

Trade Gets You Rich

Ships can make you very rich. This activity explores how the simple human desire to achieve, is linked to greed and the exploitation of others is justified.

A ship cuts out risky and expensive overland trade routes where you are taxed to pass through someone's land or worse you are attacked and robbed.

Imagine you lived in Europe in the 18th Century. Set the scene with pictures of people and places from this period.



1785, Broad Quay, Bristol



Trade and Colonialism – Pupil Worksheet – Trade gets you rich

You buy and sell goods. Most of the goods that make a lot of money come from far away by ship.

You have to pay a lot to get goods to sell because you can't afford your own ship.

How would you get into the shipping business?

- Become a pirate or privateer?
- Stay at home and sell 'part shares' in a ship to fund trading expeditions. When the ship returns split the profits with all the people who gave you money to buy the ship.

Shares in a ship created the concept of buying shares in a company. Today there are multi-trillion global companies and shares in these companies are traded on stock markets.

Global Trade created great wealth in Europe.

People who got rich through global trading were very influential in their home cities and towns. They were often celebrated with statues on plinths, street names and buildings.

People have protested for decades that these highly regarded traders were bad people. The Edward Colston story is just one example – see this animation made by Candice Pepperall in 2007 part of the 'Me Deya' (Jamaican Patwah for 'I am here') project by First Born Creatives.

<https://vimeo.com/16960494>

Summary

- European Countries became wealthier and more powerful through trade.
- Nations supported their traders, protected their trade routes and the lands that supplied them with goods.
- They went on to take ownership of the lands that supplied them with goods.
- Once a European Country had claimed ownership that country was it's colony.
- European Countries went on to colonise the rest of the world.

Do you think the trader who took out shares in a ship was a good or bad person, explain why?

Answer

Create a Story Board for a Film or an Animation.

Watch Candice Pepperall's film again <https://vimeo.com/16960494>

What happened to the Statue of Colston after 2007. Candice Pepperall was 14 years old at the time she made her film about Colston. How old is she now?

Answer

Make a story board for a sequel to Candice's film using the history of Colston's statue .

If you have the time and equipment can you make your ideas into a film?

Copy the example storyboard template on to a larger sheet.

Colston Statue II - the Sequel

Image / Drawing	Image / Drawing	Image / Drawing
Spoken text	Spoken text	Spoken text
Written Text	Written Text	Written Text
Music / Sounds effects	Music / Sounds effects	Music / Sounds effects

Ask your teacher to send us your storyboards or films we will publish them to inspire others.