

Trailblazers of History: Celebrating Black History Month

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by exploring the achievements of historical figures and identifying key information in a non-fiction text.

Read the passage about three inspirational people carefully. Use the information to answer the questions below. Think about why it is important to remember these stories today.

During Black History Month, we celebrate the incredible contributions of Black people throughout history. Ellie the elephant, our history guide, wants us to remember three brilliant pioneers.

First, Mary Seacole. Born in Jamaica, Mary was a skilled nurse. During the Crimean War, she travelled thousands of miles to look after wounded soldiers. She used her own money to set up the 'British Hotel' to provide food and comfort to those who were suffering.

Next, we remember Walter Tull. He was one of the first Black professional footballers in England. Later, during the First World War, he became the first Black officer to lead white British soldiers into battle, showing immense bravery despite the unfair rules of the time.

Finally, Rosa Parks is remembered for her quiet courage. In the United States, she refused to give up her seat on a bus to follow an unfair law. Her actions helped start a movement to change laws so that everyone would be treated equally, no matter the colour of their skin. These heroes teach us that one person's actions can change the world for the better.

Word bank: contribution · perseverance · pioneer · injustice · courage · legacy · equality

1. Using evidence from the text, explain why Mary Seacole is considered a pioneer in nursing. (2 marks)

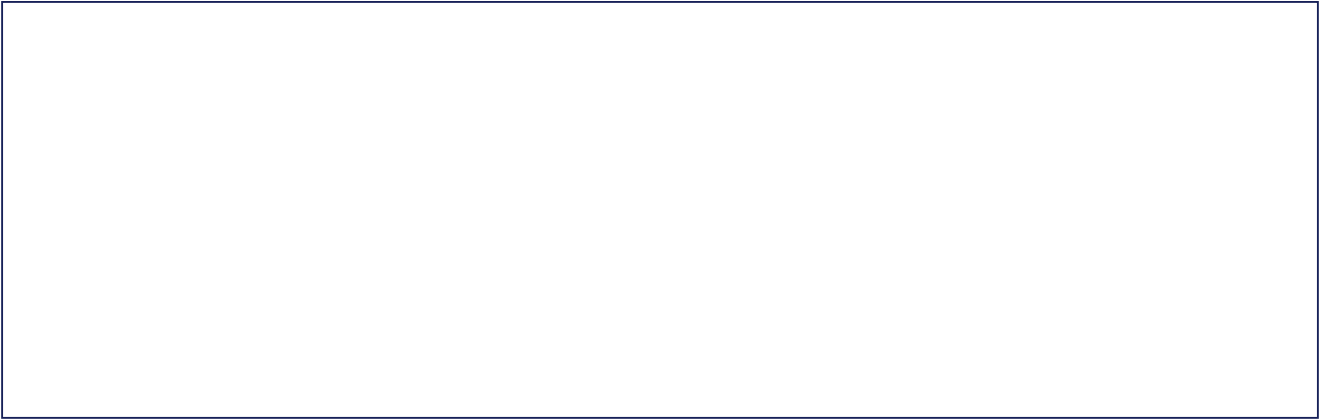
2. What were the two major roles Walter Tull held during his life? Why was his role in the army particularly significant? (2 marks)

3. How did Rosa Parks help to change her society? Use your own words to describe her action. (2 marks)

4. Find and copy one word from the text that means the same as 'bravery'. (1 mark)

5. Why do you think it is important for us to learn about these people during Black History Month? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Hero Medal' for one of the people mentioned in the text. Include symbols that represent their achievements, such as a nurse's cap for Mary Seacole or a football for Walter Tull.



Extension challenge: Choose a person from the text and write a short, three-sentence poem about their life. Try to include one word from our word bank!