

Trailblazers of History: Celebrating Black History Month

Learning objective: To understand the importance of Black History Month and learn about historical figures who made significant contributions to society.

Read the passage about three inspiring individuals who changed the world. Once you have finished reading, answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

Every October in the UK, we celebrate Black History Month. It is a time to learn about the achievements and stories of Black people throughout history. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, says it is important to remember that these stories are a part of everyone's history. One famous figure was Mary Seacole. She was a nurse who travelled to the Crimean War to care for soldiers. She used her own money, often spending her last few pounds to buy supplies, to help those in need. Another inspiring figure is Walter Tull, who showed great courage as one of the first Black professional footballers in England and later as an officer in the British Army during the First World War. We also remember Rosa Parks, who stood up against unfair laws in America. Her brave actions helped to change laws and inspire people across the world to demand equality. By studying these figures, we learn that one person's determination can make a huge difference to the lives of many.

Word bank: contribution · perseverance · pioneering · legacy · injustice · courageous

1. Why does Ellie the elephant think it is important for everyone to learn about Black History Month? (2 marks)

2. What did Mary Seacole do to help soldiers during the Crimean War? (2 marks)

3. Walter Tull had two very different careers during his life. Can you name them? (2 marks)

4. In your own words, explain why Rosa Parks is remembered as a courageous person. (2 marks)

5. Why do you think it is important to celebrate the achievements of people who fought against injustice? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative stamp that celebrates one of the historical figures mentioned in the passage. Include symbols that represent their achievements.



Extension challenge: Research another Black historical figure who has made a contribution to science, music, or literature. Write a short paragraph explaining why they are an inspiration to you.