

Unsung Pioneers: Celebrating Black History

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Black History Month and recognise the contributions of Black individuals to British history.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Use your best handwriting and full sentences for your answers.

Each October, the United Kingdom observes Black History Month. It is a vital period dedicated to honouring the immense contributions made by Black people throughout history, many of which have historically been overlooked in textbooks. Ellie, the memory-loving elephant, often reminds us that history is not just about famous battles, but about the people who shaped our society through resilience and courage.

From the presence of Black people in Roman Britain to the arrival of the Windrush generation in 1948, Black history is deeply woven into the fabric of the nation. We celebrate pioneers like Mary Seacole, who provided compassionate care to soldiers during the Crimean War, and Ignatius Sancho, a celebrated writer and composer in the eighteenth century. Black History Month provides an opportunity to reflect on past injustices while celebrating the triumphs of those who campaigned for equality. By learning about these diverse stories, we gain a richer, more accurate understanding of our shared heritage. As we look back, we ensure that the voices of these remarkable individuals continue to inspire future generations to strive for fairness and understanding in our modern world.

Word bank: pioneer · contribution · legacy · resilience · injustice · civil rights · heritage

1. According to the text, in which month does the United Kingdom observe Black History Month, and what is its primary purpose? (2 marks)

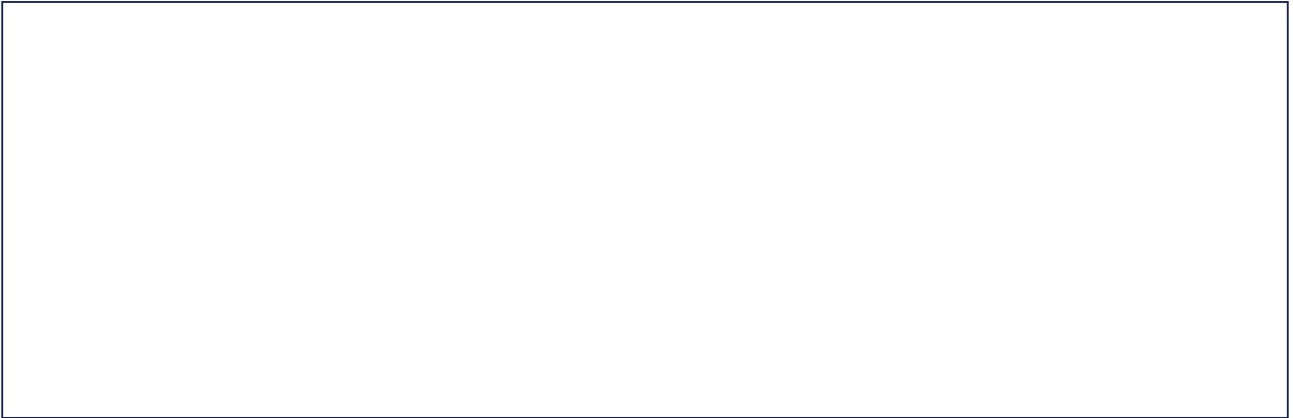
2. Name two specific historical figures mentioned in the passage and briefly describe what they are known for. (2 marks)

3. Why does the author suggest that it is important to learn about stories that have been 'overlooked in textbooks'? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, how has the perception of British history changed by including the stories of the Windrush generation? (2 marks)

5. Justify why Ellie refers to history as being 'woven into the fabric of the nation' rather than just a list of dates. Do you agree with this metaphor? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative stamp that honours a historical figure who has made a positive impact on society. Include symbols that represent their achievements.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the impact of two different historical figures mentioned in the text. If you were curating a museum exhibition about Black British history, what three artefacts would you choose to include and why? Justify your choices.