

Year 5 History: Celebrating Black History Month in Britain

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Black History Month in the UK and recognise the key contributions of Black Britons throughout history.

Ellie the elephant loves uncovering stories from the past! Use your historical knowledge and the word bank to complete the questions below about Black History Month and influential Black British figures.

Word bank: October · Mary Seacole · Walter Tull · Empire Windrush · John Blanke · heritage

1. In which month is Black History Month officially celebrated each year across the United Kingdom, and why is having this dedicated month significant? (2 marks)

2. Walter Tull was a pioneering figure in British history. Identify two major achievements Walter Tull is remembered for in British sport and the military. (2 marks)

3. Mary Seacole travelled from Jamaica to help wounded soldiers during the Crimean War. Describe the medical aid she provided and explain how she funded her own journey. (3 marks)

4. In 1948, the passenger ship HMT Empire Windrush arrived in Britain. Explain why people from the Caribbean were invited to Britain after the Second World War and give one example of how they helped rebuild the nation. (3 marks)

5. Historians have uncovered evidence of Black presence in Britain stretching back to Roman and Tudor times (such as the royal trumpeter John Blanke). Why is it important to integrate Black British history into the curriculum all year round, rather than studying it only during October? (2 marks)

Draw: Design a commemorative Royal Mail postage stamp celebrating an inspirational Black Briton (such as Mary Seacole or Walter Tull). Include their portrait, an important symbol representing their contribution, and the stamp value.



Extension challenge: Conduct a mini-investigation into Claudia Jones or Dr Harold Moody. Write a four-sentence biographical fact file detailing who they were and how their work shaped modern British society.