

# Celebrating Pioneers: Mary Seacole

*Learning objective: To develop an understanding of significant historical figures by identifying key facts and representing them through creative visual art.*

Read the passage about Mary Seacole. Use the information to help you complete the drawing task below. Make sure your drawing reflects the historical setting of the 1850s.

Mary Seacole was a remarkable woman born in Jamaica in 1805. She was a talented healer who learned traditional medicine from her mother. During the Crimean War in the 1850s, Mary heard that soldiers were suffering and needed help. Despite being turned away by official organisations, she used her own money to travel thousands of miles to the war front. She set up the 'British Hotel', where she provided food, shelter, and medical care to soldiers. Even under dangerous conditions, Mary showed incredible bravery and kindness, earning the nickname 'Mother Seacole'. Today, we remember her as a pioneer of nursing whose dedication saved many lives.

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

**1. Where was Mary Seacole born, and what did she learn there that helped her later in life? (2 marks)**

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**2. Why did Mary decide to travel to the Crimean War, even though she was not officially invited? (2 marks)**

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**3. What was the 'British Hotel', and what did Mary provide for the soldiers there? (2 marks)**

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**4. Find a word in the text that means 'someone who is the first to do something'. (1 mark)**

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

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**Draw:** Draw a scene featuring Mary Seacole at the 'British Hotel'. Include details from the 1850s, such as the style of clothing or the medical supplies she might have used. Ensure your drawing shows the kindness and care she offered to the soldiers.



*Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in the 1850s. Write a three-sentence diary entry from the perspective of a soldier who was helped by Mary Seacole, describing how her care made you feel.*