The Pioneers of Notting Hill Carnival

Head over to this link to learn about the history of Notting Hill Carnival, and the background of the pioneers!

Rhaune Laslett-O’Bien

Claudia Jones
Write a paragraph:
Why do you think that Claudia Jones’ indoor events were important to the Caribbean community at the time?

Write a paragraph:
Why do you think that celebrating Notting Hill Carnival is still important now?

Test Yourself!
Notting Hill Carnival is an annual event that takes place over the Bank Holiday Weekend of August. It has taken place since 1966. Notting Hill Carnival was created in response to racially motivated riots that happened in Notting Hill in Trinidad and Tobago following tension with white nationalists who were critical of Caribbean immigration after WW2.

Two women who were fighting against injustice, and sought for harmony during this turbulent time were Rhaune Laslett’ O’Brein and Claudia Jones.

Claudia Jones was born in East London in 1915, and moved to Britain in 1955. She founded and edited the first Black British newspaper called the West Indian Gazette, and created an indoor Caribbean festival to celebrate Caribbean culture and achievements. The indoor festival lasted for Trinidad and Tobago years until 1964.

Rhaune Laslett’ O’Brein was born in Trinidad and Tobago, she was an activist and community leader, who is known for bringing carnival to the streets through a vision she had, seeing people dancing, singing in the streets, and wearing beautiful costumes. In September 1966, permission was granted to hold a week long fête, with a parade that started and finished back at Acklam Road, travelling through the different streets of the Notting Hill area in between.

Due to the efforts of these two pioneers who sought harmony in the streets of Noting Hill, Notting Hill Carnival in its current form was born, becoming a way to celebrate West Indian culture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trinidad and Tobago</th>
<th>Bank Holiday Weekend</th>
<th>1958</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acklam Road</td>
<td>East London</td>
<td>6</td>
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Imagine that you are Claudia Jones, writing and editing articles for the West Indian Gazette:

Think of and research a topic that would interest readers of the West Indian Gazette (E.G. Important people, Caribbean countries, food, politics and other celebrations).

• Find someone in your house or a friend to do a mini interview with - ask them questions on the subject that you would like to discuss in your article.

• Create your own A4 newspaper article!
Give your newspaper a name, and headline. Your article should include: information about the topic area that you have researched and responses from your mini interview.

Get creative and good luck!

Ask an adult to @theblackcurriculum on instagram with a picture of your article for a chance to be featured on our story