

Celebrating Black History Month

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Black History Month and identify key historical figures and events in British history.

Read the passage below carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Use full sentences for your answers.

Ellie the elephant was visiting the local museum with Pip the caterpillar to learn about Black History Month. Every October in the UK, people celebrate the incredible contributions of Black individuals throughout history. Ellie explained that this special month began in the UK in 1987 to ensure that important stories, which were often left out of history books, were finally shared and celebrated.

Pip looked at a display about Mary Seacole, a brave nurse who helped soldiers during the Crimean War. Unlike some others, Mary used her own money to set up the 'British Hotel' to provide food and medicine for those in need. Another section showed the Empire Windrush ship, which arrived in 1948. It carried people from the Caribbean who came to help rebuild Britain after the Second World War. These people are known as the Windrush Generation.

"It isn't just about the past," Ellie remarked softly. "It is about understanding how these pioneers shaped our world today." Pip nodded, noting down the word 'pioneer' in his notebook. They both felt inspired by the courage and determination shown by so many people who worked hard to make the world a fairer place.

Word bank: Pioneer · Contribution · Generation · Significance · Determination

1. In which year did Black History Month begin in the United Kingdom? (1 mark)

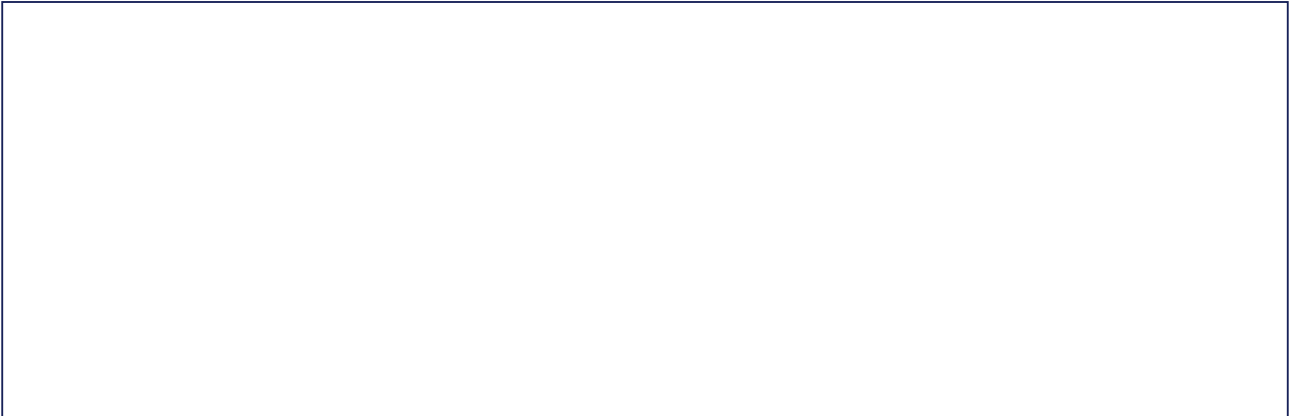
2. What was the name of the hotel established by Mary Seacole to help soldiers? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think Ellie says that some important stories were 'left out of history books' in the past? (2 marks)

4. Using the text, explain why the Windrush Generation was so important for Britain after the Second World War. (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is important to have a month dedicated to Black history? Explain your opinion using evidence from the text or your own ideas. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the Empire Windrush ship arriving at the docks or Mary Seacole helping people at the British Hotel.



Extension challenge: Research another famous Black person from British history, such as the Roman 'Ivory Bangle Lady' or the musician John Blanke, and write three facts about their life.