History Heroes: Making a Difference

Learning objective: To learn about significant individuals from Black history and understand how their actions have changed our world.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Remember to use full sentences and explain your reasoning clearly.

History is shaped by people who have the courage to stand up for what is right. Throughout time, many Black historical figures have worked tirelessly to improve our world through science, art, sports, and the fight for equal rights. By learning about their stories, we can understand the importance of fairness and how one person's actions can create a lasting impact for everyone.

Word bank: courage · legacy · contribution · injustice · change · inspiration · pioneer · equality

1. Choose one person from Black history you have studied. Explain why they are considered a 'pioneer' in their field. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the challenges faced by someone fighting for equality in the past with the world we live in today. What has changed? (3 marks)

3. If you were writing a biography about a historical hero, why would it be important to include their failures as well as their successes? (2 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Does one person have the power to change history, or does it take a whole group of people to make a difference? (3 marks)

5. What might happen if these historical figures had decided to stay silent instead of speaking out against injustice? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a person who inspires you. Around the portrait, draw symbols that represent their greatest contribution to history (e.g., a book for a writer, a beaker for a scientist, or a globe for an explorer).

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter for a time-travelling newspaper. Write a short interview (5 sentences) with a historical hero of your choice. Ask them what motivated them to keep going when things became difficult, and write their response using the vocabulary from the word bank.