

# Diversity in the Curriculum at Colmers Farm Primary School (v3)

At Colmers Farm Primary School, we strongly believe in the importance of preparing our children to thrive in the multi-cultural country and world we live in. We have therefore designed our curriculum to be inclusive and to celebrate the amazing diversity our city, this country and the world has to offer. Our curriculum is designed to promote a tolerance, respect and acceptance of the characteristics of the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation) and to challenge stereotypes. This is achieved through discrete teaching and through incidental learning.

This document is used by the teachers at our school to identify, teach, discuss (including changes in attitudes over time), make links with, challenge stereotypes, and celebrate elements of diversity within our school's topic lessons (history and geography elements) within KS2.



## AMAZON

Harriet Chalmers Adams – Pioneering Explorer. She was an American explorer who explored extensive South America. She apparently “reached twenty frontiers previously unknown to white women.” Harriet helped to set up the Society of Woman Geographers.

Isabela Godin des Odonais was the first known woman to travel the length of the Amazon River (1769).

The indigenous peoples of the Brazilian rainforest often experience violence from people engaged in illegal logging, mining and land grabbing. They are also displaced by forest fires which create space for animal grazing and agricultural land.



## ANCIENT EGYPT

Ancient Egypt was a racially diverse place because the River Nile attracted people from all over the region.

Skin colour wasn't important to the Ancient Egyptians. Those who obeyed the Pharaohs, spoke the language and worshipped the proper gods were considered to be Egyptians.

There were five black pharaohs. The 25<sup>th</sup> dynasty were a line of pharaohs who originated in the kingdom of Kush (present day North Sudan and Upper Egypt). Reigned from 747-656 BC. During this period the Nile Valley saw its first construction of pyramids (many in what is now South Sudan).

There were at the very least 7 female pharaohs including Nefertiti, Cleopatra and Hatshepsut.

Girls in Ancient Egypt got married very young and they could marry who they wanted and divorce those who no longer suited them. They did not learn to read and write.

Women played an important role in many aspects of daily life and religion. They had equal rights to men in regards to property and court cases. The average woman's focus was on a traditional role as wife and mother.



Birmingham's industrial sector was the main supplier of iron and ironware to Africa (including padlocks, irons, chains and muzzles) all of which were instruments for use in the slave trade.

From the 1760s onwards, a large number of guns made in Birmingham were used in West Africa to trade for slaves.

The Lunar Society, which regularly met in Birmingham, is known for its role in the abolitionist movement of slavery.

People have been migrating to Birmingham for over 200 years. Between 1845 and 1849, many Irish people moved to Birmingham due to the Irish potato famine. In the 1800, a small number of people of Chinese origin moved to Birmingham. During WW1 these were joined by Hong Kong Chinese to work in the war factories. After WW2, many Polish, Caribbean, Indian and Pakistani people moved to England. In the 1980s refugees from Afghanistan, Iran, Somalia and Bosnia arrived. Due to 10 new member states joining the European Union in 2004, people from former Eastern Bloc countries moved to Birmingham for work.

In 2013, there 187 nationalities of people represented in the population of Birmingham and 108 languages are spoken.

In the 2001 census, 70.0% of the people in Birmingham were white, 19.5% were Asian, 6.1% were black, 2.5% were mixed race, 0.5% were Chinese and 0.6% were of another ethnic group.

Birmingham Pride is a weekend-long LGBTQ+ festival held annually in Birmingham. It's the largest 2 day LGBTQ+ festival in the UK and attracts over 75,000 people. Birmingham Pride is about bring the whole community together no matter what gender, sexuality, colour, religion or race you are.



## BIRMINGHAM

## ROMANS

Roman era was the first time that black people visited the UK.

The Roman Empire was very multicultural, with soldiers coming from all over Empire (which included parts of Africa). Anyone born under Roman rule as a free person becomes a Roman citizen with the same rights.

A unit of North African soldiers were stationed at a fort next to Hadrian's Wall (on the England/Scotland border) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BC.

Septimus Severus became the first (and only) black Roman Emperor.

