

Trailblazers of Change: A Historical Timeline Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the contributions of significant historical figures by sequencing events and evaluating their impact on society.

Ellie the elephant has been busy researching the lives of inspiring historical figures who helped change the world. Below are six key moments from history. Your task is to order these events chronologically (from earliest to most recent). Once you have numbered them 1-6, use your critical thinking skills to answer the questions about the impact of these individuals.

Word bank: Mary Seacole · Timeline · Chronological · Inspiration · Legacy · Change · Contribution · Pioneer

1. Mary Seacole travels to the Crimea to nurse wounded soldiers (1854). 2. Walter Tull becomes one of the first Black officers to lead white soldiers into battle (1917). 3. Rosa Parks refuses to give up her bus seat, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955). 4. Dr Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his 'I Have a Dream' speech (1963). 5. Sir Trevor McDonald becomes the first Black news anchor on national television (1973). 6. Baroness Floella Benjamin starts her career as a children's presenter, later campaigning for children's rights (1976). Place these in the correct chronological order. (6 marks)

2. Explain why it is important for historians to document the stories of people like Mary Seacole and Walter Tull. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the methods used by Rosa Parks and Dr Martin Luther King Jr. to achieve social change. How were their approaches similar? (4 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If these individuals had not taken their brave actions, how might our modern society be different today? (4 marks)

5. What might happen if we only ever celebrated one type of hero in our history books? Discuss the benefits of learning about a diverse range of historical figures. (4 marks)

6. Choose one person from the timeline. If you could interview them today, what is the most important question you would ask them about their experience? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative plaque or a 'statue of the future' dedicated to one of the people mentioned in the timeline. Include symbols that represent their specific achievements.



Extension challenge: Research a 'hidden hero' from your local area or community. Write a short, persuasive paragraph explaining why this person deserves to have a blue plaque dedicated to them.