

Black History Month: Pioneers and Progress

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Black History Month and explore the contributions of individuals who have shaped British and global history.

Read each flashcard carefully. Reflect on the contributions made by these historical figures and consider how their courage and perseverance have influenced our society today.

What is Black History Month?

It is an annual observance dedicated to celebrating the achievements, culture, and history of Black people, while reflecting on the challenges they have overcome.

Who was Mary Seacole?

A British-Jamaican nurse who set up the 'British Hotel' behind the lines during the Crimean War to provide food, shelter, and medical care to wounded soldiers.

Who was Olaudah Equiano?

A writer and abolitionist who had been enslaved as a child; his autobiography helped the British public understand the horrors of the slave trade, contributing to its eventual abolition.

What does the term 'Legacy' mean in the context of history?

The long-lasting impact or influence that a person's actions or ideas have on future generations.

Who was Walter Tull?

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

Explain the importance of celebrating diverse historical figures.

It ensures that the contributions of all people are recognised, providing a more accurate and complete understanding of our shared history.

Who was Claudia Jones?

A journalist and activist who founded the first major Black British newspaper, the 'West Indian Gazette', and helped establish the precursor to the Notting Hill Carnival.

What is an 'Advocate'?

A person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy, often speaking up for those whose voices are not being heard.

Why is 'Resilience' an important trait for a historical pioneer?

Because pioneers often face significant obstacles and prejudice, and resilience allows them to keep striving for change despite these difficulties.

Compare and contrast: Why is it important to learn about history beyond the classroom?

Learning history outside of textbooks allows us to discover stories of overlooked individuals, offering multiple perspectives on how our society has developed.

What might happen if we only heard one version of history?

We would have a limited understanding of the world, failing to appreciate the diverse cultures and efforts that have contributed to our modern society.

Justify why Black History Month should be celebrated all year round.

Celebrating all year ensures that Black history is integrated into the national curriculum consistently, rather than being treated as a separate or temporary topic.