



Reconstructing the Black Image: Section 2, Black Warriors: Resisting and Assisting, Gordon de la Mothe, 1987, Black Cultural Archives

Google Arts & Culture

Celebrating Black Creativity in Britain

Lesson plan created with



TABLET
ACADEMY

Introduction

Celebrating Black Creativity in Britain

Join us as we explore the lives and work of some Black British creatives from the world of music, fashion, art, and design.

This lesson is suitable for anyone, but is recommended for students aged 14-16 years. The lesson is designed to support you as you explore Google Arts & Culture stories related to the lesson topic.

You can complete the lesson on your own working at home, with a group of friends, or in your classroom. They are designed so that you can work through them at a pace that suits you.

If you get stuck, you can talk to a teacher or parent.

Throughout the lesson you will have tasks to complete and questions to answer, so that when you reach the end you will have used a range of skills to create something of your own that demonstrates your knowledge and understanding of the subject.

All you need to get started is any device with internet access.

Are you ready to learn more about some interesting creatives and their impact on UK culture?

Things you'll need to complete this lesson.



Tablet, laptop or computer with access to the internet.



Paper or a notebook and pen to make notes as you go.



Drawing materials such as coloring pens and pencils, paper etc.



Scissors, glue, scrap paper, and general stationary items.



Art materials, specifically paints and brushes.



A printer would be beneficial but not necessary – why not draw instead?

Explore & Discover

Celebrating Black Creativity in Britain

What can you expect to learn?

In this lesson you will study people and aspects of culture from UK Black communities and how they have had, and continue to have, an impact on music, fashion, art, and design.

Activities to complete

1. Become the social media manager for a great Victorian composer.
2. Consider your reactions to art and explain what the artwork means to you.
3. Get creative! Produce a poem, song or rap that reflects the Black UK culture highlighted in this lesson.
4. Test what you have learned from this lesson.

Outcomes you will achieve

- Explore how Black culture has played an integral part in the evolution of music styles.
- Discover how a Ghanaian-born British editor is making waves in the fashion world.
- Appreciate the life of a composer and how they explored their cultural heritage through music.
- Explore diverse cultures through a variety of art forms.

Look out for the following tips which tell you what to do during the lesson.



Key information to remember and help guide you through the lesson.



Estimated time to complete a section or activity within the lesson.



Optional headphones to listen to videos and audio recordings.



Explore online content. Discover videos, stories, and zoom into pictures.



Activity - time to design, make or write something of your own.



Vocabulary

Words to look out for in the lesson

artform, audition, blue plaque, bohemian, breakbeat, break-dancer, Bristol Sound, celluloid, civil rights, composer, composition, concert hall, conductor, designer, drum'n'bass, dubstep, editor-in-chief, festival, freelance, harmony, hip hop, honky tonk, Indigenous, instrument, jazz, melody, musical, orchestra, performance, performing art, piano, premier, RADA, rap, reggae, repertoire, sampling, season, Seventies, ska tip, speed-toasting, stylist, touring company, urban music, visual art, Windrush



Please note, as this lesson uses sources from history, some of the terms you may hear or see may be considered offensive. However, at the periods in time in which they were used, no matter how distasteful today, they were classed as 'normal'. They are a part of the stories and the journeys of the people you are learning about.

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor as a child, Royal College of Music London, United Kingdom



What this lesson is about?

In this lesson, you will learn about the creativity of Black British artists from various art forms, such as music, fashion, art, and design.



This lesson will take around 120 minutes.

Celebrating Black Creativity in Britain

Introduction

In this lesson we will explore a variety of art forms, such as music, fashion, art, and design. In the first part of the lesson, we will look at different musical styles and stories, from a Victorian composer, to the evolution of British hip-hop.

In the second part of this lesson, you will investigate the works of three visual artists, looking at how their work explores representation of race and issues related to Black identity in the UK and beyond.

Finally, we will meet three influential people from the worlds of fashion, photography, and design in the UK and explore the impact of their work.



Make notes on the stories you read. This will help you in answering questions in the quiz at the end of the lesson.





Music, Past and Present

Discover how Black musicians and communities have made an impact on the UK music scene both past and present.



