

Black History Month: Pioneers and Perspectives

Learning objective: To explore the significant contributions of Black individuals to British and global history, developing an understanding of historical significance and social change.

Read each flashcard carefully. The front presents a term or historical figure, and the back provides key information. Use these to test your knowledge and prepare for our class discussion on the impact of these individuals.

What is Black History Month?

An annual observance, held in October in the UK, dedicated to celebrating the achievements and contributions of Black people to history, culture, and society.

Who was Mary Seacole?

A Jamaican-born businesswoman and nurse who set up the 'British Hotel' behind the lines during the Crimean War to provide care and comfort for wounded soldiers.

What does the term 'Civil Rights' mean?

The rights of citizens to political and social freedom and equality, often associated with movements fighting against discrimination and segregation.

Who was Walter Tull?

An English professional footballer and one of the first Black officers to lead white British troops into battle during the First World War.

What was the Windrush Generation?

People who arrived in the UK from Caribbean countries between 1948 and 1971 to help rebuild Britain after the Second World War, invited by the British government.

Who was Rosa Parks?

An American activist whose refusal to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in 1955 became a pivotal moment in the American Civil Rights Movement.

Explain why it is important to study Black history all year round rather than just in October.

Studying Black history year-round ensures a more complete and accurate understanding of how diverse cultures have shaped our modern world, rather than isolating these stories to a single month.

Compare and contrast the challenges faced by Mary Seacole and Walter Tull.

Both faced significant racial prejudice in their respective fields, yet both showed immense resilience and dedication to service—Seacole in healthcare and Tull in sport and military leadership.

Justify why individuals like the Windrush Generation are considered a vital part of British national identity.

They contributed to the economic recovery of the UK, brought cultural enrichment, and helped build the modern public services, such as the NHS, that we rely on today.

What might happen if we only focused on the achievements of one group in history?

Our perspective would be limited and biased, leading to an incomplete understanding of how different societies collaborate, innovate, and progress together.

Explain the significance of 'representation' in historical education.

Representation allows children to see themselves reflected in history and promotes empathy by exposing them to diverse experiences, struggles, and triumphs.

Create a tribute to a pioneer.

If you were to nominate a Black historical figure for a statue in your town, who would it be and why? Justify your choice based on their impact on society.