Trailblazers of History: A Legacy of Achievement

Learning objective: To recognise and appreciate the significant contributions of historical figures from Black history by sequencing events and evaluating their impact on society.

Ellie the Elephant has been researching inspiring people who changed the world. She has gathered facts about Mary Seacole, a courageous nurse, and Walter Tull, a brave footballer and soldier. Your task is to sort these facts into a chronological timeline and then use your critical thinking skills to explain why their actions were so important.

Word bank: Nurse · Soldier · Hospital · Footballer · Courageous · Pioneer · Legacy · Determination

1. Place these events in order (1-4) by numbering them: A) Mary Seacole travels to the Crimean War to help soldiers. B) Mary Seacole opens the 'British Hotel' to provide food and medicine. C) Walter Tull becomes one of the first Black professional footballers in England. D) Walter Tull leads his men into battle during the First World War. (4 marks)

2. Mary Seacole used her own money to travel to the war zone. If a medicine kit cost £15 and bandages cost £8, how much did she spend in total? Show your working. (2 marks)

3. Explain why Mary Seacole is considered a pioneer in medical history. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the roles of Walter Tull as a footballer and as a soldier. Which role do you think required more bravery and why? (4 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Why is it important for us to learn about these figures during Black History Month? (3 marks)

6. What might happen if Walter Tull had not broken barriers in professional sports? How would the world of football look today? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Medal of Honour' for either Mary Seacole or Walter Tull. Inside the medal, draw a symbol that represents their biggest achievement (e.g., a bandage for nursing or a football for sport).

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in the year 1918. Write a short, formal newspaper headline and one sentence about Walter Tull's courage. Then, write a diary entry from the perspective of a soldier who was helped by Mary Seacole, explaining how her kindness changed his day.