This chapter will take around 40 minutes.

Creativity from Classical Music to Hip Hop



Samuel
Coleridge-Taylor

[Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Royal College of Music](#)



Russell Henderson

[Russell Henderson, Unknown, Notting Hill Carnival](#)



Derek B

[Derek B Polaroid Photo, Black Cultural Archives](#)



Production of Hiawatha at the Royal Albert Hall, 1936, Royal College of Music

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

15 Aug 1875 – 1 Sep 1912

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was a British composer who was born towards the end of the 19th century and found fame in both the UK and the US for his work, particularly the composition 'The Song of Hiawatha'.

Born in London, Coleridge-Taylor was of dual heritage; his father was a doctor from Sierra Leone and his mother was English. From an early age, he showed an aptitude for music. His grandfather started to teach him to play the violin and he showed great talent. He then went on to have lessons and won a place to study at the Royal College of Music.

His compositions were popular in both the UK and US. He toured the US several times; on his first visit he was given an audience with the president, Theodore Roosevelt, at the White House. This was rare for a Black man, at this time.

Coleridge-Taylor explored his African heritage through his music, something he was encouraged to do by other Black artists he worked with and through his own interest in his heritage.



Explore



Activity 1

Social Media in the Victorian Era



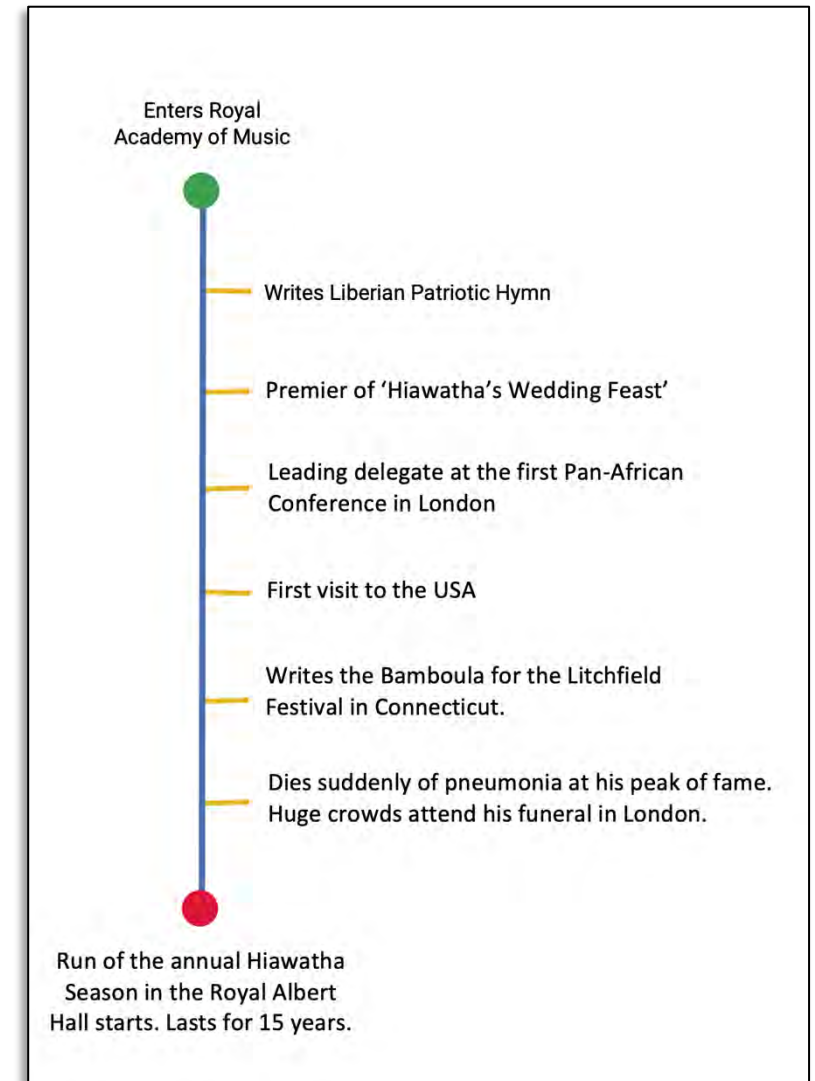
Imagine there was social media in the Victorian era in Britain (1837-1901) Samuel Coleridge-Taylor has appointed you as his Social Media Manager. He has asked you to post about eight important events in his life.

