

Celebrating Black History: A Journey with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Black History Month and explore the contributions of Black figures in British history.

Read the passage below carefully, then answer the questions that follow using evidence from the text.

Ellie the elephant has spent years wandering through the vast archives of history. She loves sharing stories about the incredible people who have shaped our world. Every October, Ellie highlights Black History Month, a time dedicated to celebrating the achievements and contributions of Black individuals throughout history. It is a time to look beyond the history books we see every day and uncover the stories of pioneers who fought for equality and justice. In Britain, this includes figures like Mary Seacole, a brave nurse who cared for soldiers during the Crimean War, and Walter Tull, who was one of the first Black professional footballers and a courageous officer in the First World War. Ellie explains that Black history is not just about one month; it is a vital part of our shared human story that should be recognized all year round. By learning about these heroes, we gain a deeper understanding of our past and build a more inclusive future. As Ellie likes to trumpet, history is at its best when every voice is heard and every story is told.

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

1. According to the passage, who were Mary Seacole and Walter Tull? (2 marks)

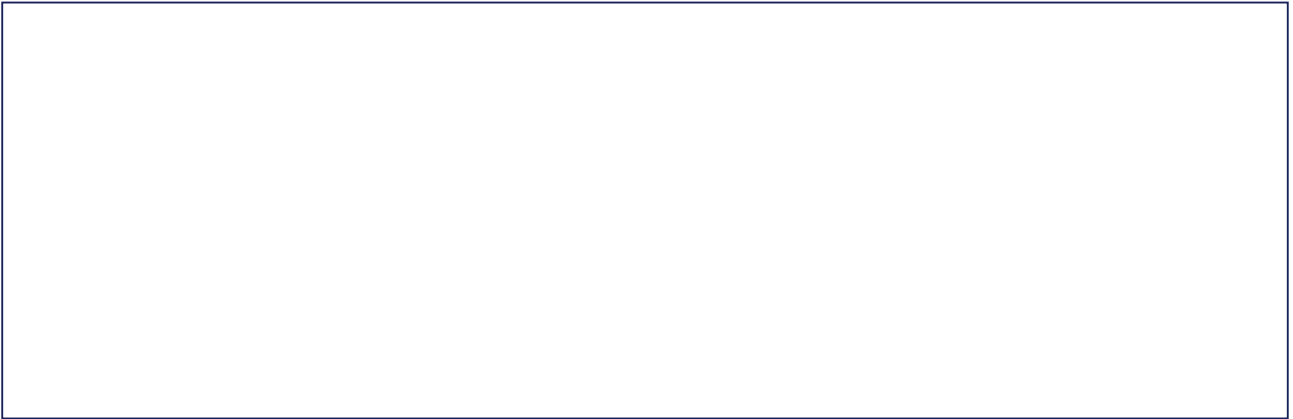
2. During which month is Black History Month celebrated? (1 mark)

3. Why does Ellie suggest that Black history should be recognized all year round rather than just in October? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'look beyond the history books we see every day' suggest about how history is sometimes taught? (2 marks)

5. Do you agree with Ellie that learning about diverse historical figures helps build a better future? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a poster for Black History Month featuring Ellie the elephant holding a book about a historical hero you have researched.



Extension challenge: Research one other Black British historical figure and write a short paragraph explaining why their contribution was important to society.