

Celebrating Pioneers: Black History Month

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

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Think deeply about the impact these individuals had on our world.

In the United Kingdom, October is celebrated as Black History Month. This important time allows us to recognise and honour the immense contributions that Black people have made to British society and the wider world throughout history. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, often reminds us that many stories have been left out of our books for too long.

During this month, we learn about courageous pioneers like Mary Seacole. Mary was a brilliant nurse who travelled long distances to care for soldiers during the Crimean War. She used her own money to set up a 'British Hotel' to provide food and comfort to those in need. We also remember campaigners who fought for equality and fairness, ensuring that everyone is treated with kindness and respect regardless of their background. By celebrating these heroes, we learn about the progress made in our society and the work that still continues today. Black History Month is not just about looking at the past; it is about celebrating the diverse culture that makes our country vibrant and strong. When we share these stories, we build a better, more inclusive future for everyone.

Word bank: contribution · pioneer · legacy · equality · courageous · campaigner

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

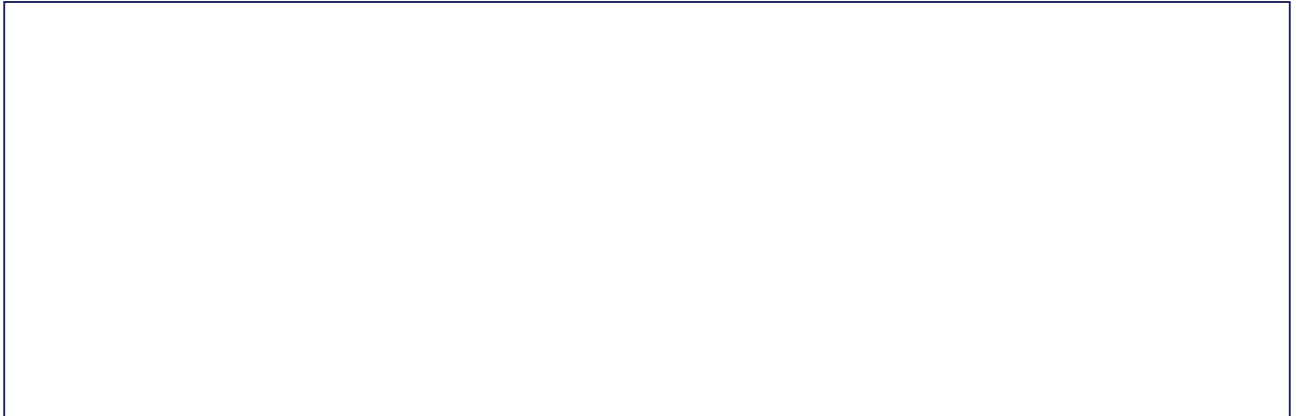
2. What was the name of the place Mary Seacole opened to help soldiers? (1 mark)

3. Why does the author suggest that it is important to share stories that have been 'left out of our books'? (2 marks)

4. Explain why Mary Seacole might be described as a 'pioneer'. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

5. Do you agree that we should celebrate Black History Month all year round rather than just in October? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative plaque for a historical hero you have learned about, including symbols that represent their achievements.



Extension challenge: Research a person who has made a positive impact on your local community. Write a short biography explaining why they are a hero, using at least three words from the word bank.