Honouring History: A Portrait of Resilience

Learning objective: To analyse the impact of significant Black historical figures and represent their legacy through visual storytelling and symbolic illustration.

Choose a historical figure who has contributed to the fight for equality, civil rights, or cultural progress. Use the drawing space to create a portrait that incorporates symbols of their achievements. Ensure your labels provide context to your artistic choices.

Draw: Create a central portrait of your chosen historical figure. Use a 'symbolic realist' style: the subject should be at the centre, surrounded by a border of objects or patterns that represent their life's work. For example, if illustrating an activist, surround them with motifs of chains breaking or rising suns. Use fine-liner pens for detail and watercolours or coloured pencils to create a sense of historical gravitas.

Label words: Resilience · Justice · Legacy · Advocacy · Determination · Equality · Courage · Triumph

Steps:

1. Identify the historical figure you have chosen and explain why their contribution is significant to British or global history.
2. Explain why you chose specific symbols (e.g., a pen for a writer, a map for an explorer) to represent the person's achievements.

3. Justify your choice of colour palette. How does the mood of your colours reflect the personality or the era of your chosen figure?

4. Compare and contrast the challenges faced by your chosen figure with the rights we enjoy today. What has changed?

5. What might happen if this individual had not taken the actions they did? How would our society be different?

6. Label your drawing by drawing lines to at least four key features and describing their symbolic importance.