Compose the messages, which you need to limit to 240 characters each. Also, where possible, add a relevant picture to each post.

Write these down in your notes.
Do not send them!



[Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and his family, Royal College of Music](#)



Russell Henderson

7 Jan 1924 – 18 Aug 2015

Russell Henderson MBE was a British jazz musician and a leading figure in the Steelband movement in Britain.

Originally born in Trinidad and Tobago, Henderson moved to England in 1951 where he founded Britain's first Steelband combo The Russ Henderson Steel Band with Mervyn Constantine and Sterling Betancourt.

Henderson, along with his steel pan band, led the first ever carnival parade on the streets of Notting Hill in 1966.

In recognition of his work, Henderson was awarded an MBE in 2006 for his services to music and in 2012 was honored with a blue plaque on Tavistock Square for his contribution to Notting Hill Carnival.



Explore



Derek B.

15 Jan 1965 – 15 Nov 2009

Derek B was pioneer in the world of UK rap and hip hop. He was a rapper, DJ, and music producer whose mainstream success in the 1980s paved the way for British rap and dance acts.

Derek Boland was born in London in 1965 and began DJing at the age of 15 and went on to work on key pirate radio stations like KISS and LWR. Having taken on a behind-the-scenes role at the UK's first hip hop record label, Music for Life, he ended up recording a track called '*Rock the Beat*' which was released as a single. This led to further tracks being released as singles, with two of them reaching the top 20 in the UK charts.

His time in the public eye was short, however his success is evident in many noteworthy events. He was the first UK rapper to appear on the popular BBC music show '*Top of the Pops*', at a time when rap was rarely featured. He also performed the track '*Free Mandela*' live at the 1988 Nelson Mandela birthday concert at Wembley Stadium, to a worldwide audience of millions of people, alongside acts such as Stevie Wonder and Whitney Houston.



Derek B was a pioneer in UK rap and hip hop. Do you know the roots of the music you listen to? Research your favorite music style(s), listen to some early tracks and make notes on how the music style developed.



Activity 2

Get Creative!



Write a poem, song or rap that reflects the Black UK culture highlighted in this lesson.



Start by sketching your ideas into your notebook. Read your notes, or go back and reflect on the parts of this lesson you found most engaging or made you think the most.



Consider what it was that made you stop and think? Was it an object, sound, movement, or words? Then put them all together in one place and highlight the key items that strike you as interesting.

Bring together what has interested and inspired you, in order to create your composition. Good luck!



Extra Challenge

Discover the history of hip hop with this [interactive doodle](#) and test your skills as a DJ. Can you master all ten challenges?



You might want to work with a friend on this activity.



[44th Anniversary of the Birth of Hip Hop, Google Doodles archive 2017](#)





