

Trailblazers of Change: Black History in Britain

Learning objective: To analyse the contributions of significant figures of Black heritage in British history and evaluate their impact on society.

Use your historical knowledge and critical thinking skills to answer the following questions. Remember to provide evidence to support your arguments.

History is not just a list of dates; it is a tapestry woven from the lives of many different people. In Britain, people of Black heritage have been integral to our national story for centuries. From the Roman soldiers stationed along Hadrian's Wall to Mary Seacole, who provided vital care for soldiers during the Crimean War, and the Windrush generation who helped rebuild post-war Britain, their influence is profound. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, asks you to consider how these individuals shaped the world we live in today.

Word bank: pioneer · legacy · activism · contributions · injustice · resilience · equality · historical significance

1. Mary Seacole faced significant obstacles while trying to support soldiers in the Crimean War. Explain why her persistence was essential to her success in providing medical care. (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the contributions of the Windrush generation to the UK's infrastructure with the contributions of Black historical figures from the 18th century. What are the similarities in their experiences? (4 marks)

3. Justify your answer: Why is it important to learn about a diverse range of historical figures when studying British history? (3 marks)

4. What might happen if the contributions of Black Britons were excluded from our national history curriculum? Discuss the impact this would have on our understanding of British identity. (4 marks)

5. Identify one major challenge faced by Black activists in the 20th century and describe the method they used to create social change. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative plaque for a Black historical figure who inspires you. Include symbols that represent their achievements and a short, powerful quote about their legacy.



Extension challenge: Research a local figure of Black heritage in your own town or city. Write a persuasive letter to your local council explaining why there should be a statue or a memorial dedicated to them, justifying your choice with evidence of their impact on the local community.