

Celebrating Pioneers: Black History Month

Learning objective: To retrieve information from a non-fiction text and develop inferential reading skills regarding historical contributions.

Read the passage below carefully. Use your best handwriting and full sentences to answer the questions. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, says: 'Look closely at the facts to find the hidden meaning!'

Every October, the United Kingdom celebrates Black History Month. It is a time to recognise and honour the incredible contributions of Black people throughout history. While we celebrate these achievements all year round, October is a special moment to pause and learn about the pioneers who have shaped our world today.

From scientists who discovered life-saving medicines to artists who changed how we see the world, history is full of remarkable individuals. For example, some pioneers worked tirelessly to ensure that everyone was treated with fairness and equality. Others excelled in music, sports, or literature, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to inspire us.

By learning about these figures, we gain a deeper understanding of our shared past. It is not just about looking back; it is about celebrating the diversity of our modern society. Whether you are reading about a civil rights leader or a brilliant inventor, every story teaches us something new about courage and perseverance. As Ellie the elephant says, history is a giant library of stories, and we have only just begun to turn the pages to discover the amazing people who made a difference.

Word bank: pioneer · contribution · legacy · achievement · inspiration · community

1. In which month does the United Kingdom celebrate Black History Month? (Literal) (1 mark)

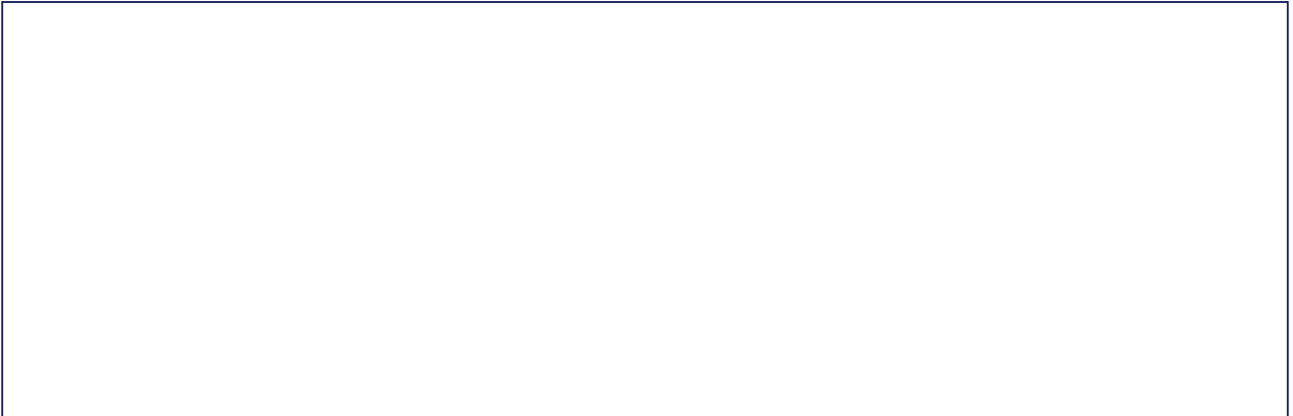
2. List two different areas of achievement mentioned in the text where pioneers have excelled. (Literal) (2 marks)

3. Why does the author suggest that Black History Month is about more than just 'looking back'? (Inferential) (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'history is a giant library of stories' tell us about the number of people who have made a difference? (Inferential) (2 marks)

5. Why is it important to celebrate the achievements of people from all backgrounds? Justify your answer using examples from the text or your own ideas. (Evaluative) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a person you admire for their achievements. Surround them with symbols that represent their work, such as a paintbrush, a book, or a scientific beaker.



Extension challenge: Research a Black historical figure who is not mentioned in the text. Write a short paragraph explaining why their contribution is significant. Compare and contrast their achievements with those of a person you already know. What might happen if their discovery or work had never taken place?