

Statues

Here is a picture of something happening that you might have seen in the news last week:

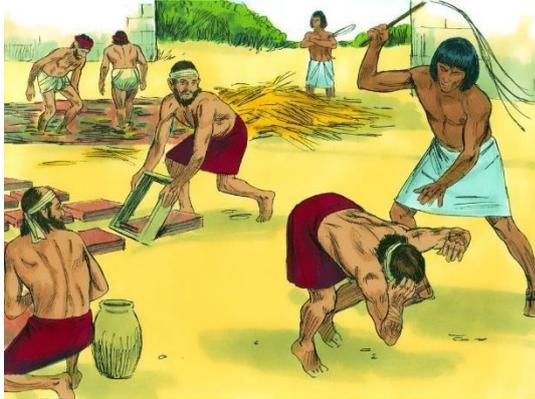


The statue is of a man called Edward Colston who lived from 1636-1721. He was very rich but he gave away most of his money to the people of Bristol to set up things like schools, hospitals, care homes and churches – that's why he has a statue. The problem is that a lot of his money came from the slave trade. This means that he would send sailing ships to Africa to capture people and then take them to the Americas to be sold. Some people are very angry about this and don't feel that he deserves to have a statue. The protestors are pulling the statue over without permission.

The protestors say that they had been asking for the statue to be removed for a long time but the city council couldn't agree about it so they took the law into their own hands. **What do you think about this?**
You might like to discuss it with your family.



Slavery

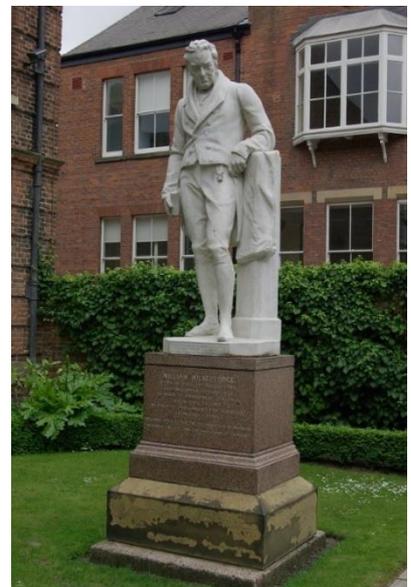


Slavery has existed since ancient times. In the second book of the Bible, called 'Exodus', we learn about how the Egyptians had taken God's people into slavery and how God called on Moses to lead the people to freedom. You can watch a cartoon version of this story here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H98zaq803Tg>

Although there is no doubt that some Christians went along with slavery during the time of Edward Colston, most Christians quickly realised that slavery was not part of God's plan and that taking slaves captive was an evil thing to do. One of the first leaders in the movement to abolish slavery was a famous Christian called William Wilberforce. He has a statue of his own in his hometown of Hull. You can watch a short film of how William Wilberforce helped to end slavery here if you want to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLU182riOpA>



Over the past week, since the statue of Edward Colston was pulled down, there have been a lot of arguments about statues. If you have ever been on a trip to London to see the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey, you might also have seen the statue of Winston Churchill in Parliament Square. The picture below shows how some protesters have vandalised this statue because they say that Winston Churchill said some not very nice things about black people.

A lot of people are very angry about this because they say that Winston Churchill was a great leader and everybody says wrong things sometimes.



Thinking About This

Some people think that statues should be taken away if we have now come to think that some of the things the person did or said were wrong. Other people think that statues of people from the past should be left where they are because they tell us about history. **This is a tricky issue, what do you think about it?**

Should we continue to make statues of people who we admire or do you think it's not a very good idea anymore?

What sort of people do you think deserve to have statues made in their honour – politicians, inventors, people who do kind things to help others, sports people, pop stars, TV celebrities, YouTube influencers, adventurers, writers and artists, scientists, military leaders?

Who Would You Choose?

A few years ago, the BBC invited everyone in the country to vote on who they thought was the 'Greatest Britain'. You can see the list of the top 100 people who were voted for here (it gives a short explanation of what the person did

but you can click on their name to find out more if you want to):

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/100_Greatest_Britons

The final list was a bit controversial, firstly because a lot of people felt that some of the people on the list hadn't really done anything all that special and secondly because the list only contained white people. **You might like to discuss the list with your family and find out what they think.**

Some of the people on the list already have statues in their honour but most don't. If you had the chance to decide on someone who should have a statue in their honour, who would you choose? Would you choose someone from this list or someone completely different?



Make a Proposal

Use the template below to make a proposal for a person who you think deserves to have a statue made in their honour.

My Statue Proposal

The person who I think deserved to have a statue made in their honour is:

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I admire this person because:

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I think future generations of people will continue to find this person inspiring because:

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