

Uncovering Black British History

Early Georgians 1714-1776

History KS2



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History

Key Stage 2

Learning aims

- We will examine how the relationship between Britain and its American and West Indian colonies helped to create a population of Black Georgians, most of whom lived in London and some of the port cities involved in the Atlantic Slave Trade
- We will meet some famous Black Georgians and learn about the range of historical sources that can tell us about their lives
- We will see how some of them played a part in legal cases that tested whether slavery was something that could happen in Britain as well as in the colonies

Curriculum links

- To understand historical concepts such as similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts and frame historically valid questions
- To understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims
- To construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information
- To study and understand a significant turning point in British history.

The lessons within Uncovering Black British History, are most suitable for KS2, with some for upper KS2. Please adapt these to your class and pupils.



Keywords

Historical source – a type of record that can be used to provide evidence about what happened in the past

Livery – a type of uniform, often brightly coloured, worn by the servants or slaves of the wealthy

Composition – the way an artist arranges the people and things in a painting

Exotic – a term used to describe objects and creatures that originate in parts of the world with hot climates

Pamphlet – a short newspaper or article that is printed and sold

Advertisements – brief notices printed in newspapers and pamphlets to sell goods

Notices – short statements printed in newspapers and pamphlets to alert the public to a situation and sometimes to ask for their assistance

Runaway – an enslaved person who has escaped and run away from their owner in a bid for freedom

Slave collar – an uncomfortable metal ring, fixed around an enslaved person's neck, designed to make it difficult for them to run away and easier to recapture them

Pagan – someone who is not a Christian, but who believes in gods and deities that pre-date Christianity. This term is often used as an insult.

Literate – to be able to read and write

Legal ruling – an official judgement given by a judge at the end of a court case

These can also be found at the end of this PDF and can be placed on a learning wall as they are discussed during the presentation.

**Historical
source**

Livery

Composition



PowerPoint presentation

The accompanying PowerPoint presentation has 35 slides with the following learning points:

- Slides 1 to 6 introduce the lesson. We focus on Black Georgians, the historical sources we find them in and the role they played in legal cases that tested whether slavery was legal in Britain as well as in its colonies. Slide 6 notes that movement between Britain and its colonies involved Black and white people.
- Slides 7 and 8 introduce the Black Georgians: establishing that they had a range of experiences. Some were free, and some enslaved for all or part of their lives. Some lived in relative luxury and others endured poverty. Slide 8 points out that even for free Black people in Britain, there was a risk of being snatched off the street and sold into slavery.
- Slide 9 presents the main types of Historical sources we have for the existence and lives of Black Georgians: Paintings, Advertisements, Church records, books, newspapers and pamphlets and legal records.

Activity 1 (slides 10, 12 and 13)

- Slides 10 to 14 examine Georgian paintings that depict Black people. Slides 11 and 12 present the story and image of Dido Belle and slide 13 presents an example of a Black serving boy. Ask the children to look closely at the paintings and to record or discuss what they notice about the ways in which people (Black and white) and items are depicted in them. The children can record their answers on the worksheet provided on this PDF. Slide 14 lists some of typical features of these depictions of Black Georgians.

Activity 2 (slides 16 and 17)

- Slides 15 to 18 focus on Georgian newspaper advertisements for the sale of enslaved people. Ask the children what details they notice in the two example advertisements for the sale of enslaved people in England. Next, ask the children to discuss which details they notice in the example newspaper notice about an escaped slave. Slide 18 discusses some of the features of advertisements for the re-capture of enslaved people who had escaped their owners. Children can use the template provided in this PDF to record their answers.
- Slides 19 to 23 discuss routes to freedom: explaining that for some enslaved people, coming to England was a route to freedom, and comfort. We look at the life of Scipio Africanus and examine his grave in Bristol. Slides 21 and 22 discuss the life of Ignatius Sancho, who was born on a slave ship but died a free man, whose letters were published after his death. Slide 23 discusses the life of Francis Barber.



- Slides 24 to 35 conclude with the legal status of slavery in England. We tell the story of how the question of whether slavery was legal in England, was challenged and resolved in the early Georgian period. We look at the interested groups in this dispute and introduce the 3 men whose legal cases brought the issue to a head.
- Slides 28 and 29 tell the story of Jonathan Strong and how Granville Sharp took up his cause, got him freed and began his campaign against slavery. Slides 30 and 31 introduce James Somerset and explains how Sharp became involved in his legal case. Slide 32 (re) introduces Lord Mansfield (the great-uncle of Dido Belle). He was the judge in the Somerset case and gave a ruling in favour of Somerset. Slides 33 and 34 examine how the courts and public, including the enslaved, came to understand Mansfield's ruling as applying not just to Somerset, but to enslaved people anywhere in Britain.



Georgian Paintings

What do you notice about the way these paintings portray Black Georgian people? Record your answers below.





Georgian Paintings



Georgian Paintings





Georgian Advertisements and Notices

What details do you notice in these advertisements and notices about enslaved Black people in Georgian Britain?
Record your answers.

To be SOLD,

A Pretty little Negro Boy, about nine Years old and well limb'd. If not dispos'd of, is to be sent to the West Indies in six Days Time. He is to be seen at the Dolphin Tavern in Tower-Street.

Daily Advertiser (London),
11 December 1744.

To be disposed of

A NEGRO WOMAN, named Peggy, about nineteen years of age, born and brought up in Charlestown, in the Province of South Carolina, speaks good English, an exceedingly good House-wench, and washer and dresser, and is very tender and careful of children. She has a young Child, a Negro boy, about a year old, which will be disposed of with the mother. For particulars inquire at the publisher of this paper.

Edinburgh Evening Courant (Edinburgh),
30 August 1766.

RUN away from Joshua Steele, Esq; of Place Hall, Berks, a handsome tight-made black Slave, about five Foot four Inches high, the Property of Mrs. Sarah Steele, of the Island of Barbadoes; he had on when he went away a brown stable Frock, a yellow livery Waistcoat, old leather Breeches, Boots and a black velvet Cap with a silver tassel: He had in his Bundle an old blue-grey mourning Frock; and it is suspected that he has taken his Livery-Coat, which was blue faced with yellow: His Plantation Name is Sambo, but he has assumed the Name of William Gardener: This is therefore to warn all Persons not to harbour or entertain him, either as a Guest or Servant; or they will be prosecuted as the Law directs; and whoever will give Intelligence of him, so as he may be apprehended, to the aforesaid Joshua Steele, Esq; shall have a Guinea Reward.

Covent Garden Journal (London),
25 January 1752.





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Early Georgians 1714-1776: Keywords Flashcards



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