Celebrating Remarkable Lives: Black History Month

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

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below. Think deeply about how these individuals changed the world.

In the United Kingdom, every October we celebrate Black History Month. It is a special time dedicated to learning about the achievements and contributions of Black people throughout history. Ellie the elephant loves this time of year because it allows us to discover stories of brave pioneers who helped shape the world we live in today. We remember figures like Mary Seacole, a nurse who showed incredible kindness and courage by travelling to the Crimean War to care for wounded soldiers. We also celebrate innovators, artists, and leaders who fought for fairness and equality. By studying these lives, we learn that anyone can make a positive difference, no matter where they come from. Black History Month is not just about looking at the past; it is about celebrating the diverse talents that make our society stronger and more vibrant. When we share these stories, we honour the hard work of those who came before us and find inspiration to build a kinder, more inclusive future for everyone.

Word bank: contribution · inspiration · courage · history · pioneer · legacy · equality

1. In which month does the United Kingdom celebrate Black History Month? (1 mark)

2. What was the name of the nurse mentioned in the passage who cared for soldiers? (1 mark)

3. Why does Ellie the elephant think it is important to learn about brave pioneers from the past? (2 marks)

4. What might the author mean when they say Black History Month helps us 'build a kinder future'? (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is important to celebrate Black History Month all year round rather than just in October? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a person you find inspirational, surrounded by symbols that represent their achievements or the positive impact they have had on the world.

Extension challenge: Explain why it is essential for historians to ensure that the stories of all people are included in our history books. What might happen to our understanding of the world if we only ever heard one side of a story?