Trailblazers of History: Celebrating Our Heroes

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by retrieving, inferring, and evaluating information about historical figures during Black History Month.

Read the passage carefully about inspiring historical figures. Use your best handwriting and full sentences to answer the questions below.

Every October, we celebrate Black History Month. It is a special time to learn about the incredible people who have helped shape our world. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, says we should remember those who stood up against injustice with great bravery. One such person was Rosa Parks, who showed immense courage on a bus in America, helping to change unfair laws. We also look at Mary Seacole, a kind nurse who travelled a long way to care for soldiers during the Crimean War. She used her own money to set up the 'British Hotel', where she provided food and medicine. Another pioneer was Walter Tull, one of the first Black professional footballers in Britain, who later became a brave officer in the army. These individuals, and many others, teach us about resilience and kindness. By learning their stories, we understand how people can make a real difference, even when faced with difficult challenges. Their legacies continue to inspire us to be fair, brave, and helpful to others in our own communities today.

Word bank: courageous · pioneer · contribution · injustice · inspiration · achievement

1. Name two historical figures mentioned in the text who helped others. (2 marks)

2. What did Mary Seacole do to help the soldiers during the war? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the author describes Rosa Parks as having 'immense courage'? (2 marks)

4. What might have happened if Mary Seacole had decided not to travel to the Crimean War? (2 marks)

5. Which of these people do you find the most inspiring and why? Justify your answer using examples from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a person you think is a hero, including one object that represents something they achieved.

Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the roles of Mary Seacole and Walter Tull. Explain why both their contributions were important to history. If you could interview one of these historical figures, what three questions would you ask them to learn more about their bravery?