Celebrating Black History: Contributions and Achievements

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Black History Month and recognize the contributions of Black individuals to British society and global history.

Use your knowledge of history and social responsibility to answer the following questions. Reflect on why we celebrate historical figures and how their actions continue to shape our world today.

Black History Month is observed every October in the United Kingdom. It is a time dedicated to celebrating the achievements, culture, and history of Black people. It provides an opportunity to recognize the vital contributions that Black individuals have made—and continue to make—to science, literature, politics, music, and the fight for human rights. By learning about the past, we can better understand the importance of fairness and equality in our own communities today.

Word bank: Contribution · Equality · Injustice · Legacy · Perseverance · Representation · Advocacy

1. Why is it important for us to dedicate a specific month to celebrating Black history, rather than just focusing on general history throughout the year? (2 marks)

2. Choose one historical figure you have studied who campaigned for civil rights. Explain one challenge they faced and how they overcame it. (3 marks)

3. Define the term 'legacy' in your own words. How can a person's actions today create a positive legacy for future generations? (2 marks)

4. Max the monkey is looking at a timeline of historical events. If a person fought against an injustice in 1950, how many years ago did that happen? Show your calculation. (2 marks)

5. How can learning about the achievements of diverse groups of people help to create a more inclusive school environment? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a person who inspires you. Around the portrait, draw symbols or words that represent their biggest achievements or the positive impact they have had on the world.

Extension challenge: Research a Black British scientist or inventor. Write a short paragraph explaining their invention and why it was important for the time period they lived in.