

Celebrating Remarkable Lives: Black History Month

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by exploring the lives of significant historical figures and understanding their contributions to society.

Read the passage below carefully. Then, answer the questions that follow to show your understanding of these important historical figures.

In Year 4, we love learning about people who changed the world. During Black History Month, we look back at the incredible stories of Black men and women who showed great courage. One such person was Mary Seacole. Born in Jamaica, Mary was a brilliant nurse. During the Crimean War, she travelled thousands of miles to set up the 'British Hotel'. She used her own money and knowledge of herbal medicine to look after sick soldiers, often riding out to the battlefield to help those who were hurt. She is remembered today for her kindness and bravery. Another inspiring figure is Walter Tull. He was a talented footballer who played for professional clubs in England. Later, he became one of the first Black officers to lead white British soldiers into battle during the First World War. Both Mary and Walter teach us that with determination, we can overcome challenges and make a lasting difference in our communities.

Word bank: pioneer · legacy · contribution · courage · innovation · inspiration

1. Using the text, explain why Mary Seacole travelled so far during the Crimean War. (2 marks)

2. How did Mary Seacole provide care for the soldiers on the battlefield? (2 marks)

3. What were the two main roles that Walter Tull had during his life? (2 marks)

4. Why do you think it was significant that Walter Tull became an officer in the First World War? (2 marks)

5. Look at the word 'pioneer'. Based on the text, why could Mary Seacole be described as a pioneer? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of Mary Seacole or Walter Tull showing them doing the work they are famous for. Add a label to your drawing explaining one important thing about them.



Extension challenge: Ellie the elephant has a great memory for history! Imagine you could interview Mary Seacole or Walter Tull. Write three questions you would ask them to learn more about their life and how they felt during their most difficult challenges.