Trailblazers of Change: Black History in Britain

Learning objective: To understand the contributions of significant Black figures to British history and reflect on the impact of their achievements.

Use your historical knowledge of key figures and events to answer the following questions. Provide detailed explanations where required.

Ellie the elephant has been busy reading through historical archives to learn about the incredible people who have helped shape modern Britain. From the brave nurses of the 19th century to the poets and pioneers of the 20th century, their stories are an essential part of our national history.

Word bank: Windrush Generation · Mary Seacole · Olaudah Equiano · Abolition · Civil Rights · Contribution · Legacy · Public Service

1. Explain why Mary Seacole is remembered for her work during the Crimean War. What qualities did she show in her service? (2 marks)

2. Who was Olaudah Equiano, and what role did his autobiography play in the movement to end the slave trade? (2 marks)

3. What was the 'Windrush Generation', and why is their arrival in 1948 considered a significant turning point in British social history? (2 marks)

4. Think about a Black British historical figure you have studied. Describe one way their actions changed British society for the better. (2 marks)

5. If you were to create a new memorial in your town to honor a figure from Black British history, who would you choose and what symbols would you include on the statue to represent their life's work? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a person who has made a significant contribution to British history. Surround them with symbols or objects that represent their achievements (for example, books for an author, a medical bag for a nurse, or a microphone for a musician).

Extension challenge: Research a Black British person who is currently making history in the fields of science, literature, or sport. Write a short paragraph explaining why you think their work will be remembered in 100 years' time.