



History repeats itself with the death of George Floyd?

On 25th May in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a 46-year old black American, George Floyd, was killed during a “police interaction” where he suffered asphyxiation (suffocation) while restrained by a police officer.



The death of George Floyd has led to massive protests across the world against racism and police brutality towards black people. The George Floyd case does not stand alone – there are numerous examples of unequal treatment of black people across the globe by authorities.

It is important that we are all aware of racism and how every person is capable of being racist in their actions and behaviour. Even today, not everyone is treated equally.

We are a diverse community in Leith Academy. Stereotypes and prejudiced opinions can be hurtful to all involved. We need to embrace each other’s cultures in an effective way to fight discrimination. Our differences are what make us special, not flawed. We need to love others based on our relationships and the content of the person; not what they look like.

Complete the following tasks looking into the history of discrimination and prejudice leading up to the death of George Floyd.



Task 1 – What is racism?

Write down your own definitions for the following words. Feel free to use the match boxes to help you.

Prejudice

The belief that certain races of people are by birth and nature superior to others.

Racism

Treating someone differently because of their race, ethnicity, ability, gender, sex, orientation, religion, physical appearance, employment status or age.

Discrimination

The judgement of someone or something without knowing enough information about that person or thing.

Think about the different kinds of prejudice and discrimination that the black community may face in society today. Write down some examples:

How will this affect the black community?

What do you think are the underlying reasons behind racist acts which take place across the world today?



Task 2 – The Death of George Floyd

Use the following websites to answer the following questions about the death of George Floyd and the protests which have erupted since.

This link includes a video which may be upsetting.

- 1) What crime was George Floyd accused of?
- 2) Write 3-4 sentences describing what happened when the police arrived.
- 3) What has happened to the police officers involved?



<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/31/us/george-floyd-investigation.html>

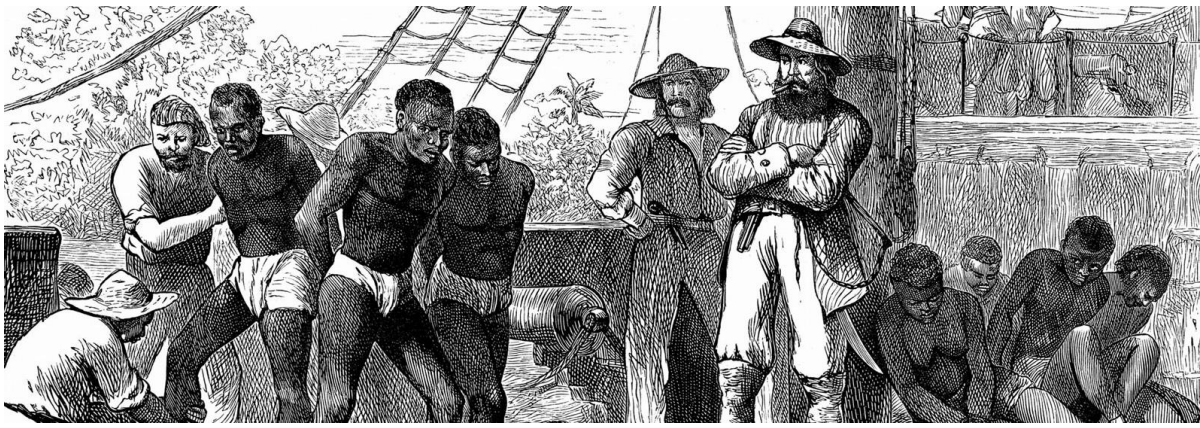
- 4) What kinds of protests have erupted in the US? (*What tactics, where in the US have they occurred, how long have they been going on?*)
- 5) What methods have been put in place in America to control the protests?
- 6) Do you think these methods were effective and **why/why not?**
- 7) Name at least 3 different locations outside the US where there have also been protests.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-52902121>



<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/01/george-floyd-protests-take-place-in-cities-around-the-world>



Task 3 – History of Racism

Racist ideas have been endemic for centuries. However, one event has amplified racist ideas as well as helping to spread them across the globe: The Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Watch the video introducing the slave trade and have a read through the paragraphs below. Answer the following questions:

- 1) What is slavery?
- 2) What was the Atlantic Slave Trade?
- 3) How were slaves treated?
- 4) What was the impact of the slave trade? (What were the results / why was it important?)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NXC4Q_4JVg

Abolition at Long Last

Eventually, people began to recognise that slavery was unethical. In 1807, the Houses of Parliament in Britain banned the slave trade. However, it was not until 1833 when slaves were finally freed from the British Empire. Up until this point, people could continue to own slaves but could not continue to buy or sell them.

