

History Knowledge Organiser

Year 2

Spring (ii)

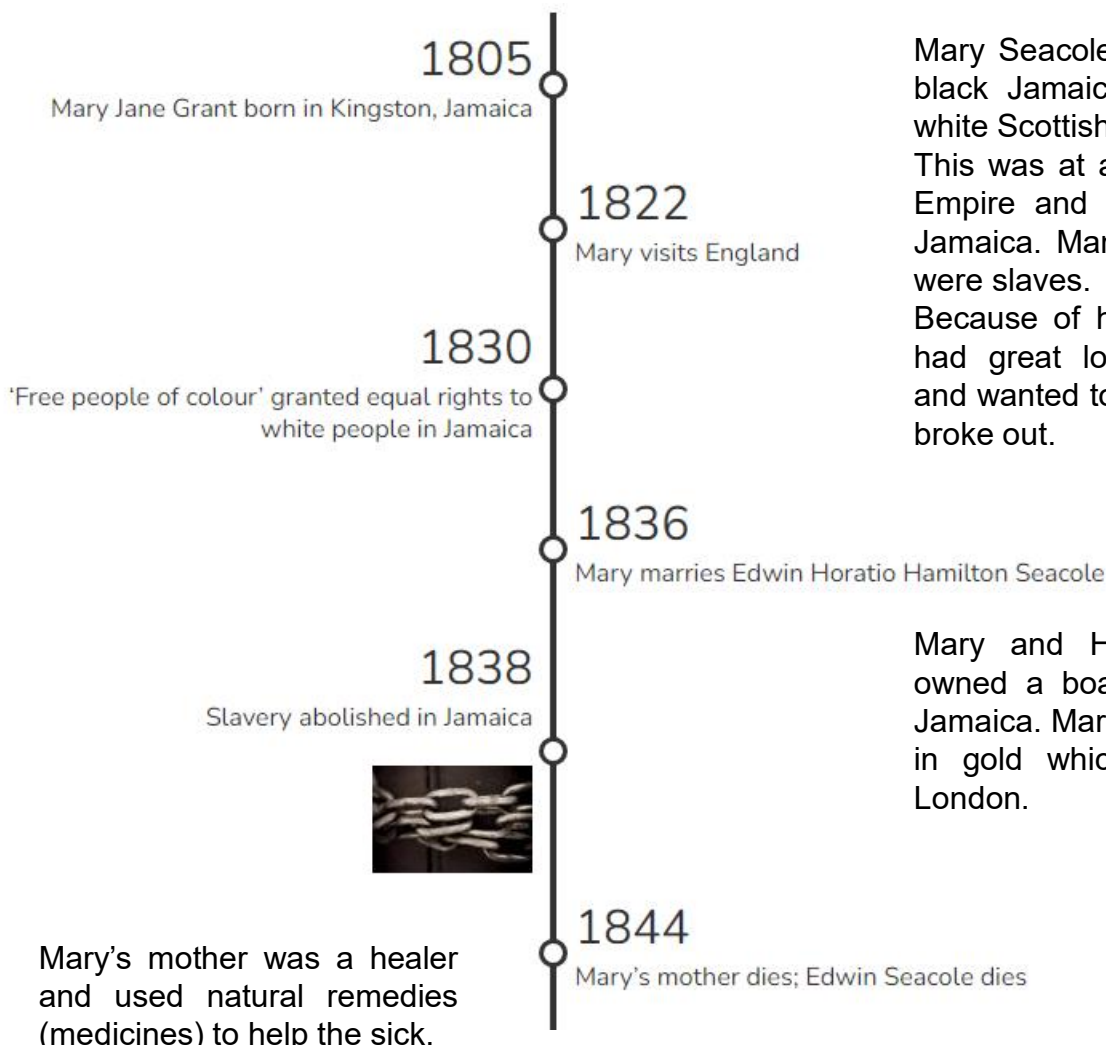
Why do we remember Mary Seacole?

Substantive Knowledge - Mary Seacole was a Jamaican nurse who cared for soldiers of the battlefields of the Crimea. She established The British Hotel in Crimea. At the time, she was as well-known as Florence Nightingale but was forgotten in history for over a hundred years.

Why do we remember Mary Seacole? What is her legacy?

Mary Seacole is a great role model. Her values of good citizenship (she always wanted to help the sick and wounded), entrepreneurship (she invested in gold and her drive took her to the Crimea), bravery (she went onto the battlefields with the soldiers) and achievement in helping to save lives.

The Chronology of Mary Seacole's Life



Mary Seacole was born to a black Jamaican mother and white Scottish father.

This was at a time of British Empire and Britain ruled in Jamaica. Many black people were slaves.

Because of her father, Mary had great loyalty to Britain and wanted to help when war broke out.

Mary and Horatio Seacole owned a boarding house in Jamaica. Mary, also, invested in gold which took her to London.

1851

Mary travels to Panama and opens a hotel there

1854

Start of Crimean War; Mary sets sail for England hoping to volunteer

1855

Mary sets up her British Hotel only four miles from the frontline

Some Victorians did not like Mary Seacole giving wine and alcohol to the soldiers; this may be why she is not mentioned in any of Queen Victoria's letters or diaries.

1856

End of Crimean War; Mary returns to England

1857

A four day benefit held to raise money for Mary is attended by over 80,000 people; Mary's memoir published



1867

A charitable fund is set up to provide Mary with a pension

1881

Mary dies in London

Mary Seacole was not allowed to accompany the team of British nurses travelling to the Crimea so paid for her own travel.



What influenced Mary Seacole's behaviour?

- Mary Seacole was influenced by the work her mother did as a healer.
- She had loyalty to the British because of her Scottish father.
- She was devastated after the death of her mother and husband and wanted to help others.
- Her bravery saw her riding on horseback every day to the wounded soldiers on the battlefields.
- She also sold food and drink to the soldiers, officers and journalists; she was an entrepreneur.

Core Vocabulary

Herbalist– somebody who uses plants to make medicine.

Battlefields– the fields where the fighting took place

Entrepreneur – a person who makes money in business.

Empire– one monarch ruling more than one country.



"In the hour of their illness, these men have found a kind and successful physician, a Mrs Seacole. She is from Kingston (Jamaica) and she doctors and cures all manner of men with extraordinary success. She is always in attendance near the battlefield to aid the wounded, and has earned many a poor fellow's blessing." William Russell, 'The Times Newspaper.'

Queen Victoria also wrote a statement in The Times on January 30th, 1867 supporting a fund for Mary Seacole.