

Celebrating Pioneers: Black History Month

Learning objective: To understand the purpose of Black History Month and recognise the contributions of Black historical figures.

Read the passage carefully with Ellie the elephant, then answer the questions below to test your understanding of why we celebrate this important time.

Every October in the United Kingdom, we celebrate Black History Month. Ellie the elephant loves this time of year because it is a special opportunity to learn about the incredible lives of Black people who have helped shape our world. Throughout history, many Black pioneers have made amazing contributions to science, medicine, literature, and the fight for equality. For example, Mary Seacole was a brave nurse who travelled to the Crimean War to care for wounded soldiers. She used her own money and resources to set up a place called the 'British Hotel' where she provided food and comfort. Another inspirational figure is Walter Tull, who was one of the first Black professional footballers in England and a brave officer in the army during the First World War. Black History Month is not just about looking at the past; it is about celebrating the achievements of people today and ensuring their stories are shared. By learning about these heroes, we can all work towards a kinder, fairer future where everyone's story is valued and heard.

Word bank: Pioneer · Contribution · Heritage · Achievement · Equality · Legacy

1. In which month is Black History Month celebrated in the United Kingdom? (1 mark)

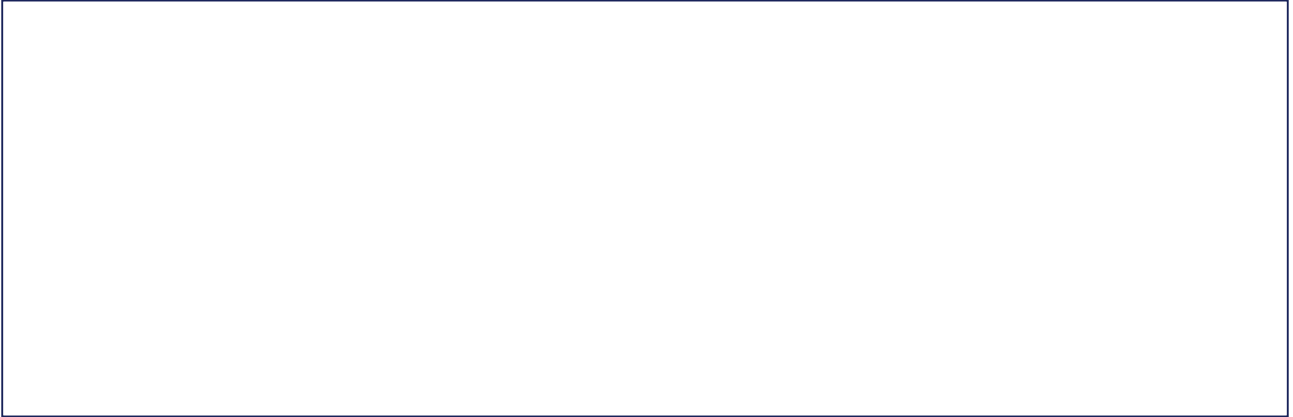
2. Name two jobs that Mary Seacole and Walter Tull are remembered for. (2 marks)

3. Why does the author suggest that Black History Month is important for our future? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why might Mary Seacole be described as a 'pioneer'? (2 marks)

5. Why do you think it is important to learn about the stories of people from different backgrounds? Explain your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a 'Hero's Medal' that you would design to honour someone who has made a positive difference in your community.



Extension challenge: Research another Black historical figure, such as Rosa Parks or Benjamin Zephaniah. Write three interesting facts about them to share with your class.