

TEACHERS NOTES

Nanny of the Maroons

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:

“What made Nanny of The Maroons such a significant leader for the people of Jamaica?”

And explores the story of Nanny of the Maroons and the resistance of enslaved people on the Island of Jamaica in the early 1700s. The lesson encourages students to understand how culture and guerrilla skills contributed to the achievements of Nanny and her followers, and what the legacy of those achievements is today. It explores the different ways she has been presented by Europeans and Jamaicans according to their own perspectives, experiences and priorities.

This is a multimedia lesson plan, in which students have a chance to use an artist's interpretation of Nanny of the Maroons to make some predictions and watch a poetry performance. There is extended reading to learn about the wider context.

On the next page you can find the text of the poem “Warrior Queen” that is performed as part of the lesson plan.



Warrior Queen

Freedom and self-determination should be everyone's birthright
Throughout the Transatlantic Slave Trade there were people who knew it wasn't right

Nanny was one such person, a freedom fighter who fought for this cause
Because Nanny knew that people were being enslaved under unjust laws

Nanny was from the Ashanti people in Africa where women were treated with respect
Under British rule in Jamaica they were enslaved, raped and hung by the neck

Nanny was taken from Africa to Jamaica and enslaved into this barbaric regime
But Nanny escaped and set out on her quest to make freedom more than just a dream

Nanny joined the Maroons, known for their fighting skills and bravery
Africans and Indigenous people who had escaped Spanish rule and slavery

Nanny was an amazing woman with exceptional leadership qualities
Which Nanny used to develop and establish new Maroon communities

Nanny planned raids on plantations which set the enslaved free
They would then join with the Maroons showing strength in unity

Due to these actions Britain declared war on the Maroons in 1720
The plan was to destroy the Maroon communities and force them back into slavery

Nanny was a military leader, a true warrior queen
Who used tactics against the British they had never seen

The Maroons would camouflage themselves to look like trees
Which enabled them to ambush the British soldiers with ease

The British suffered many losses due to the Maroons' superior combat skills
No matter how hard they tried they couldn't remove the Maroons from the hills

In 1739 the Maroons were offered a peace treaty to bring the war to an end
The British realised they couldn't win the war and would rather be the Maroons' friend



Some Maroon leaders signed the peace treaty to end the war
Nanny refused because she didn't agree with this new law

The peace treaty gave the Maroons their own land but slavery remained legal
Nanny could never agree to sign anything that still allowed this evil

Nanny leaves a legacy that should be an inspiration to all
Of what can be achieved when your back's against the wall.

Lawrence Hoo