Black British Artists

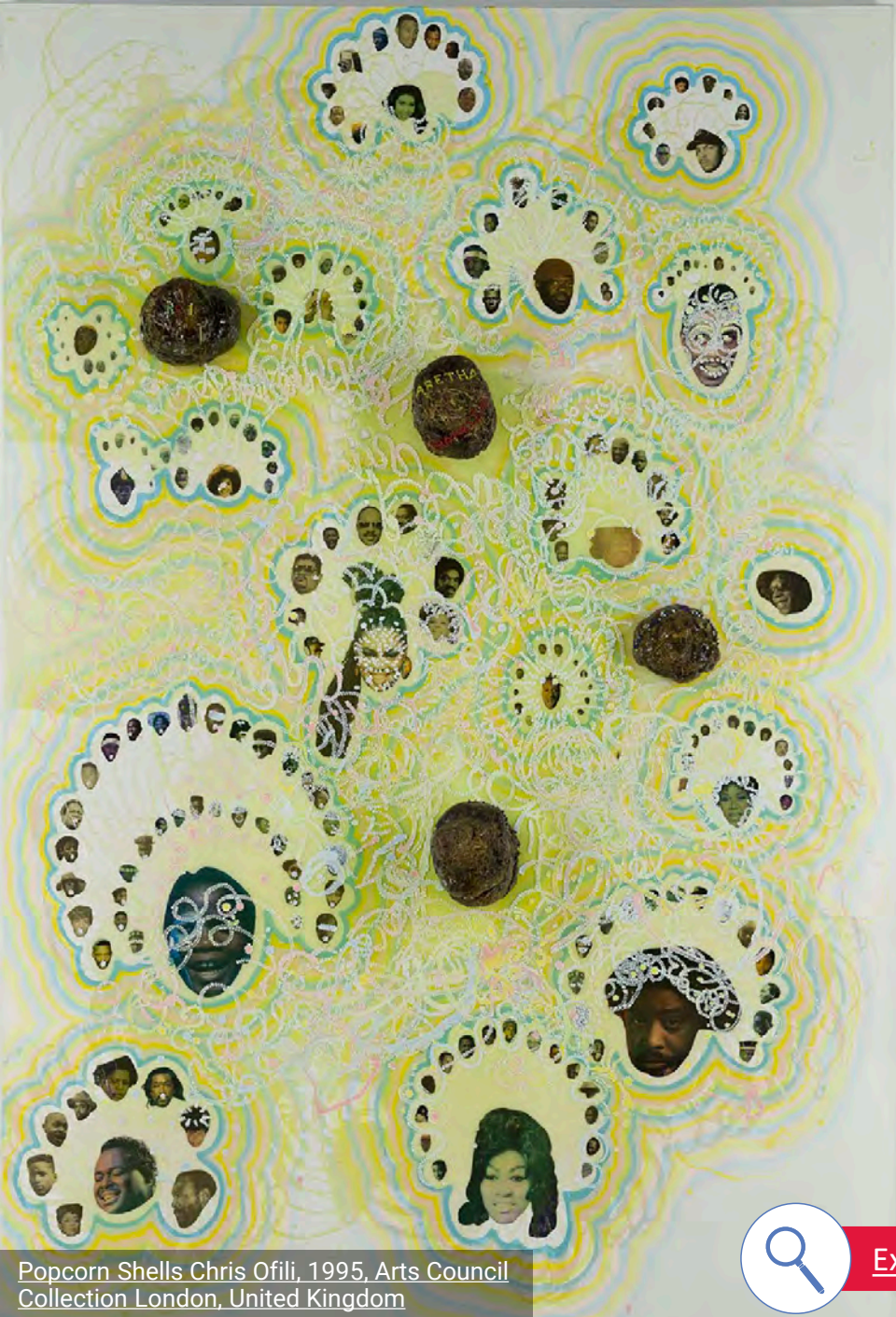
Dive into three pieces of art created by Black British artists. Explore these works and find out more about the messages the artists are trying to convey.



This chapter will take around 40 minutes.



Make notes on each of the artworks shown. You will need them for the activity at the end of the chapter.



Chris Ofili CBE

Born 10 Oct 1968

Chris Ofili is a contemporary British painter who is known for working with a variety of palettes, textures and materials to explore and highlight current and historical Black experiences. His work also addresses religion and how it is illustrated in art history. His controversial work, using elephant dung on a painting of the Virgin Mary, was initially well-received in Europe, before being heavily criticized and defaced when it was displayed in New York.

Ofili was born in Manchester in 1968 to Nigerian parents. He studied at the Chelsea School of Art and the Royal College of Art and was successful even as a young artist. His work includes imagery from music and popular culture as well as influences of art, textures and African cave painting, from a visit he made to Zimbabwe. He often uses his paintings to open conversations which challenge stereotypes and address cultural issues, such as racial violence.

He was the first Black artist to win the Turner Prize, aged just 30 years old and was awarded a CBE in 2017 for his services to art.



Study Ofili's painting 'Popcorn Shells' and make notes on the following:

- In your opinion, why did Ofili use elephant dung in the painting?
- How does the use of collage help an artist convey their message?



Explore

Rudi Patterson

29 Sep 1933 – 24 Jul 2013

Rudi Patterson was a Jamaican-born British artist who worked in different art forms, including drawing, painting, ceramics, and sculpture.

