

Trailblazers of Change: A Historical Sorting Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and evaluate the significant contributions of key figures in Black history who have influenced modern society, science, and the arts.

Ellie the elephant has been busy gathering historical records from her memory bank. Below is a list of individuals and their achievements. Your task is to sort the contributions into the correct categories: 'Science & Innovation', 'Social Justice & Civil Rights', or 'Arts & Culture'. Once sorted, complete the analytical questions to demonstrate your deeper understanding of their legacy.

Word bank: Mary Seacole · Walter Tull · Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock · Benjamin Zephaniah · Olaudah Equiano · Contribution to medicine · Advocacy for equality · Astronomical discovery · Poetry and literature · Campaigning against enslavement

1. Choose one figure from the 'Science & Innovation' category. Explain why their work is still relevant to our lives today. (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the methods used by Olaudah Equiano and a modern-day activist to highlight injustice. What has changed in how we share information? (4 marks)

3. Justify your answer: Why is it important for historians to study the lives of Walter Tull and Mary Seacole when discussing the history of the British armed forces? (3 marks)

4. If you could interview Benjamin Zephaniah about his poetry, what two specific questions would you ask him to understand his motivation for writing? (2 marks)

5. What might happen if the contributions of these individuals were omitted from our national curriculum? Explain the potential impact on society's collective memory. (4 marks)

6. Create a 'Legacy Profile' for one person listed in the word bank. Summarise their main struggle and their ultimate triumph in two sentences. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative stamp design honouring one of the figures mentioned. Include symbols that represent their main achievement (e.g., stars for a space scientist or a quill for a poet).



Extension challenge: Research a lesser-known figure from Black British history. Create a persuasive pitch for why their portrait should be displayed in a national museum, justifying your choice with evidence of their impact on British culture or history.