

# Trailblazers of History: Celebrating Mary Seacole

*Learning objective: To develop comprehension skills by learning about the life and contributions of a significant historical figure, Mary Seacole.*

Read the passage about Mary Seacole carefully. Once you have finished, answer the questions below and use your creativity to colour the scene described in the drawing prompt.

Mary Seacole was a remarkable woman born in Jamaica in 1805. Growing up, she learned traditional medicine and nursing skills from her mother, who ran a boarding house for invalid soldiers. As an adult, Mary travelled the world, always wanting to help those in need. When the Crimean War began in 1853, Mary heard that soldiers were suffering without proper care. She travelled all the way to the Crimea at her own expense. She established the 'British Hotel', which was not a hotel for tourists, but a place where she provided food, shelter, and medical supplies to wounded soldiers. Despite facing many challenges and being turned away by official organisations, Mary's resilience and kindness made her a beloved figure. She became known as 'Mother Seacole' because of her deep compassion for the soldiers she helped on the battlefield.

*Word bank: pioneering · nursing · resilience · compassion · contribution · heroine · dedication*

**1. Where did Mary Seacole learn her initial nursing skills and why was this important for her future? (2 marks)**

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**2. Explain in your own words what the 'British Hotel' was used for during the Crimean War. (2 marks)**

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**3. Why do you think the soldiers gave Mary the nickname 'Mother Seacole'? (2 marks)**

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**4. Identify one personality trait Mary Seacole showed when she decided to go to the Crimea despite being turned away by others. (1 mark)**

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5. If you could ask Mary Seacole one question about her travels, what would it be and why? (2 marks)

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**Draw:** Draw a scene showing Mary Seacole standing outside her 'British Hotel'. Include a flag, some medicine bottles, and a group of soldiers looking grateful. Add Ellie the elephant nearby, holding a history book and smiling as she learns about Mary's brave story.



*Extension challenge: Research another historical figure who made a positive impact on the world. Write three facts about them and explain how their actions changed things for the better.*