

# HomeTalk

Thoughtful Conversations for Families  
and Schools

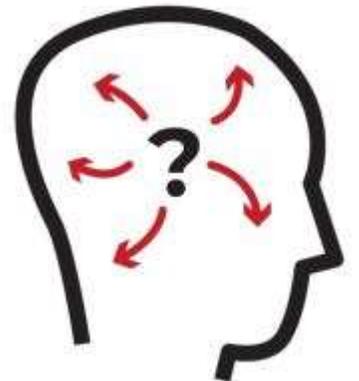
Issue 23 – The Black Curriculum



**Note to parents/carers and teachers**

This pack contains links to external websites. Whilst we take every care to make sure these are suitable, you may want to check the content before showing them to children

Thinking  
Moves



# This week's focus is the Black Curriculum

“History has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own.”

Michelle Obama - writer



“I wish we didn't need Black History Month. But we really do. We need it now more than ever”

Benjamin Zephaniah - poet



“Black history is a series of missing chapters from British history. I'm trying to put those chapters back in”

David Olusaga - historian



## Caring thinking

- How does learning other people's history help you understand them better?

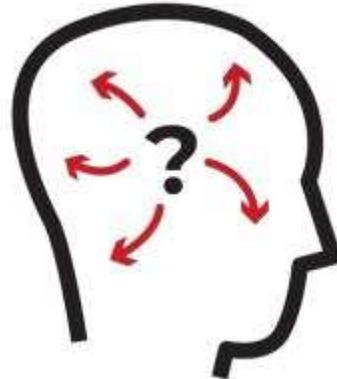


## Collaborative thinking

- How can we share ideas from different cultures to make life richer for everyone?

## Creative thinking

- What artistic inspiration can we draw from the heritage of different ethnic groups?



Thinking Moves

## Critical thinking

- How can we tell whether something we read or watch is biased?
- What about our own thinking? Might that also be one-sided?

# Thinking Moves



**Think AHEAD**



**Think BACK**



**CONNECT**

Does understanding history help us imagine the future?

How do ideas spread across different cultures?



**DIVIDE**

Should society protect cultural differences between its members?



**LISTEN/LOOK**

How can you see if important things are missing in a story?



**ZOOM (in/out)**

How do individuals influence history?

Why might we need a Black Curriculum?

# HomeTalk discussion suggestions

For age 3 – 5 years



<https://youtu.be/PcKelcbas9s>

**Anansi the Spider – by Gerald McDermott read by Aaron Carswell** – Anansi is a West African folk character. Africans took the stories about Anansi to America and Europe, and they became popular there too.

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/833228.Anansi\\_the\\_Spider](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/833228.Anansi_the_Spider)

## Talking Points

- How did Anansi get into trouble?
- Which of Anansi's sons do you think helped him most?
- Would you help a spider, if it was in trouble?
- How do you think the moon got to be in the sky?

## Activity

- Look at the picture on the next page.
- Try to imagine hearing the Anansi story at that school.
- Say what else you might see and hear there.

Next  
page

# African village school



# HomeTalk discussion suggestions



For age 6 – 9 years



<https://youtu.be/6JfypN4ijDw>

**Lilian Bader - The Black Curriculum.** Lilian was born in the Toxteth area of Liverpool in 1918. Her father was from Barbados and her mother was British-Irish. Lilian became one of the first Black women to join the British armed forces.

## Talking Points

- How did Lilian Bader try to contribute to the British war effort during the Second World War?
- As a Black woman, she faced difficulties progressing in her work. How do you think this made her feel?
- Lilian’s story was nearly 80 years ago. How different do you think things are nowadays?

## Activity

- Try to think of other women who have influenced the course of history. Perhaps do a web search to help.
- Then make a collage of pictures to tell their story.

# HomeTalk discussion suggestions



For ages 10+ years



<https://youtu.be/Gp4aEkPN9lw>

**Notting Hill Carnival – The Black Curriculum** – the annual carnival attracts around 2 million people, making it one of the world's largest street festivals, and a significant event in Black British culture.

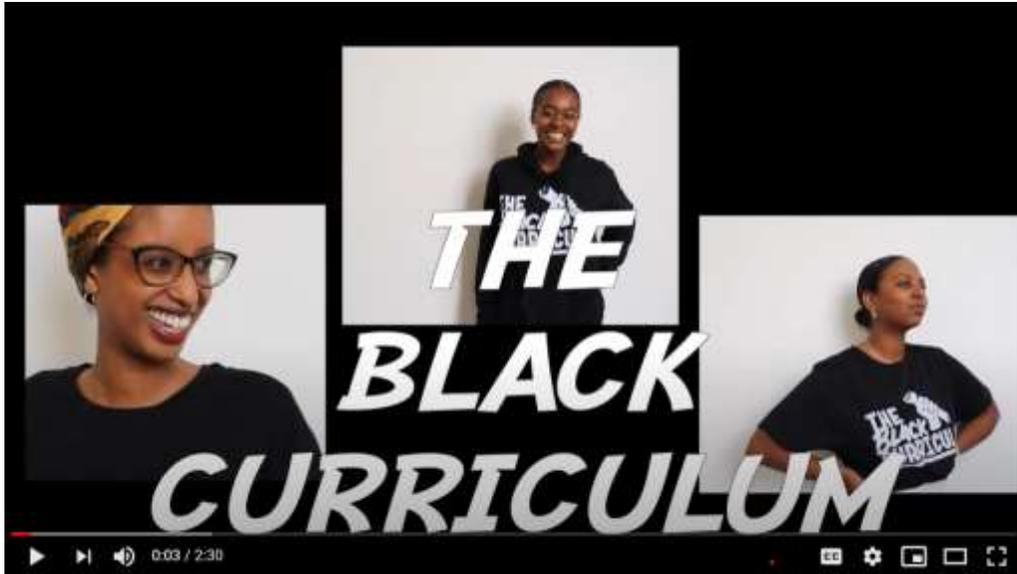
## Talking Points

- Do you think starting the Notting Hill Carnival was an effective response to racial tensions?
- Have you ever been to a carnival or street festival? What was it celebrating or trying to achieve?
- Why do you think some people object to events like the Notting Hill Carnival?

## Activity

- Imagine organising a street party or festival focussed on a cause you feel strongly about.
- What activities and entertainments would you have?
- Can you draw a map to show the layout?

For further discussion.....



<https://youtu.be/-8CyD67A214>

*“We believe that by delivering arts focused Black history programmes, providing teacher training and campaigning through mobilising young people, we can facilitate social change.”*

## What do you think?

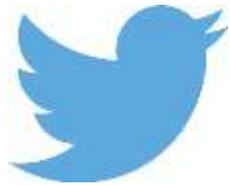
- Would you like to know more about Black culture and history?
- Why do so many people around the world feel that there is a need for Black History Month?
- How do you think it affects us, if we don't know about the heritage of different groups in our society?

Resources sourced from:

<https://theblackcurriculum.com/>

More ideas.....

<https://dialogueworks.co.uk/HomeTalk/>



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#P4C and #thinkingmoves



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