100 words explaining how they challenged the status quo and what impact they had on their community.