Black History: Trailblazers and Change-makers

Learning objective: To identify key figures and significant events in Black history, recognising their contributions to civil rights and global society.

Read each flashcard to learn about an important person or event. Test your memory by covering the answer side and seeing if you can recall the facts.

Who was Rosa Parks and why is she remembered in history?

Rosa Parks was an American activist who famously refused to give up her seat on a bus in 1955. Her brave action helped spark the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a major turning point in the struggle against racial segregation.

What was the Windrush generation?

The Windrush generation refers to the people who arrived in the UK from Caribbean countries between 1948 and 1971. They were invited to help rebuild Britain after the Second World War and made a lasting contribution to British culture, public services, and the economy.

Who was Mary Seacole?

Mary Seacole was a British-Jamaican nurse who set up the 'British Hotel' behind the lines during the Crimean War. She used her own money to provide food, shelter, and medical care for wounded soldiers on the battlefield.

What was the main goal of the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s?

The movement aimed to end racial segregation and discrimination against Black people in the United States, ensuring equal rights under the law, such as the right to vote and access to public facilities.

Who was Martin Luther King Jr.?

He was a prominent leader in the American Civil Rights Movement who advocated for non-violent protest. He is best known for his 'I Have a Dream' speech, where he spoke of a future where people would be judged by the content of their character rather than their skin colour.

What was the 'Apartheid' system in South Africa?

Apartheid was a system of institutionalised racial segregation and discrimination that existed in South Africa from 1948 until the early 1990s, where the rights of the majority Black population were severely restricted.

Who was Nelson Mandela?

Nelson Mandela was a South African activist who fought against Apartheid. After spending 27 years in prison for his beliefs, he was released and became the first Black president of South Africa in 1994, working to unite the country.

Why is Walter Tull significant in British history?

Walter Tull was a professional footballer who became one of the first Black officers to lead white British troops into battle during the First World War. He broke down barriers in both sport and the military.

What does the term 'Civil Rights' mean?

Civil rights are the basic legal rights that every person in a country should have, including the right to fair treatment, freedom of speech, and protection from discrimination.

How did Olaudah Equiano contribute to the end of the slave trade?

Olaudah Equiano was a formerly enslaved man who wrote an autobiography detailing his experiences. His book became a bestseller and helped convince the British public that the slave trade was cruel and inhumane, contributing to the movement to abolish it.

Who was Harriet Tubman?

Harriet Tubman was an American activist who escaped slavery and then risked her life many times to lead others to freedom using a secret network of safe houses known as the Underground Railroad.

What is the importance of learning about Black history?

Learning about Black history helps us understand the significant contributions Black people have made to society, the struggles they have overcome, and how these actions have shaped the fairer, more inclusive world we strive for today.