History Makers: Celebrating Black British Pioneers

Learning objective: To recognise the significant contributions of Black individuals to British history and understand their impact on society.

Ellie the elephant has been exploring the archives to learn about inspiring figures who changed history. Read the descriptions of these important people, then match them to their achievements by drawing a line or writing the correct name next to the description. For the Greater Depth section, use your historical enquiry skills to justify why these contributions matter today.

Word bank: Mary Seacole · Walter Tull · Olaudah Equiano · Claudia Jones · Ignatius Sancho

1. 1. I was a brave nurse who travelled to the Crimean War to care for wounded soldiers. Who am I? (1 mark)

2. 2. I was a professional footballer and a brave soldier who became an officer in the First World War. Who am I? (1 mark)

3. 3. I was a writer and the first person of African heritage to vote in a British election. Who am I? (1 mark)

4. 4. Explain why it is important for historians to research and share the stories of people like Mary Seacole. Justify your answer using examples of her impact. (4 marks)

5. 5. Compare and contrast the challenges faced by these pioneers. What might have happened if they had not been brave enough to pursue their goals? (4 marks)

6. 6. Imagine you are a historian discovering a new artefact about a person who changed Britain. What object would you hope to find and why? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative plaque that could be placed in a town square to honour one of these historical figures. Include symbols that represent their achievements (e.g., a medical cross for a nurse, or a football for a player).

Extension challenge: Research a 'Local Hero' from your own town or city who has made a positive difference to the community. Write a formal letter to your local council explaining why you believe there should be a statue or a blue plaque dedicated to them.