He moved to the UK in the late 1950s to study acting and took classes at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA), before enjoying success as both an actor on television and in the theatre during the 1960s. He was also a model, which was rare for a Black man at this time.

Patterson began exploring his passion as a painter and this became even more important after he seriously injured his neck whilst water-skiing. He used art to channel his creativity whilst recovering, working to create many paintings. He went on to create over 1000 works of art over four decades, many depicting and celebrating landscapes and life in Jamaica

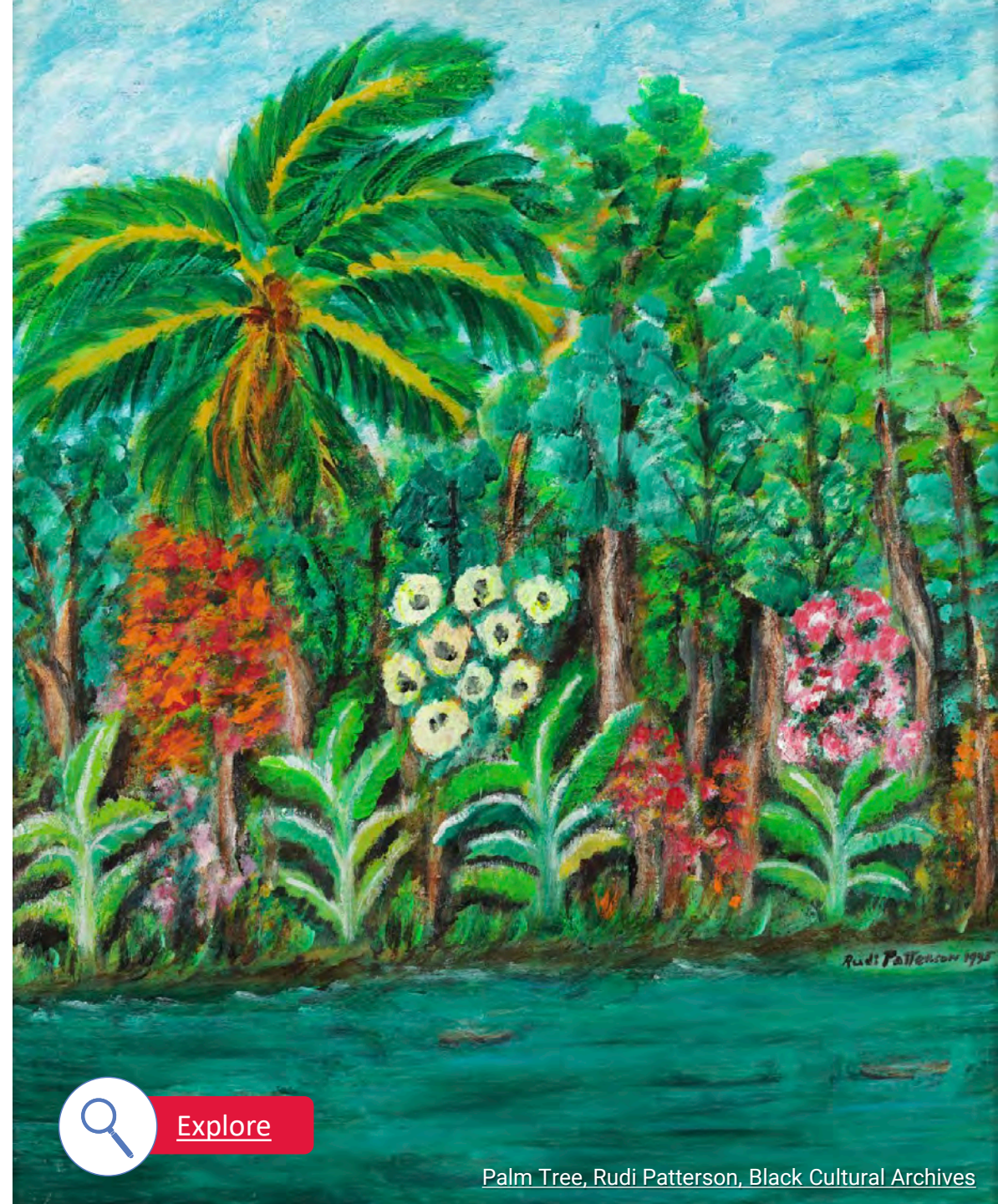
Often colourful and vibrant, Patterson's work is known for bringing landscapes to life and creating a hybrid view, bringing in the overlap of his memories of Jamaica with the context of urban and suburban London.



