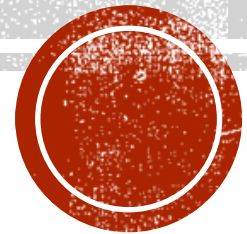


**SHOULD THE STATUES OF PEOPLE
WHO WERE INVOLVED IN SLAVERY
BE REMOVED FROM THEIR PLINTHS?**

Big Think – due Friday 10 July



Why do we have statues?

- Statues can be seen as a way to **celebrate, remember** and **tell the stories** of culturally or historically significant people.
- Some also argue that statues are an important '**window**' **into the past** as they reflect who - and what - was important at the time they were built.
- But it has been pointed out that most of the statues in the UK **don't reflect the country's diverse population** and are traditionally focused on white men. For instance a statue of Mary Seacole, unveiled in 2016, was believed to be the UK's first in honour of a named black woman.

Edward Colson



- Edward Colson was a slave trader in the 17th century (1600s) and part of a group called the Royal African Company, which transported about 80,000 men, women and children as slaves from Africa to the Americas. 19,000 of the enslaved people died in the ships they were transported in, and thrown overboard
- It made him very rich and when he died in 1721, he left a lot of money to charities and good causes.

Edward Colson



The original 1895 plaque read: ***“Erected by citizens of Bristol as a memorial of one of the most virtuous and wise sons of their city”***.

*Virtuous means that you are a morally good person

Why do you think some people might have been speaking out against the statue for many years?

Different views?

“Tearing down this statue shows that people today do not agree with what Colson did!”

“The people who torn down this statue broke the law! This is vandalism!”

“Statues should stay so that people can learn from them!”

“Maybe the statue could be put in a Museum or have a new plaque to explain the good and bad things he did?”

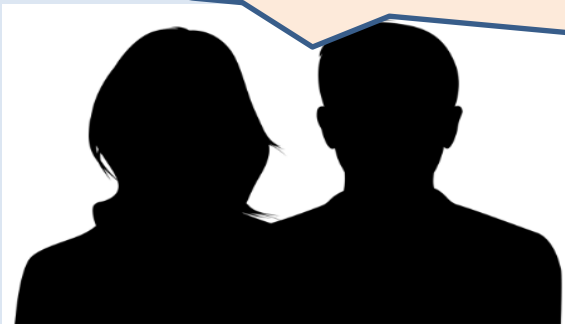
“Statues are made to celebrate a person’s life – Colson does not deserve to be celebrated!”

“Imagine being a Black person and having to walk past this statue which celebrates Colson every day!”

“Just because they have been there a long time doesn’t mean these statues should stay forever!”

“These statues should be replaced with people who represent modern society.”

“People from the past shouldn’t be judged by attitudes today.”



SHOULD THE STATUES OF PEOPLE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN SLAVERY BE REMOVED FROM THEIR PLINTHS?

There will be a structure template to help you available on the school website but some advice would be to:

- Start by setting out what you think before doing any research. Show you understand what is implied by the statement about books.
- Do some research, perhaps using recent articles in newspapers and on news websites. Write up (summarise) what you find out and what your opinions are on those details.
- Conclude by stating what you think after the research. Do you feel the same? Has your mind changed? If it has, what changed your mind? Was it something you didn't know or do you now think about it differently? If not, what is the evidence that you find most compelling?
- Please send your completed position papers to Tom.Allen@taw.org.uk and/or Sophie.Pickstock@taw.org.uk ; I look forward to reading your position papers!

