

Unsung Heroes: A Journey Through History with Ellie

Learning objective: To recognise the contributions of significant Black individuals to British history and society, and to evaluate their impact.

Ellie the elephant has been digging through the archives to find stories of remarkable people. Below are descriptions of significant figures. Match the description to the correct name, then use your historical enquiry skills to answer the questions about their impact. Use the word bank to help you identify the roles these individuals played.

Word bank: Pioneer · Activist · Nurse · Composer · Abolitionist · Author · Inventor · Legacy

1. Mary Seacole served as a nurse during the Crimean War. Explain why her decision to set up the 'British Hotel' was significant for soldiers at the time. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the impact of Olaudah Equiano's autobiography with the work of modern-day campaigners. How do both use 'voice' to create change? (3 marks)

3. Walter Tull was a professional footballer who became an officer in the British Army. Justify why his story challenges traditional historical narratives about the First World War. (2 marks)

4. Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, was a celebrated composer. If his music had been lost to time, how would our understanding of 18th-century European culture be different? (2 marks)

5. What might happen if we only focused on 'famous' historical figures instead of ordinary people who made extraordinary contributions? (2 marks)

6. Choose one figure from the list. If you were interviewing them today, what is one question you would ask to understand their motivation better? (1 mark)

Draw: Create a commemorative stamp design to honour one of the figures discussed. Include symbols that represent their achievements, such as a stethoscope for nursing or a quill for an author.



Extension challenge: Write a short, persuasive speech (150 words) advocating for the inclusion of a local historical figure in your town's public museum. Explain why their specific contribution matters to the community today.