Trailblazers of Change: A Historical Sorting Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and evaluate the significant contributions of key figures in Black history who have shaped modern British and global society.

Below is a list of historical figures and their achievements. Using your historical knowledge, match the pioneer to their field of influence. Then, use the 'Greater Depth' questions to analyse the long-term impact of their work. Ellie the elephant has provided a word bank to help you describe their legacies.

Word bank: Resilience · Pioneer · Advocacy · Systemic · Emancipation · Innovator · Legacy · Grassroots

1. Mary Seacole: Match this figure to her primary contribution (Nursing/Crimean War, Civil Rights, or Literature) and explain why her work was considered revolutionary for the time. (2 marks)

2. Olaudah Equiano: Identify his role in the movement to abolish the slave trade. How did his autobiography influence public opinion in Britain? (2 marks)

3. Walter Tull: Describe his achievements in the British Army during the First World War. Why was his promotion to officer status significant despite the prejudices of the era? (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast: How did the methods used by Mary Seacole to support soldiers differ from the methods used by campaigners like Olaudah Equiano to change the law? (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: If we were to remove one of these figures from history, how might the progress of civil rights in the UK be different today? (2 marks)

6. What might happen if the stories of these pioneers were not taught in schools? Explain the importance of historical representation. (2 marks)

Draw: Design a commemorative postage stamp that celebrates the legacy of one of the figures mentioned. Include a symbolic element that represents their specific contribution to society.

Extension challenge: Research a local hero in your own community who has fought for equality or positive change. Write a short, persuasive poem in the style of Leo the Lion, celebrating their courage and the 'ripple effect' their actions have had on your local area.