

Celebrating Pioneers: A Black History Month Activity

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills and learn about the contributions of historical Black figures.

Read the passage below about two inspiring historical figures, then answer the questions to test your knowledge. Use your best handwriting and full sentences.

Black History Month is a time to celebrate the incredible achievements of Black people throughout history. We remember Mary Seacole, a brave nurse from Jamaica who travelled all the way to the Crimean War. She used her own money to set up the 'British Hotel', where she provided food, shelter, and medical care to soldiers who were hurt. She is remembered for her kindness and her amazing resilience. We also remember Walter Tull. He was a professional footballer who played for Tottenham Hotspur and Northampton Town. Later, he became the first Black officer to lead white British soldiers into battle during the First World War. Both Mary and Walter showed great courage and paved the way for future generations.

Word bank: Pioneer · Courage · Contribution · Resilience · Inspiration · Legacy

1. Why did Mary Seacole travel to the Crimean War, and what did she provide for the soldiers? (2 marks)

2. What were the two different roles that Walter Tull held during his life? (2 marks)

3. How did Mary Seacole demonstrate resilience when helping the soldiers? (2 marks)

4. Why do you think it is important to remember the legacy of people like Walter Tull? (2 marks)

5. Find and copy one word from the text that means 'the ability to recover quickly from difficulties'. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a portrait of Mary Seacole or Walter Tull. Add a speech bubble showing what they might say to encourage someone today.



Extension challenge: Choose one other Black historical figure you have heard about. Write a short paragraph explaining why they are an inspiration to you, just like Ellie the elephant enjoys sharing stories from history!