Boudicca, Celtic queen of the Iceni tribe, led a revolt against the Romans attacking several cities and killing over 80,000 citizens of Roman Britain.

Basic skills of reading and writing were taught to most girls in the upper and middle classes. This was done to help the, manage the household.

Women were not allowed to vote during this period of time.



## EXTREME EARTH

According to Maori history, female explorer Ui-te-rangiora reached the Antarctic waters around 650AD. Louise Seguin became the first Western woman to visit the Antarctic region in 1773.

In the 1930s, Ingrid Christensen was the first woman to see Antarctica, the first to fly over it and arguably the first woman to step onto the Antarctic mainland (1937). Caroline Mikkesen has set foot on Antarctica in 1935, although where this was an island or the mainland is disputed.

The first British woman (Janet Thomson) became the first British woman to work inside the Antarctica Circle in 1983 as part of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS). Today 31% of the BAS are women. They include the director, members of the senior leadership teams, pilots, station leaders, marine officers and engineers. All of these have worked in Antarctica and some have worked in the Arctic as well.

Barbara Hillary, in 2011 at the age of 79, became the first black woman to reach the south pole. She also became the first black woman to have reached both poles.

Felcity Aston was the first woman to cross Antarctica on her own in 2012.



Henry V's castle architect was a Muslim.

Round castle towers and arrow slits were a Muslim invention.

Concentric castles (with a layer of walls) were adopted in the west, from Muslim castles seen during the crusades.

Blind people were sometimes used in trebuchet wheels because they didn't get motion sickness from the light coming through the wooden slats on the wheels (causes a strobing effect). Sighted people would often be physically sick or would pass out.

In the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, 1 in 10 people in England were foreign born (1 in 6 in London). This included people from Europe, Africa and Asia. Many of these people came to this country as skilled craftsmen/women, refugees, bankers, merchants, foreign nobles, servants and labourers and child slaves (bought or kidnapped from their parents in Iceland!).

Women held many positions including wife, mother, peasant (including farm worker), slave, servant, nun, skilled craft worker as well as important roles such as an abbess (in charge of an abbey of nuns) or Queen.

African people were present in the UK during the medieval period. An archaeological team found the skeleton of a black man ("Ipswich Man") in Ipswich. He was buried there between 1258 and 1300.



## ANCIENT GREECE

The ancient Greeks did not think in terms of race or ethnicity. They thought in terms broader terms about borders, conquests and alliances, language and communication. They thought in terms of us and them with them being non Greek.

In most of Greece, women had few rights and they were not allowed to vote or own land. In Sparta, things were very different. The women had to do physical training with men, were permitted to own land and could drink wine.

Relationships between men were common in Ancient Greece.

Blindness was no obstacle to a successful career. Homer was blind and Eratosthenes (a mathematician and geographer who calculated the circumference of the Earth) had dulling vision. In warfare blind people were employed to row Greek galleys.

At least one of the Greek gods was disabled (Hephaestus – The god of metalworking, artisans and fire had a shrivelled foot.)



## CIVIL RIGHTS

In most parts of America black people did not have equal rights as white people. Some laws were even passed (such as the Jim Crow laws) which denied black people equal rights. Black people often had the worst jobs and couldn't use the same public facilities such as schools and parks. Some states used a literacy test to prevent black people from voting as black people had limited access to education.

Many white people thought that black people should have the same rights as white people. White people often joined the protests.

Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man in Montgomery (as was the rule at the time) and was imprisoned. This led to black people boycotting the bus service (led by the Rev. Martin Luther King). Link with a protest this inspired in the UK – Bristol bus boycott where a bus company refused to employ non white bus crews. Many non black people joined this protest. This led to the Race Relations Act 1965 which made discrimination on race illegal in the UK.

Martin Luther King's group (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) believed in non violent protest, it's motto was "Not one hair of one head of one person should be harmed."

After the US court ruled that black children could go to the same schools as white children, some schools in the south tried to resist this – Little Rock Nine children. Eventually the army had to escort these black children into school safely each day.



