Celebrating Pioneers: An Inspiring Journey

Learning objective: To recognize and appreciate the achievements of significant Black individuals throughout history and understand their impact on our world.

Below is a 'True or False with Reason' activity. For each statement about a historical pioneer, decide if it is True or False. If you think it is False, explain why you think so or provide a correction. Use your knowledge of history to justify your answers.

Word bank: Mary Seacole · Walter Tull · Rosa Parks · Pioneer · Resilience · Courage · Legacy · Equality

1. Mary Seacole was a brave nurse who used her own money to travel to the Crimean War to care for sick and wounded soldiers. True or False? Explain why her actions showed resilience. (2 marks)

2. Walter Tull was a professional footballer who was also one of the first Black officers to lead white soldiers into battle during the First World War. True or False? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

3. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus in Alabama, which helped spark a movement for civil rights. True or False? Why might someone describe this as an act of great courage? (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the challenges faced by Mary Seacole and Walter Tull. How did both individuals contribute to a fairer society? (3 marks)

5. What might happen if these pioneers had decided to stay silent instead of taking action? Explain the impact on their legacy. (2 marks)

6. If you were to choose one modern-day person who acts as a pioneer for change today, who would it be and what values do they demonstrate? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a person you admire who has made a positive change in the world. Include symbols in the background that represent their achievements (e.g., a stethoscope for a doctor, or a book for an educator).

Extension challenge: Imagine you are Ellie the elephant, who loves history. Write a short, thoughtful poem or a diary entry from the perspective of one of these pioneers on the day they decided to stand up for what they believed in. Consider the emotions they might have felt.