Click on the Explore link and examine Patterson's artwork. Make notes on the following:

- The artists use of color and style.
- The mood his use of color creates.
- Compare it with some famous paintings from other artists such as [Les Vessenots](#), [Vincent Van Gogh](#) and [The Havesters](#), [Pieter Bruegel the Elder](#).

Note down the similarities and differences between these paintings and Patterson's.



Explore



Lubaina Himid

Born 1954

Born in Zanzibar, Lubaina Himid is a British artist and first Black woman to win the Turner Prize.

She studied Theatre Design at Wimbledon College of Art and went on to receive an MA in Cultural History from the Royal College of Art.

Much of her art focuses on themes of cultural history, in particular the strength of Black people throughout history.

Himid was one of the first artists involved in the UK's Black Art movement in the 1980s and her work continues to draw in audiences worldwide. She was appointed MBE in 2010 and in 2018 awarded a CBE for her services to Black women's art.



Click on the Explore link and examine the artworks of Lubaina Himid. Make notes on the following.

In your opinion, how important is it to use imagery to help someone explain the meaning of a message?

Which images stand out for you? Explain why they stand out and what you think they mean.



[Explore](#)

Activity 3

Creating an Audio Guide



Your local art gallery is about to put together an art exhibition of Black British artists and have selected the three artists you studied earlier. They have asked you to create an audio guide for one or more pieces of artwork from the artists. Choose your favorite work, from the three artists you studied earlier, and use your notes to help you write and record an audio guide for visitors of the exhibition. When planning your audio guide, you should consider:



- The name of the artwork
- When the artwork was created
- The inspiration for the artwork



Extra Challenge

Using a free online QR code generator, create a QR code for visitors of the exhibition to scan which links to your audio guide. Alternatively, create your own art gallery to showcase the work of Black British artists and use QR codes to direct visitors to information about each of the artist's work.



