THE BLACK CURRICULUM

KS2 Learning Activities

Mary Prince
In this activity pack, feelings may arise. Please do take time out if you feel overwhelmed by the topic and discussions around it.

In this lesson pack, you will be given insight into the life and history of Mary Prince, a formerly enslaved woman born in the 18th century.

We hope you that once the teaching of this pack draws to a close, you gain some understanding about what it was like for enslaved people at this time, and the importance of commemorating the lives and history of formerly enslaved people.
Mary Prince was born to an enslaved family in Bermuda in 1788, and was sold away from her family at the age of ten, enduring extreme hardship.

In 1828, she was brought from Antigua to England. Slavery was still legal in the British colonies, but not in Britain itself.

Once she was free from enslavement, Prince became the first woman to publish a book about her enslavement in England. Her biography was called: The History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave.

This was the first text of a Black women's biography, detailing her experience as an enslaved person. It had a huge impact when published.
Did you know...

It is researched that amongst the first campaigners against slavery were people known as The Quakers!

A key figure during this time was Thomas Clarkson, an Englishman who fought against the slave trade in the British Empire.

Another key figure during this time was Elizabeth Heyrick. Heyrick was a Quaker from Leicester, who started the Anti-Slavery society.

In 1791, people were encouraged to boycott sellers who sold sugar that were produced by enslaved people!
Activities
Writing Task!

With what you have learned about Mary Prince in this resource pack, write a short diary entry about why you feel autobiographies are important in documenting peoples lives.

There is no right or wrong! Be honest with expressing how you feel, and remember to go back to pages of this resource to help you!
Visit Mary Prince’s Plaque!

Address:
University of London
Senate House
Malet St
London
WC1E 7HU

Fun fact!
Mary Prince’s plaque is located in Bloomsbury, as she lived in a house near the site where the plaque is mounted on.

The plaque was unveiled by Diane Abbott in 2007!

To find out more, click this link