



Preserving Diverse Industrial Heritage COURSE

Level 1: Introduction Series (10 lessons)

Lesson 4

An Introduction to the Black Miners Museum

Overview

Lesson 4: An Introduction to the Black Miners Museum

Topics explores: Museum / Preserving history / Cultural heritage /Diversity /Industry/ Coal mining / African Caribbean communities / Curator / Collections

Objectives / Learning Targets: *Learners will*

- Explore what is the Black Miners Museum including its aims, purpose, mission
- Examine how and why black miners' heritage is collected and preserved
- Consider the range of content within the museum
- Discuss how diverse heritage museums can help educate, inform and entertain

Subject Curriculum links: Business Studies, Heritage curatorial, History, Citizenship, Museum Studies

Introduction

The Black Miners Museum was founded in 2017 after several years collecting, sourcing, purchasing, and touring exhibitions of heritage relating to the experiences and history of former coal miners of African-Caribbean heritage, who worked in coalfields in the UK and and collieries around the world. This lesson explores types of content, both digital and physical, held and managed by the Black Miners Museum as part of Nottingham News Centre and the purpose of its educational mission to readdress (mis)representations of industrial history.

Black Miners Museum content

The Black Miners Museum holds heritage assets as tangible (physical) objects, digital products (e.g., 3D content, audio & publishing) and intellectual copyright property. Aspects of the museum content is publicly accessible online. Its archives include over 500+ rare industrial objects, artefacts, 100+ publications, books, postcards, archive materials, contemporary photo archive (5000+ images), video and media library (500+ video footage), 50+ pieces of cultural costumes, coal art jewellery and sculpture, touring exhibition, school display content, 300+ hours audio recordings and a wealth of heritage education resources.

The Black Miners Museum has helped reshape and readdress (mis)representations in industrial history by collating and sharing previously undocumented and forgotten narratives and voices, ensuring significant diverse industrial heritage, once at risk, is not lost, deteriorated through neglect or forgotten but preserved, managed, developed further to educate.

The museum content is shared and used to make a difference in people's perceptions roles and contributors in industrial history, by motivating and encouraging people, especially the younger generation (e.g., Gen Z, Millennials etc.) to engage with their history through various interactive, media production activities, and audio oral history thus reaching local, national and global audiences. Through our engaging heritage media production/broadcasting work and community engagement activities, which are central to our current and future work, the Black Miners Museum is a leader in Black/BAME industrial heritage management, media production and educational output.

Mission

A mission of the Black Miners Museum is to help promote understanding in concepts such as:

- teamwork
- camaraderie
- effective communication
- resilience
- strength (physical and mental)
- efficiency/ time management skills

abundant in the output and experience of many of the Windrush Generation who migrated to the UK post World War 2, mainly between the 1948 to the early 1970s, which many of the former, elderly black miners were part of, that now helps people address gaps in education and skills, develop resilience, helping to promote equality and inclusion and inspiration for the younger generation to participate in shaping their world and environment, in which we all have a duty of care.

The Black Miners Museum has used its 'voice' to encourage positive and successful public engagement activities since being supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund & National Lottery Players. It has also worked with a variety of partner organisations, community groups, consultants and mentors to achieve effective heritage awareness, recognition and a cause for celebration of a shared and rich, industrial journey.

Learning Activities

Time	Activities	Key words / Phrases
10 mins	<p><i>Ice-breaker/ Starter</i></p> <p>Ask the group questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a museum? • Write a description (3 sentences) of your favourite museum you have visited • Consider why preserving migration stories/histories are relevant today 	<p>Museum</p> <p>Preservation</p> <p>Migration histories</p>
45 mins	<p><i>Main</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List 10 objects that are contained/ preserved within the Black Miners Museum (BMM). Explore the archive catalogue at https://www.blackcoalminers.com/BMMP-Resource-catalogue). Describe why is object/item/media is of interest to you • Discuss some of the challenges and obstacles there might be when creating a new /diverse museum • Watch one of the TV broadcasts or review one of the articles about Black miners (link available at https://www.blackcoalminers.com/BMMP-Media-Interest) • Write a set of interview questions for the museum curator in terms of layout, public access, digital technologies and museums etc. • Think about museums of the future. What would they be like? What would they preserve and why? • View previous and current BMM events and news. Plan a new event or write a new article (100 words) to add to the website. 	<p>Diverse</p> <p>Collection</p> <p>Collection</p> <p>Artefacts</p> <p>Archives</p> <p>Black/BAME</p> <p>(Black Asian Minority Ethnic)</p> <p>Colliery</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

Assessment

Informal, direct questions, self-reflection

Media Links

Black Miners Museum (Aims) <https://www.blackcoalminers.com/BMMPAims>

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

Materials & Resources

- Historic England listing of the Black Miners heritage as part of regional news
<https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/in-your-area/midlands/black-history-month-part-2/>
- 'Wales' Black Miners', tv programme co-production in collaboration with BBC Wales and Cardiff Productions, October 2020 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000n9rx/wales-black-miners>
- *Chronicle Live News*, North-East <https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/andy-coles-dad-black-miners-19143172>

Further reading/study

- *The Guardian* newspaper, 25th October 2016, 'How Britain's black miners are reclaiming their place in history' an article by Frances Perraudin.
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/oct/24/black-miners-britain-nottingham>
- 'Black British Coal Miners Significance and Sacrifice Remembered' in Race Matters online, 25th October 2019 by the Runnymede Trust <https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/black-british-coal-miners-significance-and-sacrifice-remembered>
- LeftLion newspaper feature p.27, #119 November 2019 interview with Alex Kuster <https://www.leftlion.co.uk/media/4876691/leftlion-issue-119-web.pdf> online version <https://www.leftlion.co.uk/read/2019/november/norma-gregory-black-miners-history-exhibition/>

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

- View Black Miners Museum catalogue at <https://www.blackcoalminers.com/BMMP-Resource-catalogue>
- Explore a digital map with locations of partner mining museums in the UK now hosting aspects of the Black Miners Museum content and diverse heritage <https://viewer.mapme.com/black-miners-museum-project>
- Black Miners Museum <https://www.blackcoalminers.com>
- The European Network of Mining Museums <https://www.museodelcarbone.it/en/surroundings/the-european-network-of-coal-mining-museums/>

Images for heritage educational use / discussion



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TEACHER NOTES