History Heroes: Making a Difference

Learning objective: To learn about the contributions of significant Black individuals in history and understand how their actions created positive change.

Read each question carefully and use your historical knowledge to provide thoughtful answers. Think about how these people showed courage and determination.

Ellie the elephant has been reading her history books! She has learnt about Mary Seacole, a brave nurse who travelled far to help soldiers during the Crimean War, and Walter Tull, who showed great skill and bravery as one of Britain's first Black professional footballers and a brave officer in the First World War. By learning about these figures, we can see how they stood up for what was right and helped shape the world we live in today.

Word bank: courage · equality · pioneer · justice · determination · contribution · legacy

1. Mary Seacole opened the 'British Hotel' to help soldiers. Why was her work as a nurse so important during the Crimean War? (2 marks)

2. Walter Tull was a pioneer in two different fields. Can you name them and explain why he is remembered as a brave person? (3 marks)

3. In your own words, what does the word 'equality' mean, and why is it important for people to be treated fairly? (2 marks)

4. If you could ask Mary Seacole one question about her travels, what would it be and why? (2 marks)

5. Choose one historical figure mentioned by Ellie. How did their actions help other people in the future? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Medal of Honour' for either Mary Seacole or Walter Tull. Inside the medal, draw a symbol that represents the bravery or the special talent they showed during their lives.

Extension challenge: Research another Black historical figure who lived in Britain. Write three sentences about how they changed history and share your findings with a partner.