

Celebrating Remarkable Lives: Black History Month

Learning objective: To recognise the achievements and contributions of Black historical figures and understand the importance of Black History Month in the UK.

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

Every October, the United Kingdom celebrates Black History Month. It is a vital time to honour the achievements of Black people throughout history. While we should celebrate diversity all year round, this month provides a special opportunity to learn about pioneers who changed our world. We remember figures like Mary Seacole, a brilliant nurse who travelled to the Crimean War to care for wounded soldiers, often using her own money to provide food and medicine. We also celebrate innovators and artists who have shaped our culture.

Ellie the elephant often reminds us that history is a collection of stories that help us understand our present. By learning about people who fought for equality and justice, we gain a better understanding of how to treat one another with kindness and respect. Black History Month is not just about looking back; it is about celebrating the ongoing contributions of Black people in our communities today. Whether through science, literature, or leadership, these stories inspire us to be courageous and stand up for what is right. When we share these narratives, we ensure that every voice is heard and valued in our global community.

Word bank: contribution · resilience · achievement · heritage · equality · pioneer

1. In which month does the United Kingdom celebrate Black History Month, and what was the name of the nurse mentioned in the text? (2 marks)

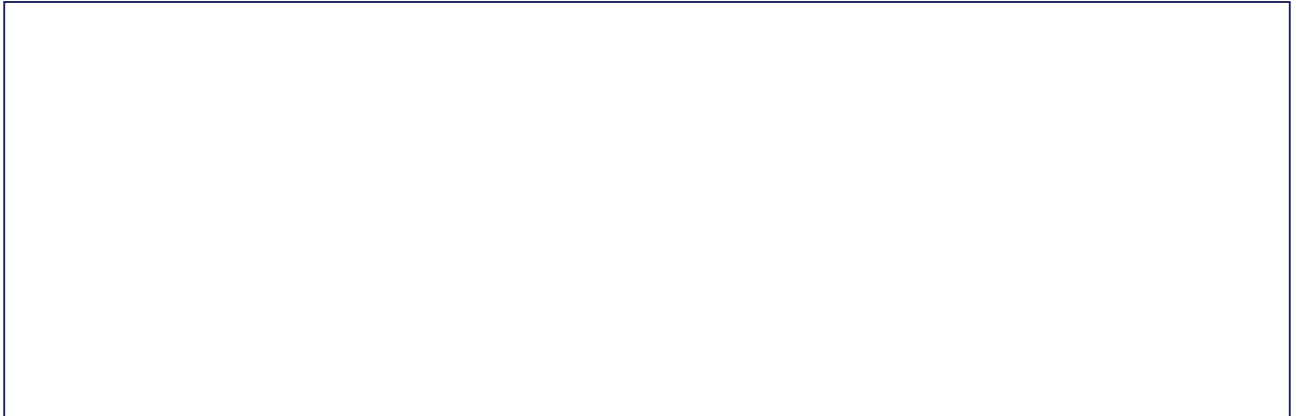
2. According to the text, what did Mary Seacole do to help soldiers during the Crimean War? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author suggest that learning about history helps us become better people today? (2 marks)

4. What might happen to our understanding of the world if we only learned about one type of person in history? (2 marks)

5. Do you agree that it is important to have a specific month dedicated to Black history? Justify your answer using reasons from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of someone you admire who has made a positive contribution to their community, and add a label explaining why they are a pioneer.



Extension challenge: Research a person who has made a significant contribution to science or the arts. Write a short biography of three sentences. Compare their achievements to those of Mary Seacole: how were their contributions similar, and how were they different? Justify your comparison.