

Celebrating Pioneers and Trailblazers: Black History Month

Learning objective: To develop a deeper understanding of Black History Month by analysing the contributions of historical figures and explaining their lasting impact on society.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge and reasoning skills to provide detailed, well-structured answers. Ensure you use precise vocabulary.

This worksheet focuses on reflecting upon the lives of significant individuals who have shaped our world. During Black History Month, we honour those who faced adversity with immense courage and whose actions paved the way for a more equitable future. Think about scientists, activists, writers, and leaders who have challenged the status quo to ensure equality for all.

Word bank: contribution · pioneer · advocacy · resilience · legacy · inequality · justice · courage

1. Define the term 'pioneer' in the context of Black History Month. Why is it important to recognise people who were the first to achieve something in their field? (2 marks)

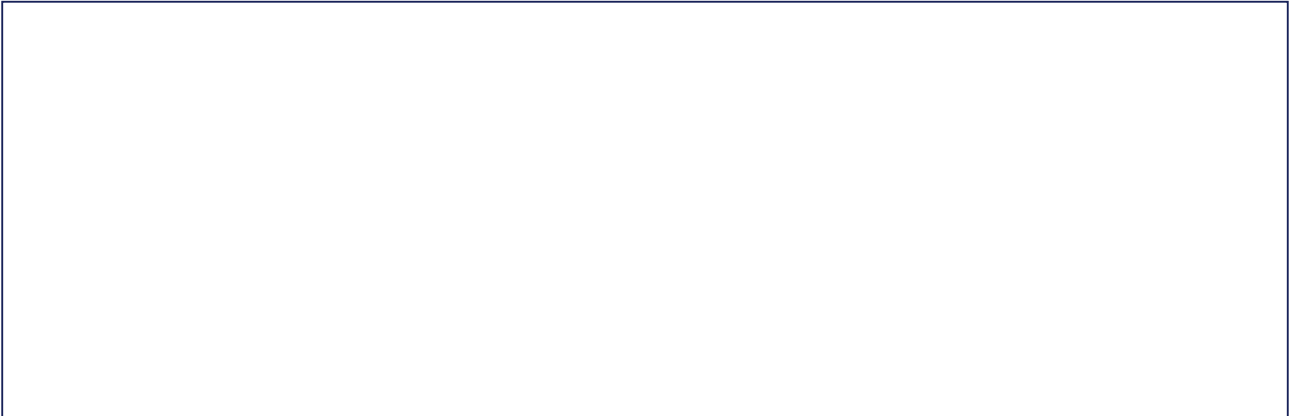
2. Explain why it is significant that we dedicate a specific month to celebrating Black history, rather than only acknowledging these contributions as part of general history lessons. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the impact of a historical figure who fought for social justice with one who made a breakthrough in science or medicine. How did both contribute to progress? (4 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If you were tasked with adding a new person to a history textbook to represent Black excellence, who would you choose and why? What legacy would they leave behind? (3 marks)

5. What might happen to our collective understanding of history if we only studied the actions of a small group of people, while ignoring the achievements of others? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a 'Hidden Hero'—someone who has made a difference in history. Include a symbol in your drawing that represents their greatest achievement (e.g., a book for an author, a telescope for an astronomer, or a gavel for a campaigner).



Extension challenge: Imagine Ellie the elephant is curating a museum exhibition titled 'Voices of Change.' Write a short, persuasive speech (100–150 words) that Ellie could give to visitors to explain why learning about historical figures who stood up against inequality is essential for building a kinder future.