

Inspiring Stories: Celebrating Black History Month

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by identifying key information and exploring the significance of influential figures in Black history.

Read the text carefully, then answer the questions below. Use full sentences to show your understanding.

Every October, schools across the United Kingdom celebrate Black History Month. It is a special time to learn about the incredible achievements and contributions of Black people throughout history. Ellie the elephant loves this time of year because she has an amazing memory for stories! She often shares tales of people who showed great courage and determination to make the world a fairer place. One such person was Mary Seacole. Born in Jamaica in 1805, Mary was a brilliant nurse. During the Crimean War, she travelled thousands of miles to look after soldiers who were sick or injured. She opened the 'British Hotel' to provide food and medicine. Even when people told her she could not help, she used her own money to travel and support those in need. Today, we remember Mary Seacole as a pioneer who showed us that kindness and bravery can change lives. Black History Month reminds us that history is made by people from all backgrounds, and their stories help us understand our world better.

Word bank: contribution · resilience · pioneer · legacy · equality · determination

1. Why does Ellie the elephant enjoy Black History Month so much? (2 marks)

2. In your own words, describe the challenges Mary Seacole faced while trying to help soldiers. (2 marks)

3. What was the name of the place Mary Seacole opened to provide food and medicine? (1 mark)

4. Why do you think it is important for us to learn about people like Mary Seacole? (2 marks)

5. Find and copy one word from the text that means 'someone who is the first to do something'. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Mary Seacole helping someone in need. Include details like her medicine bag or the British Hotel in the background.



Extension challenge: Research another person who made a positive change in history. Write three interesting facts about them and explain why you think they should be remembered today.