Celebrating Black History: A Journey of Achievement

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

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions using evidence from the text. Ensure your answers are written in full sentences.

In the UK, Black History Month is observed every October. It is a vital time to reflect on the stories, achievements, and often overlooked contributions of Black people throughout history. While we celebrate these figures all year round, this month provides a dedicated space to learn about the pioneers who shaped our world. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, often reminds us that history is not just about dates; it is about the courage of individuals who stood up against injustice to create a fairer society for everyone.

From scientists and poets to community leaders and campaigners, the contributions of Black individuals are woven into the fabric of our nation. By exploring these narratives, we move beyond common historical perspectives to gain a more complete understanding of our past. Learning about these legacies helps us appreciate the diversity of our modern society and encourages us to be better citizens today. Whether it is through inventions, art, or social reform, these stories inspire us to strive for a future where everyone is valued for their unique talents and character. As we learn, we ensure these important voices are never forgotten.

Word bank: contribution · legacy · pioneering · injustice · diversity · courage

1. During which month is Black History Month observed in the UK? (1 mark)

2. According to the text, what does Ellie the elephant believe history is really about? (1 mark)

3. Why might the author describe historical contributions as being 'woven into the fabric of our nation'? (2 marks)

4. How does learning about Black history change the way a person might view their own community? (2 marks)

5. Why is it important to celebrate people who stood up against injustice? Provide a reason for your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a historical figure you admire, surrounded by symbols that represent their greatest achievements or the impact they had on the world.

Extension challenge: Research a Black British historical figure of your choice. Create a fact file including their name, their main contribution to society, and one quote that highlights their character.