Pioneers of Progress: Black History Month

Learning objective: To analyze the impact of significant individuals from Black history and evaluate their contributions to British and global society.

Read the questions carefully. Use your historical knowledge and research skills to construct well-reasoned, evidence-based answers. Ensure you justify your opinions using specific historical context.

Ellie the elephant has been reading through archives of history. She wants you to help her understand how individuals have shaped our world. From Mary Seacole's bravery on the battlefield to the Windrush generation's influence on British culture, history is built upon the actions of remarkable people who stood up for what is right.

Word bank: Legacy · Injustice · Pioneer · Advocacy · Systemic · Contribution · Resilience · Equality · Campaigner

1. Explain why Mary Seacole is often referred to as a pioneer in medical history. Compare her experiences during the Crimean War to those of traditional military nurses of that era. (3 marks)

2. The arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush in 1948 changed the demographic and cultural landscape of the United Kingdom. Justify the importance of the 'Windrush Generation' in rebuilding mail-war Britain. (3 marks)

3. What might happen if influential campaigners for civil rights had chosen to remain silent in the face of systemic injustice? Discuss the potential impact on modern equality laws. (4 marks)

4. Select one Black British figure from history. Analyze how their personal resilience helped them overcome obstacles to achieve their goal. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the methods used by different historical figures to advocate for change. Why do you think certain methods were more successful in specific political climates? (4 marks)

Draw: Design a commemorative postage stamp that celebrates the legacy of a Black historical figure. Include symbols that represent their greatest achievement or their contribution to British society.

Extension challenge: Research a lesser-known figure from Black history. Write a persuasive speech from their perspective, explaining the challenges they faced and why their work is still relevant to a Grade 5 pupil living in the United Kingdom today.