Shakespeare's play Othello, where the leading character is often portrayed as a black man, is first performed in 1604.

John Blanke was a black royal trumpeter in the courts of Henry VII and Henry VIII. He is the only black Tudor that we have an identifiable image for. When John Blanke, asked King Henry VIII for a pay rise the king granted it. He also gave Blanke and his bride a wedding gift.

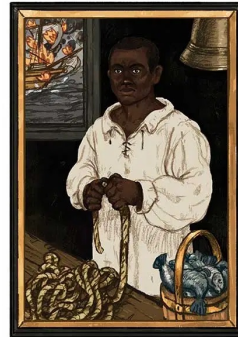
Jacques Francis was an expert swimmer and diver who was employed to help salvage guns from the deck of the Mary Rose after it sank. He was the lead diver and he became an important witness in the matter of a theft, however because of his race and status there was controversy on whether or not he could be called as a witness. In February 1548, he became the first known African to speak in a British court.

By the 16<sup>th</sup> Century most girls at all levels of society could expect some schooling.

Women were unable to own property, enter into agreements or make their own wills without their husbands consent.

King Henry VIII considered it dangerous for women to read the bible and come to their own conclusions about religion. He therefore passed an act which restricted the English bible only to upper class women, who were only allowed to read it in their own homes.

Under Queen Elizabeth I, it was illegal to attend Catholic worship, although many people did in secret.



## TUDORS

## CHINA

China is home to 56 ethnic minorities, each of them with their own respective identify, culture, language and religion. The largest of these groups in the Han Chinese (numbering over 900 million). The smallest group is the Hezhen, who live in the far northeast of China with fewer than 2000 people.

In over 3,000 years of Chinese history, only one female has ruled China – Empress Wu (624-705).

Wang Zhenyi was a famous astronomer, scientist and poet during the Qing Dynasty. She fought about the norms of the time which forbade women to pursue any interests. She fought for the right to study and she educated herself in astronomy, mathematics, geography and medicine.

Hua Mulan (although it is not clear if she ever existed) is said to have dressed up as a man to take over her aging father's place in the army. She is describe as a woman who brought bravery and hope to the people in China.



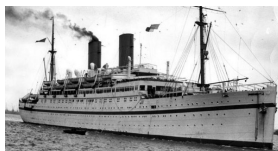
## JOURNEYS

After WW2, many people immigrated to the UK to take up jobs in the NHS and other sectors affected by Britain's post-war labour shortage. These were mostly people from our commonwealth, countries ran by the UK. These people helped to rebuild the UK's economy after the WW2.

The HMT Windrush, arrived in Tilbury on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1948 bring workers from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and other islands. It contained 1,027 passengers and 2 stowaways.

Migration has been happening to the UK for centuries, often from neighbouring countries.

Most refugees who reach Europe and the UK are young men. This is because young men can handle the dangerous trip better than women and children. Once they gain asylum, their families can follow them in a much safer way.



British forces are taken from all over the British Empire. Many soldiers on the front lines are from the Caribbean, Africa and India. Around 600,000 Black people fight in the war on behalf of the British Army. There are also at least three known Black spitfire pilots in the RAF. Others serve in the RAF as engineers or navigators.

Lilian Bader - first black woman to join the RAF as an aeroplane electronic specialist.

Noor Inayat Khan – Indian Muslim Princess who spied for the British during WW2.

Women joined the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA). They never flew in combat but they flew planes from the factories to the front line bases. This freed up male pilots for combat

During WW2, disabled workers were recruited into war work. Factories employed 500,000 people with impairments

In 1948, Sir Ludwig Guttmann organised a sports competition for veterans with spinal injuries in Stoke. 4 years later competitors from Holland joined the games and the Paralympic movement was born.

Alan Turing – A mathematician and computer pioneer who helped to crack Nazi codes and save hundreds of thousands of lives. He was convicted for being homosexual, when this was illegal. Because he was a 'criminal' he couldn't work for the government any more and he committed suicide a couple of years later. His image will be on the new £50 note.

