

Celebrating Pioneers: Black History Month

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

Read the passage below carefully. Use your inference and retrieval skills to answer the questions that follow. Think deeply about the impact of these historical figures.

Every October, the United Kingdom observes Black History Month. It is a vital period dedicated to honouring the achievements and resilience of Black people throughout history. While we celebrate these stories all year round, this month provides a focused opportunity to reflect on the immense contributions Black individuals have made to British society, science, the arts, and politics. From the Windrush generation who arrived in the UK to help rebuild the country after the Second World War, to modern-day scientists and activists, these pioneers have shaped the world we live in today. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, often reminds us that understanding our past is key to building a fairer future. By learning about the struggles and successes of these figures, we gain a deeper appreciation for the diversity that makes our communities vibrant. Whether it is Mary Seacole's bravery on the battlefield or the cultural influence of Black musicians and writers, their legacies continue to inspire us. Celebrating this history ensures that every child can see themselves represented in the stories of our nation's journey.

Word bank: contribution · pioneer · heritage · resilience · significant · advocacy · diversity

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

2. According to the text, who arrived in the UK to help rebuild the country after the Second World War? (1 mark)

3. Why does the author suggest that learning about the struggles of Black historical figures is important for the future? (2 marks)

4. What might the author mean by the phrase 'every child can see themselves represented in the stories of our nation's journey'? (2 marks)

5. Justify why you think it is important for schools to celebrate Black History Month throughout the year rather than just in October. Provide two reasons. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative stamp that honours a Black pioneer who has contributed to British history. Include symbols that represent their specific achievements.



Extension challenge: Research a Black British historical figure not mentioned in the text. Write a short biography (100 words) explaining why they are considered a pioneer. Compare their impact with another historical figure you have studied this term.