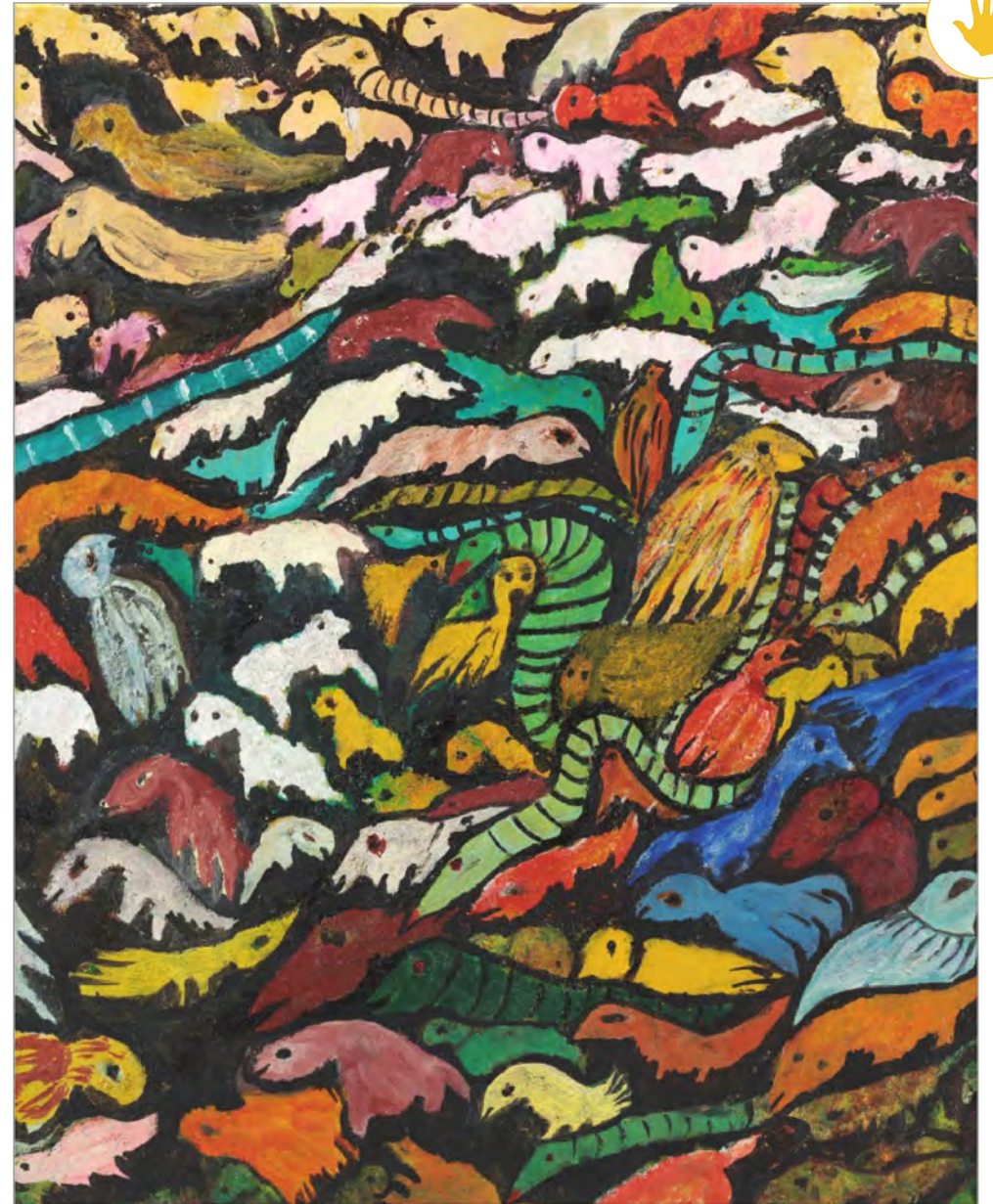
You may need help from your parents or teacher with this activity



15 to 20-minute activity



QR Code, Tablet Academy, 2021



Noah, Rudi Patterson, Black Cultural Archives





Edward Enninful Portrait, British Fashion Council

Creativity in Fashion, Photography, and Design

Explore the impact of prominent creatives from the worlds of fashion, photography, and design across the UK.



This chapter will take around 40 minutes.

Creativity in Fashion, Photography, and Design



[Edward Enninful Portrait, British Fashion Council](#)

Oludah Equiano

Discover how Edward Enninful brought diversity to the world of high fashion.



[Misan Harriman, Misan Harriman, 2020, What We Seee](#)

Misan Harriman Photography

Learn about photographer Misan Harriman whose unique eye for narrative and celebration of Black Culture has captured the attention of audiences around the world.



[Sir David Adjaye in conversation at Mpavilion 2016, MPavilion, 2017, MPavilion](#)

David Adjaye Design

Explore the story of David Adjaye, award-winning architect, whose designs have had a major influence on the advancement of architecture.

Edward Enninful OBE

Born 22 Feb 1972

Edward Enninful is a British stylist and editor. He became editor-in-chief of British *Vogue* in 2017, becoming the first Black editor of *Vogue* internationally. He is a passionate voice for diversity and change and has had a lasting impact in the world of high fashion.

Enninful was born in Ghana in 1972 and moved with his family to the UK at a young age. His career started early, he became a model at 16 and developed an interest in styling. By 18 he was appointed as fashion director at the magazine *i-D*, the youngest person to be in this position at an international magazine.

His career has spanned positions at both Italian and American *Vogue*, as well as style director at *W*. He has worked on campaigns with many of the leading fashion brands, including Gucci and Versace and has created campaigns with models like Naomi Campbell and Kate Moss. One of his most famous covers at *W* Magazine had Kate Moss dressed in a nun's habit. This cover caused controversy and soaring sales in equal measure.

Taking the helm at British *Vogue* has given Enninful a platform to further address diversity and representation in the fashion industry and to put a spotlight on activism. He was awarded an OBE for services to diversity in fashion in 2016.



