

Teachers Notes

Marcus Garvey

Links to the National Curriculum for Key Stage 3 History

Students will gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between national and international history; between cultural, economic, military and political history.

This lesson would easily fit into schemes of learning on the following topics:

- Political power, industry and empire.
- Britain as the first industrial nation – the impact on society.
- The development of the British Empire, party politics and social reform.
- Britain's Transatlantic Slave Trade: its effects and its eventual abolition
- The History of protest and/or civil rights movements.
- The lesson is also relevant to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural

SMSC development

The lesson gives students the ability to be reflective about their own non religious beliefs and perspective on life, their knowledge of, and respect for, different people's feelings and values.

It will build their understanding of the history of Britain from the earliest times to the present day: Especially how the actions and views of people in Jamaica have shaped this nation.

It offers the opportunity to develop reasoned views about moral and ethical issues. Giving students a chance to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on historical issues.

Lesson structure

This lesson follows the enquiry question

“How successful was Marcus Garvey’s attitude of self-determination in helping to overcome limitations?”

The structure outlines the historical context Marcus Garvey was born into, before exploring how he put his political views constructively into practice, and what the legacy of his work is today. Students have a chance to listen to the poetry of Lawrence Hoo and engage in extended reading. They then have the opportunity to interrogate a range of sources to investigate their utility for the enquiry question.

Father Garvey

Marcus Mosiah Garvey Jnr was born on 17th August 1887 in St Ann's Bay, Jamaica
Throughout his life he fought against inequality, making him a true chain breaker

From an early age Marcus Garvey's quest for knowledge was plain to see
As he pored over books in his father's library, which became his nursery

Submerged in books Marcus Garvey soaked up much knowledge
Being mostly self-taught, his father's library became his college

Marcus Garvey left school at age 14 to work as a printer's apprentice
Which led to him leading a strike for higher wages and fighting against injustice

These are the foundations that inspired Marcus Garvey to found the United Negro Improvement Association
His goal was to unite the African Diaspora so they could work together to rebuild their great nation

Self-determination was Marcus Garvey's ultimate goal
Being able to self-determine was his essence, his soul

The UNIA was the vehicle Marcus Garvey created to drive his plans into reality
Quickly expanding across America and beyond, the UNIA soon gained notoriety

Within a month of being established the UNIA had over two million members
Three years later it had grown to over 11 million, and this created uncomfortable tremors

Father Garvey

Newspapers, property businesses and an emerging shipping line
Had the government and authorities determined to fit a crime

New laws were introduced to track and monitor Marcus Garvey's
movements

In the hope of reversing his cause and the African Diaspora's
improvements

J Edgar Hoover employed the FBI's first African American informant
Who he used to infiltrate and spy on Marcus Garvey's movement

In 1923 Marcus Garvey was sentenced to five years in prison for
committing suspected mail fraud
It was hoped this would halt his rise, and propaganda was spread
that his methods were flawed

Marcus Garvey was released from prison after serving two years
of his sentence
Immediately returning to Jamaica to continue educating people
was his insistence

Marcus Garvey's influence was still strong and in 1928 he created
the People's Political Party
Which was the first political party to defend the interests of
Jamaica's African Caribbean community

Marcus Garvey's will to deliver more than just hope for his people
Was unquestionable and rarely have we seen an equal

After ensuring the stability of the PPP
Marcus Garvey travelled to England to spread his philosophy

Never forgetting who he was and who he represented
Marcus Garvey would go to Speaker's Corner to address all
who attended

Father Garvey

On the 10th June 1940 Marcus Garvey died at the age of 53
Leaving behind a wealth of knowledge for others is his legacy

He taught us to believe in one's self and one's worth
instead of feeling enslaved on a scorched earth

You can shackle the hands
You can shackle the feet
You can imprison the bodies

But you cannot shackle or imprison the minds

Is the truth
Marcus Garvey gave us
To unshackle our BINDS.

Lawrence Hoo