

Celebrating Pioneers: A Journey Through Black History

Learning objective: To understand the importance of Black History Month and explore the achievements of significant figures who have shaped our world.

Read the passage about three inspirational figures below. Use the information to answer the questions, then use the drawing prompt to design your own commemorative badge.

Black History Month is a time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black people throughout history. Ellie the elephant loves sharing stories about these incredible pioneers. Mary Seacole was a brave nurse who travelled from Jamaica to the Crimean War. She used her own money and resources to set up the 'British Hotel', where she cared for injured soldiers with kindness and skill. Walter Tull was a trailblazer in both sport and the army. He was one of the first Black professional football players in England, and later became a courageous officer in the First World War, leading his men with great bravery. Finally, we remember Rosa Parks, whose quiet strength helped change laws in the United States. By refusing to give up her seat on a bus, she became a powerful symbol for equality and fairness. Their stories remind us that one person's actions can change the world for the better.

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

1. Based on the text, why did Mary Seacole travel to the Crimean War and what did she do there? (2 marks)

2. Identify two different areas of life in which Walter Tull made history. (2 marks)

3. In your own words, explain why Rosa Parks is remembered as a symbol of equality. (2 marks)

4. Why do you think it is important for us to learn about these people during Black History Month? (2 marks)

5. If you were writing a letter of thanks to one of these pioneers, which one would you choose and what would you say in one sentence? (2 marks)

Draw: Design a commemorative badge to honour one of the people mentioned in the text. Include symbols that represent their life, such as a football for Walter Tull or a nursing cross for Mary Seacole.



Extension challenge: Choose another Black figure from history who you admire. Research three interesting facts about them and write a short poem about their life in the style of Leo the lion.