Trailblazers of Change: A Legacy of Courage

Learning objective: To recognise the contributions of significant historical figures to civil rights and equality, and reflect on the importance of inclusive history.

This is a True/False-with-Reasoning activity. Read each statement about historical figures who fought for equality. Determine if the statement is True or False. If False, you must provide the correct historical context to justify your answer. Use your knowledge of history and the provided word bank to support your reasoning.

Word bank: Mary Seacole · Windrush Generation · Civil Rights · Equality · Trailblazer · Contribution · Justice · Perseverance

1. True or False: Mary Seacole was a nurse who set up the 'British Hotel' to provide comfort and care for soldiers during the Crimean War. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

2. True or False: The Windrush Generation refers to people who arrived in Britain from the Caribbean between 1948 and 1971 to help rebuild the country after the Second World War. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

3. True or False: Rosa Parks is best known for her role in the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott, which was a pivotal moment in the fight against racial segregation. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

4. Explain why it is important for historians to document and celebrate the achievements of people from diverse backgrounds rather than focusing on a single narrative. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the challenges faced by pioneers of the past with the challenges faced by advocates for equality in the modern day. What remains the same? (3 marks)

6. Justify your answer: Does one person have the power to change the course of history, or is systemic change only possible through large groups working together? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative stamp or a mural design that celebrates the 'Trailblazers of Change'. Include symbols that represent their courage, such as a dove for peace, a lighthouse for guidance, or a book for the knowledge they shared with the world.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are Ellie the elephant, our history-loving friend. Write a heartfelt journal entry from her perspective about a historical figure who inspires you. Use rich, descriptive vocabulary to explain how their 'perseverance' helped shape the world we live in today. If you were to create a museum exhibition about this person, what three artefacts would you include and why?