Rihanna, *W* Magazine, September 2016, Edward Enninful, 2016, British Fashion Council



Click on the Explore button to find out about how Edward Enniful became a successful name in fashion.

[Explore](#)

Misan Harriman

Born 1977

Misan Harriman is a Nigerian-born British photographer, social activist, and founder of What We Seee.

During his career, Harriman has photographed a diverse list of celebrities, including Meghan Markle, Tom Cruise, Julia Roberts, Giorgio Armani, Rhianna, Cate Blanchett and Olivia Colman. As well as portrait work, Harriman has earned acclaim for his documenting of various protests, including the Extinction Rebellion climate change demonstrations and Black Lives Matter marches in London.

Amongst his many achievements, Harriman is the first black male photographer to ever shoot a cover of *British Vogue* magazine.





Explore images from
photographer Misan
Harriman's collection '*The
Last Dance*'

Explore

David Adjaye

Born 22 Sep 1966

Sir David Adjaye OBE is an award-winning Ghanaian-British architect.

Adjaye graduated in 1993 from the Royal College of Art with an MA in Architecture & Interiors, having previously completed a BA in Architecture at London South Bank University.

His work has won international acclaim and his portfolio includes such notable buildings as the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC, and the Moscow School of Management Skolkovo.

In 2017, Adjaye was knighted and was recognized as one of the 100 most influential people of the year by TIME Magazine. In 2021, Adjaye was awarded the Royal Gold Medal for architecture making him the first black recipient and one of the youngest recipients.





Take a tour of the revolutionary buildings of David Adjaye

Explore



Activity 4

Summarising what you have learned



Pecha Kucha (Japanese for 'chit chat') is a live storytelling format, where the presenter has 20 slides with images and can only talk about each slide for 20 seconds. No more, no less. Sound easy?



Well, now is your chance to present a Pecha Kucha on your favourite topic from this lesson.

1. Select a person or topic from this lesson
2. Do some research and make notes - what is interesting? Unexpected? Useful to know?
3. Select 20 images to illustrate the points you want to talk about
4. Using software of your choice create a slide deck with the 20 images
 - a) You can add speaker notes if the software allows but avoid text on the slide / image
5. Practice presenting the Pecha Kucha, making sure that you only talk for 20 seconds for each slide
6. Present your Pecha Kucha to the class or a group of friends
7. Revel in the glory of informing and entertaining the group!



You might want to work with a friend on this activity.



[BS2, RESIST & REVOLT BLACK HISTORY, LIVE TRANSMISSION, Libita Clayon, Somerset House](#)



20 to 30-minute activity



Quiz

End of Lesson Quiz

See if you can remember what you have learned from this lesson. How many questions can you answer without looking back through the pages.

1. Chris Offili was the first Black artist to win which prize?
2. What is the title of the music piece that made Samuel Coleridge-Taylor a household name in the UK?
3. Russell Henderson was vitally involved in building up which annual event?
4. He was an actor in UK TV shows 'Z-Cars' and the 'Professionals', a model and a self-taught painter. Who is this?
5. Who was the first black person to shoot a cover of British *Vogue*?
6. What fashion magazines did Edward Enninful contribute to or help edit? List as many as you can.
7. Which iconic museum in Washington, DC is architect David Adjaye famous for designing?
8. Which international event did Derek B perform at?



[arcade game: Computer Quiz Nutting Associates, 1968, The Strong National Museum of Play](#)



[So Amazing, Sonia Boyce, 2001/2002, Paintings in Hospitals](#)

Want to Learn More?



Now you've completed this lesson you may want to continue to find out more about UK Black Culture. [This](#) is a good starting point to find out more, and [this](#) has further information about Black and British culture.

Quiz - Answers

End of Lesson Quiz

Here are the answers to the quiz. How did you do?

1. The Turner Prize.
2. The Song of Hiawatha.
3. The Notting Hill Carnival.
4. Rudi Patterson.
5. Misan Harriman.
6. British *Vogue*, Italian and US *Vogue*, *W Magazine*, *i-D* magazine.
7. The National Museum of African American History and Culture.
8. The Nelson Mandela Birthday Concert in 1988

Tambourine, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, 2010, Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University

