



Preserving Diverse Industrial Heritage COURSE

Level 1: Introduction Series (10 lessons)

Lesson 3

An Introduction to Black Miners in Art

Overview

Lesson 3: An Introduction to Black Miners in Art

Topics explores: Art /Art History / Artists/ Diversity /Industry/ Coal mining / African-Caribbean communities/ human expression/ representation/ identity

Objectives / Learning Targets: *Learners will*

- Discuss what is art and what is diverse art
- Explore why Black/ BAME miners are depicted in art
- How artists have interpreted and represented African-Caribbean miners in art
- Hear from artists who have produced art depicting diverse mining heritage (+ video link)

Subject Curriculum links: Art, History, Citizenship, Geography, English, Media Studies

Materials & Resources

Computer/ IT technology / Smart phone

Note-taking resources

Artist pencils, paint, paper, brushes

Introduction

Coal miners of African Caribbean heritage and other diverse mining communities have a place in mining history and mining art. Black miners' identity in art has never been explored as a genre of industrial artistry until now....

In response to the underrepresentation of black miners in art, the Black Miners Museum began to create and to commission a series of tangible artworks by a range of diverse, British artists that expressed the experiences, the memories, the emotion and conditions of mining for former UK black miners.

Visual representations of black miners in art captures an essence and fusion of cultures and industrial realities in abstract forms.

Learning Activities

Time	Activities	Key words / Phrases
5 mins	<p><i>Ice-breaker/ Starter</i></p> <p>Ask the group questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is art? • What do you feel when you look at a piece of art? (e.g., a painting, a sculpture, a film) • Should art have meaning? • What types of art have you created? • Do you consider yourself to be an artist? • Who can be an artist? 	<p>Art</p> <p>Artist</p>
45 mins	<p><i>Main</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the theme of representation in art (choose a few modern and classical artworks to discuss) • Discuss some of the visual effects and techniques used by the artists. Share thoughts on how the artists might have felt created their art. What obstacles might they encountered? • Watch the video 'Black Miners and Representation in Art' by Francis Pesquera (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLxhFRe89Zs&t=15s). Summarise the main points of the presentation • Write a set of interview questions to ask Francis Pesquera • Write an arts review to submit to an arts newspaper/magazine/blog/social media post on one or more the black miners art. • Paint a representation of miners' experience 	<p>Artistry</p> <p>Representation</p> <p>Under-representation</p> <p>Black/BAME</p> <p>(Black Asian Minority Ethnic)</p> <p>Presentation</p>
5 mins	<p><i>Plenary</i></p> <p>Reflection questioning</p> <p>Describe what you have learnt today – write (or draw a related object) on a post-it note.</p> <p>Gather responses and share.</p>	<p>Reflection</p>

Ideas for differentiation

a. Visual Learners

Include images

b. Auditory Learners

Include recordings/podcasts /music

c. Kinesthetic Learners

Include objects to handle

d. ESL Students

Include vocabulary translations and images of key objects/words

e. At-risk Students

Be aware of discussing subjects/topics that may trigger negative responses or behaviours

f. Advanced Learners

Include extension activities i.e. further questions, questions that encourage analysis and evaluation, independent research topics

Opportunities for individual, paired, groups

- Work in pairs to discuss the video film
- Design a postcard featuring black miners' artistry
- Discuss the effect/effects of limited representation of topics/themes in art

Assessment

Informal, direct questions, self-reflection

Media Links

YouTube Black Miners Museum Representations in Art by Francis Pesquera

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLxhFRe89Zs&t=15s>

Black Miners Museum Galley <https://www.blackcoalminers.com/BMMPgallery>

Mining Migration, Stella Chadwick, artist <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-uZ8XzCRAxw>

Further reading/study

- Black Artists in British Art: A history since the 1950s by Eddie Chambers (2014)
- Black and British: A Forgotten History by David Olusoga (2017)
- Curating the Future: Museums, communities and climate change by Jennifer Newell, Libby Robin et al (2016)
- Black Art: a Cultural History by Richard J. Powell (2002)

Global connection opportunities & places to visit (online or physical)

- Visit an art gallery (online or physical) to explore themes of art
(For major art galleries see: The Tate Modern <https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern>, the National Portrait Gallery <https://www.npg.org.uk> and
- Visit the Mining Art Gallery, Bishop Auckland, Durham <https://www.aucklandproject.org/venues/mining-art-gallery/>
- Visit 'The 10 Best Art Galleries in England' <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/united-kingdom/england/articles/the-10-best-art-galleries-in-england/>
- National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington DC USA <https://nmaahc.si.edu>

Images for heritage educational use /discussion



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TEACHER NOTES