In the USA, President Lincoln abolished slavery in 1865. However, slavery continued even after its abolition because there was lots of disagreement. Some people had become very wealthy due to slave labour and wanted to keep it. As a result, the American Civil War (1861-1865) happened.



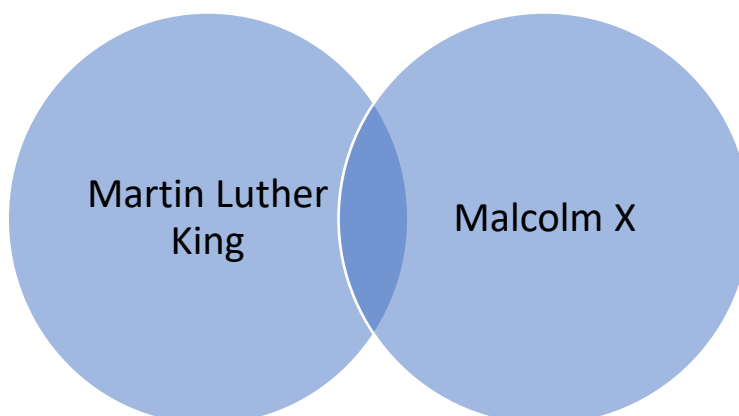
Task 4 – Violent vs. Peaceful Protests

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s arose because of continued *segregation* of black and white Americans over 100 years after slavery was officially ended.

Segregation is the enforced separation of different ethnic groups in a country. Years after slavery was abolished, black people in America still faced unequal treatment. Their facilities were kept separate from white people, including separate schools, seating areas in restaurants and buses and much more. Black people also faced the threat of the KKK, a white supremacist terrorist organisation who believed that white people were better than all other races. They openly threatened and murdered black people.

The Civil Rights Movement is an example of how protests were able to spark change. However, different leaders took different approaches.

- 1) Create a Venn diagram on the similarities and differences between the **beliefs, tactics and aims** of **Martin Luther King** and **Malcom X**. *The similarities should go in the middle of your diagram.* You can use the video link as a starting point.



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

- 2) As you will be aware from your earlier research, some of the George Floyd protests in the US have become violent.

Why do protests get violent? Think about a close friend being hurt. What lengths would you go to for justice? Write down your own thoughts on violent protests.

- 3) Watch the following video where George Floyd's brother makes an address.

What is his message? *Is he for or against violent protest?*



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



Task 4 – Police brutality

Despite laws that appear neutral in their treatment, criminal justice enforcement continues to unfairly punish black people. While police officers should be protective and helpful, in some cases this isn't the reality.

Using your research skills, look into the following incidents of police brutality across the US and UK and complete the table with where the event took place and a short sentence including what happened.

Can you add any more examples to your table?

Incident	Where and When?	What happened?
Stephen Lawrence		
Eric Garner		
Brixton Riots		
Mark Duggan / London Riots		
Freddie Gray		
Central Park Five		
Trayvon Martin		
Sheku Bayoh		
Anthony Walker		



Task 5 – Creativity Task

Complete **one** of the following:

- a) **Timeline poster** of racist incidents and police brutality towards black people across the UK and USA. Include at least 5 different incidents and a short paragraph describing what happened.
- b) **Essay** based on the question 'Does racism still exist today?'. This should include an introduction on the history of racism,
- c) **Poster** to encourage people to become involved in the Black Lives Matter movement. It should include a slogan, images and colour.



How can I help?

There are many ways we can assist with addressing racism including being aware of our own prejudices and trying not to let these impact how we treat people. It is not enough to be non-racist, we must actively be anti-racist and stand up against any racial mal-treatment.

We should also continue to educate ourselves on racial inequalities. There are numerous topical articles available for you to read online. You could also watch the following films.

Selma

<https://clickv.ie/w/1Wpn>



The following films are available on other platforms:



