

Friday 12th June 2020

Lesson Focus: why the Black Lives Matter movement began and why it is important to all of us

What do you already know about the Black Lives Matter movement?

What do you already know about George Floyd?

Let's look at the [George Floyd article](#) together. Please ask questions as we go along if you have any!

**So, what have we learnt about
Blackout Tuesday?**

**Watch this [interview](#)
(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52893017>) and consider:**

**Is this an effective way to raise
awareness?**

**What do you think the benefits are
for pausing and using the time to
learn?**

**Can you think of any other ways to
raise awareness about an issue we
care about?**





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Lesson Focus: why the Black Lives Matter movement began and why it is important to all of us

Your task: write a personal response to the article and the things we have discussed. You can share this with the group if you want to but if you don't want anybody else to read it (including me!) then that's okay!

Think about these questions carefully:

- What are your thoughts about the issues raised in this article?
- What surprises you? What doesn't surprise you?
- How does this affect us here in the UK?
- How effective do you think Black Tuesday was?
- Can you do anything about it?

Friday 12th June 2020

WAL: how to infer meaning from song lyrics and give a visual representation



'I Got A Dream'

A rap by Common and Will.I.Am

[youtube.com/watch?v=XBa55sDTliA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBa55sDTliA)

We will be looking at a rap song by a rapper called Common.

The song is called 'I Got a Dream'

Consider:

What do you think the idea for this song is based on?

What might it be about?

Who would the song be aimed at?



Quick Response!

Answer **true** or **false** to the questions below:

- In this song the rapper expresses that he has a happy life.
- The rapper believes that he is often treated unfairly because of his race?
- The song is inspired by Martin Luther King's speech
- The song gives the message that everyone should be equal.

Challenge:

- '**I walk with a boulder on my shoulder...**' Explain what Common means by this.
- '**Born on the black list, told I'm below average...**' Try to explain how Common creates double meaning in this part of the rap.



The song was based on the very famous speech by Martin Luther King.

**What do you already know about MLK?
What is he known for?
Why is he still such a huge inspiration for people today?**

Martin Luther King Jr. (born Michael King Jr.; January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an American Christian minister and activist who became the most visible spokesman for African Americans during the Civil Rights Movement from 1955

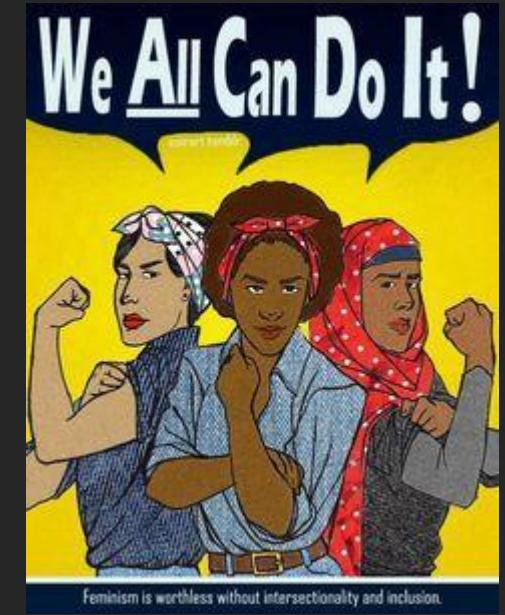
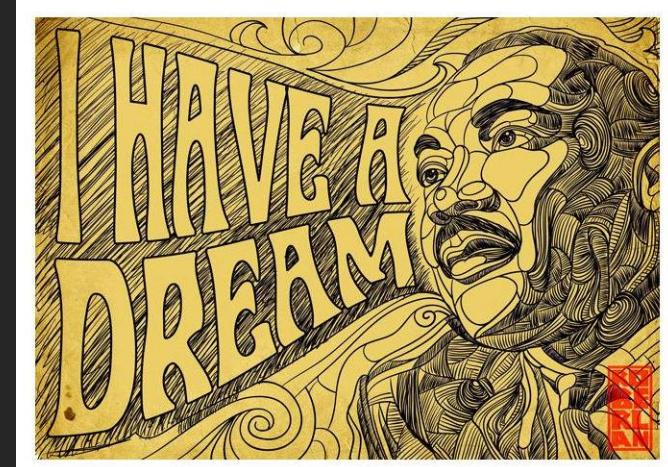
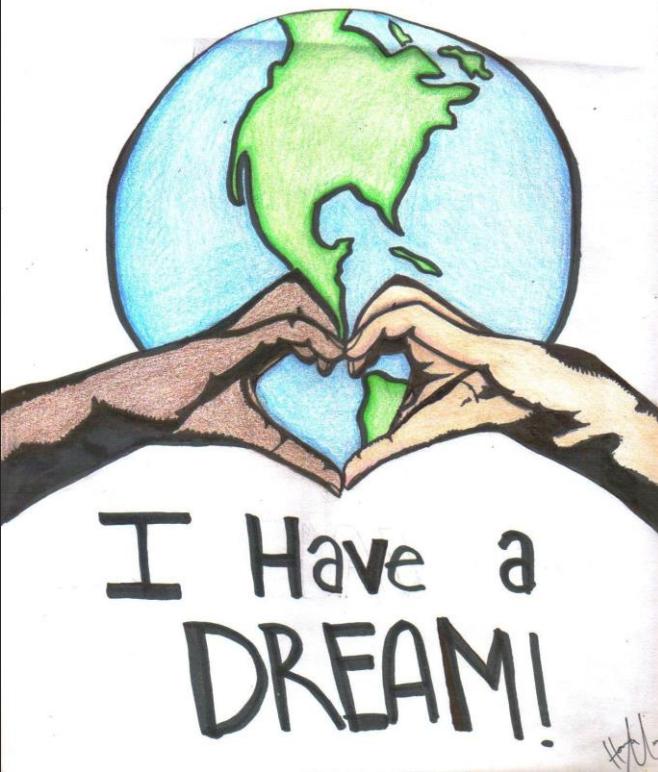
King is best known for advancing civil rights through nonviolence and civil不服, inspired by his Christian faith and the nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi.

You can listen to MLK's 'I Have a Dream' speech here.



All of these pieces of artwork were inspired by Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' speech.

Your task: Thinking about the speech, as well as the Common and Will.I.Am song, create your own piece of 'I Have a Dream' artwork.



Monday 15th June 2020

WAL: how to use our vocabulary and inference skills to analyse the effects of racism

What is racism?

Racism is more than just saying upsetting things. When people in a society hold racist views, it can affect the way the whole country works. We call this systemic racism.

Systemic racism can be more difficult to see in person, but there are lots of facts and figures that suggest that it is happening in countries like the US. For example:

Black Americans are 2x more likely to be unemployed than white Americans.

Black Americans are 3x more likely to be excluded from school than white Americans.

72% of white Americans own their own house, whereas only 42% of black Americans do.

Only 13% of people in the US are black, yet 40% of the people in prison are black.

Black Americans are 30% more likely to be pulled over by the police when driving.

Challenge: Imagine that you were a black person living in America. How would you feel about these facts? What would you want to happen?

Monday 15th June 2020

WAL: how to use our vocabulary and inference skills to analyse the effects of racism

Read through the experience of American author Shola Richards.



Shola Richards walking with his daughter and dog

Twice a day, I walk my dog Ace around my neighbourhood with one, or both, of my girls. I know that doesn't seem noteworthy, but here's something that I must admit, I would be scared to take these walks without my girls and my dog. In fact, in the four years living in my house, I have never taken a walk around my neighbourhood alone (and probably never will). Some of you may read that and think that I'm being melodramatic, but this is my reality.

When I'm walking down the street holding my young daughter's hand and walking my sweet fluffy dog, I'm just a loving dad and pet owner taking a break from the joylessness of crisis home schooling. But without them by my side, almost instantly, I change into a threat in the eyes of some. Instead of being a loving dad to two little girls, unfortunately, all that some people can see is a 6'2" athletically-built black man in a cloth mask who is walking around in a place where he doesn't belong (even though, I'm still the same guy who just wants to take a walk through his neighbourhood). It's equal parts exhausting and depressing to feel like I can't walk around outside alone, for fear of being targeted.

If you're surprised by this, don't be. We live in a world where there is a sizable amount of people who actually believe that racism isn't a thing.

So, let me share some points:

- 1) Having white privilege doesn't mean that your life isn't difficult, it simply means that your skin colour isn't one of the things contributing to your life difficulties. Case in point, if it never crossed your mind that you could have the police called on you for simply bird watching then know that is a privilege that many black people (myself included) don't currently enjoy.
- 2) Responding to "Black Lives Matter" by saying "All Lives Matter" is insensitive. All lives can't matter until black lives matter.
- 3) Racism is very real; it isn't just limited to the extremes.
- 4) In order for racism to get better, it's important we all use our voices and speak up when we see racism.

As for me, I'll continue to walk these streets holding my 8-year-old daughter's hand, in hopes that she'll continue to keep her daddy safe from harm. I know that sounds backward, but that's the world that we're living in these days.

What can this teach us about the effects of racism on daily life?



Raheem Sterling is a professional footballer who plays as a winger and attacking midfielder for Premier League club Manchester City and the England national team. He is often considered to be one of the best players in the world.

Born in Jamaica, Sterling moved to London at the age of five. His mother, Nadine Clarke, was previously a competitive athlete in the Jamaican national athletics team; Sterling credits her for his unique running style. His absent father was murdered in Jamaica when Sterling was two years old. At the age of five, he emigrated to Neasden, London with his mother, and attended [Copland School](#) in [Wembley](#), North West London. Due to behavioral problems, Sterling spent three years at Vernon House, a specialist school in Neasden.

[Watch this interview](#) with Raheem Sterling as he discusses his thoughts on the Black Lives Matter movement.

- What does he see as the key points in the fight against racism?
 - Does anything surprise you about this interview?



Fleur East is an English singer, songwriter, rapper, dancer, radio presenter and fitness model.



Watch her rap, 'It's Time to Speak Up',

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jv5C1Q_h6BQ) that she

It's time to speak up...

Black lives matter – that's the message that's the fight,
The fight against racism and not against white,
It's a movement with a message that is centuries old,
So, if you stand against injustice, speak up and be bold.

We've seen everybody come together, stay at home and work together
Fighting against a virus that we can't even see,
Now we face another virus – one called racism
And silence isn't going to change lives or protect you and me.

8 minutes, 46 seconds – can you believe?
George Floyd was held down saying he couldn't breathe.
It's time to stand up, time to put your hands up,
Time to understand love's the answer and enough is enough.

People fear for their lives through the shade that we're painted,
Can you see the picture has been tainted?
The hashtag does not accuse you or exclude you,
Saying all lives matter is only seeing what you choose to.

If you don't have a clue it's like crashing a stranger's funeral,
And screaming, "Yeah I lost someone too!"
The inequity, complexity, the pain and the perplexity,
The gunning and running and trying to numb the pain, the sheer immensity,

We're meant to be in this together,
So speak up for your brothers, for your sisters, for sons and daughters
from the slaughter,
Born to a black mother and my father was white,
My future children will be black and continue the fight,

Do something, say something, yeah we all have a voice,
And in the colour of our skin, none of us had a choice.
You can continue to divide but the truth will remain,
Underneath our skin - we all bleed the same.

Monday 15th June 2020

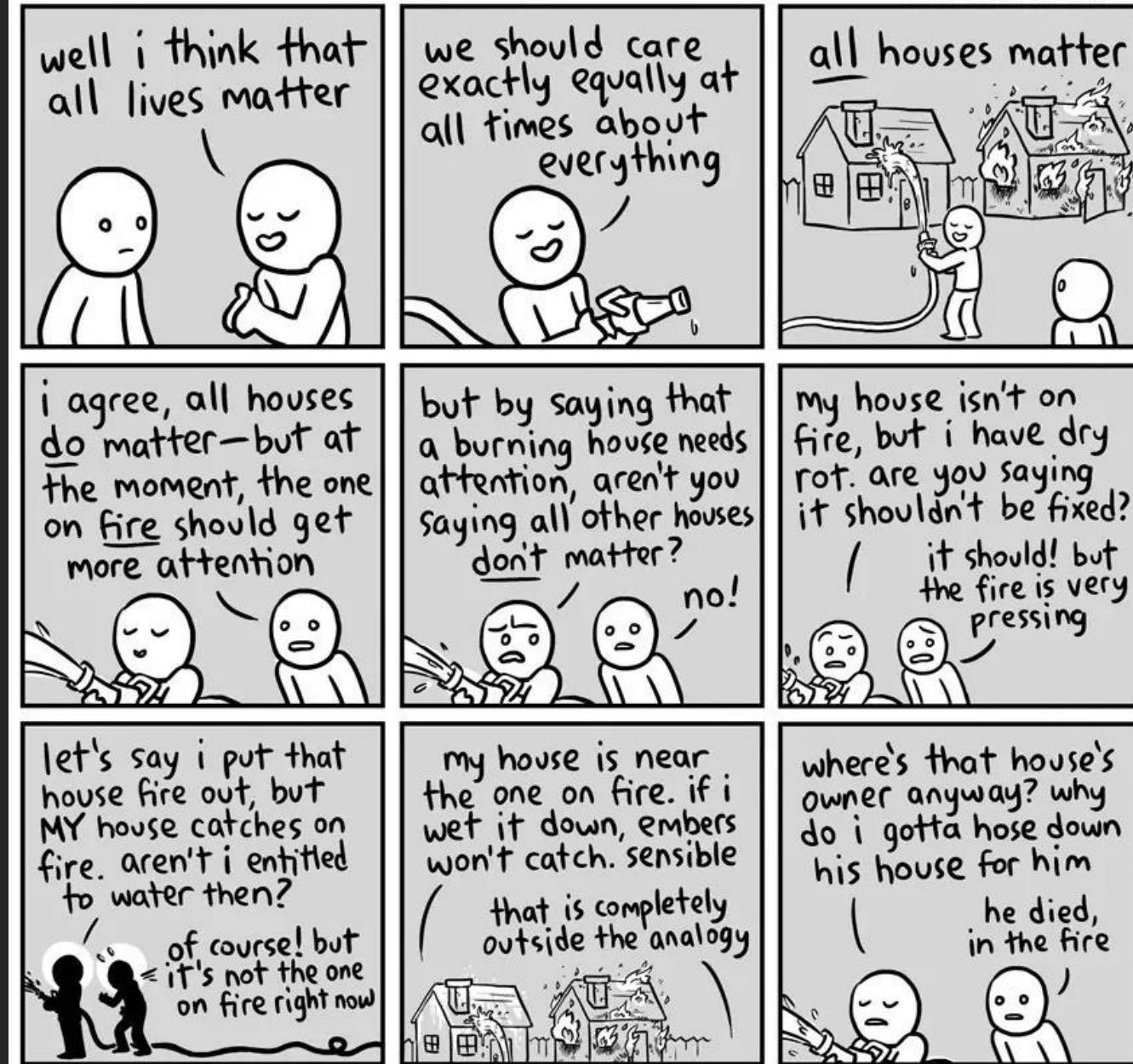
WAL: how to use our vocabulary and inference skills to analyse the effects of racism

Your task: Watch the rap, 'It's Time to Speak Up', that Fleur East performed last week live on radio and answer the following questions:

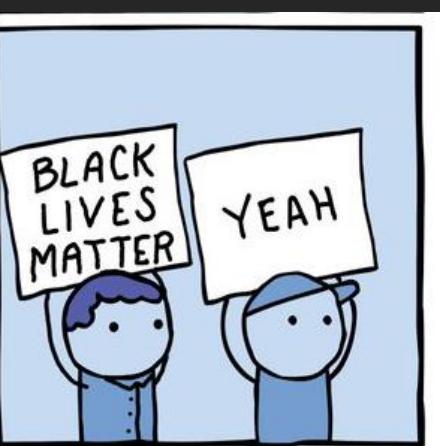
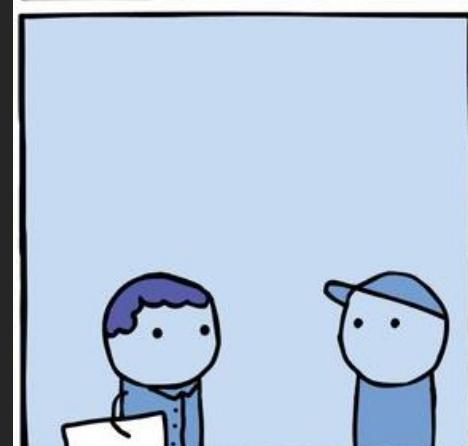
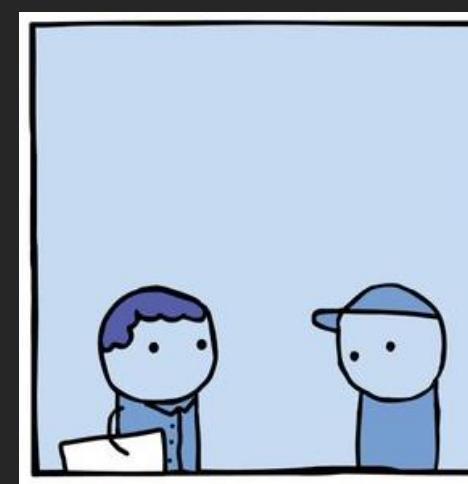
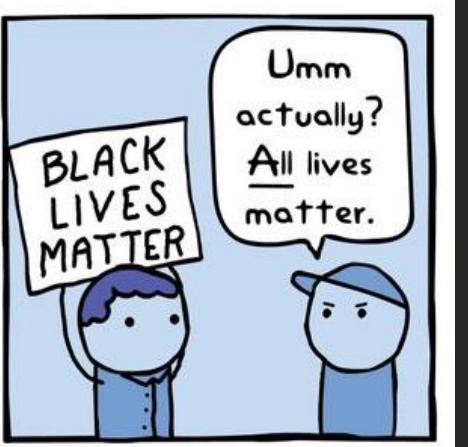
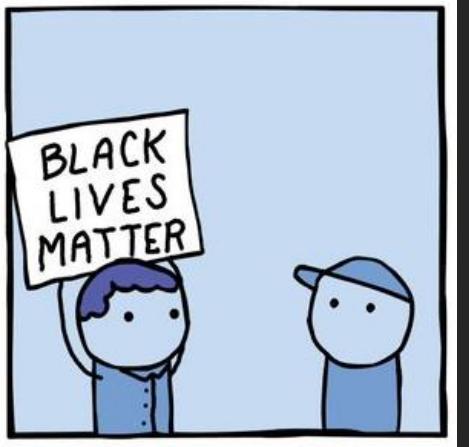
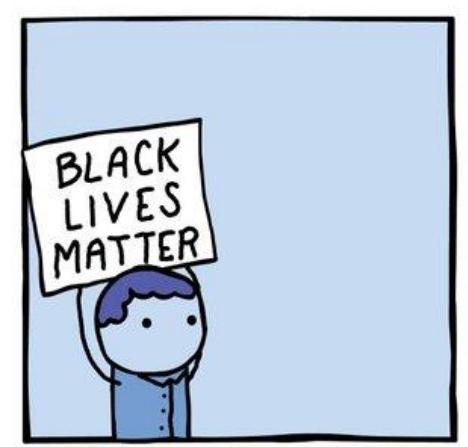
1. Why do you think the song mentions that the fight isn't against white?
2. Why does the song talk about the fight being '**centuries old**'?
3. '**Now we face another virus – one called racism.**' What is the meaning of this line?
4. Find two examples of rhetorical questions being used. Why do you think Fleur East chose to use rhetorical questions?
5. Can you think of a synonym for the word **tainted**? Why has this word been chosen?
6. '**Do something, say something, yeah we all have a voice.**' Who is this line aimed at?
7. '**Underneath our skin - we all bleed the same.**' Why did East choose to use the word 'bleed' here? What effect does this have?
8. What is your favourite part of the rap and why?

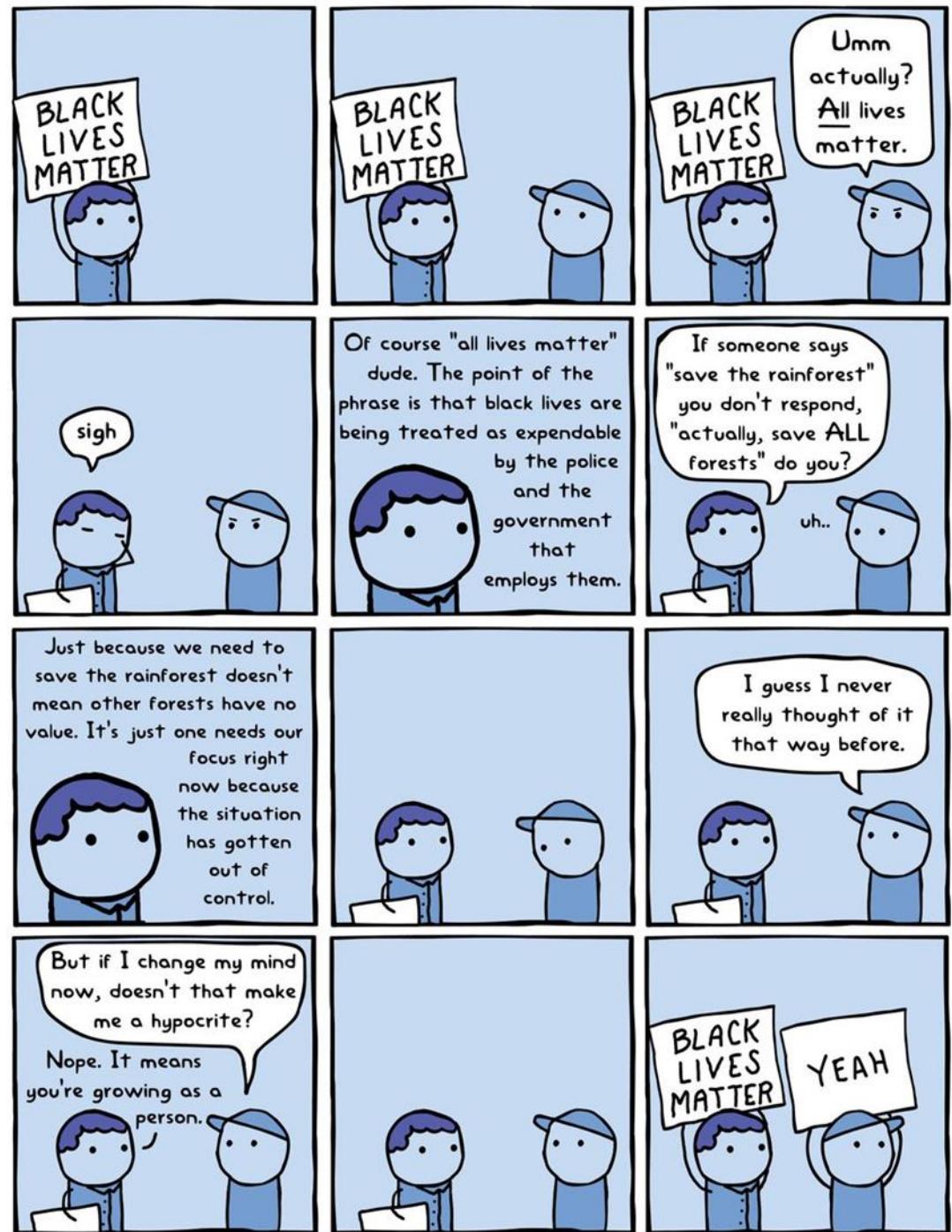
Challenge: Thinking about everything we have learnt about the Black Lives Matter movement this week and write your own rap verse.

Monday 15th June 2020

WAL: how to explain the Black Lives Matter movement to younger children

What do you think about
the phrase
ALL lives matter?





Monday 15th June 2020

WAL: how to explain the Black Lives Matter movement to younger children

Have a go at designing your own cartoon strip explaining the Black Lives Matter movement.

Tuesday 16th June 2020

WAL: how to debate an important issue, using respectful but persuasive language



Does anybody recognise this statue?

Why has it been in the news recently?

Let's look at this article together:
[Why Are People Arguing Over Statues?](#)

Look at the removal of this statue of Robert Milligan in London.

How is it different to the removal of Colston's statue? Which do you think is the most effective in terms of support for the Black Lives Matter movement?



It was removed at the request of London mayor, Sadiq Khan.

Robert Milligan was a Scottish slave-trader and ship owner who was the driving force behind London's docklands.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-london-52986112/london-slave-owner-statue-removed>

This is an issue in lots of cities and towns all over the UK, even here in Derbyshire!



Colin Wright, owner of The Greenman pub, said the two petitions "highlight the polarising opinions about this town feature".

Read the whole article [here](#).

Tuesday 16th June 2020

WAL: how to debate an important issue, using respectful but persuasive language



Should statues such as Edward Colston's
be taken down?

For	Against

Monday 22nd June 2020

WAL: how to interpret information and discuss change

Many people have said that the protests that are happening after the death of George Floyd are different to past protests about racism.

But what exactly is different, and is it enough to lead to a change in the US and the rest of the world?

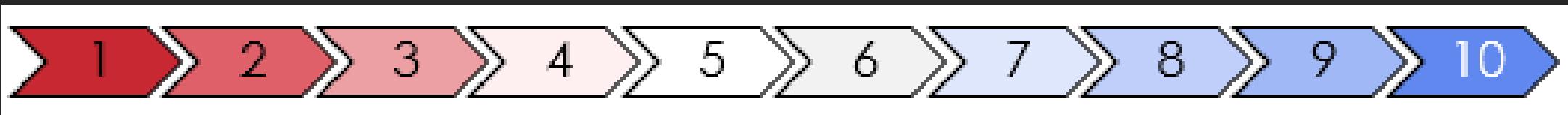
Is a change coming?

Over the next few slides you are going to learn more about the protests that have been happening around the world. For each slide, decide how likely you believe it is that this will create change in America.

Does this show change could be happening?

Not at all

Definitely



Black people in America have been **fighting against racism for hundreds of years**, and yet it still exists.

Changes have happened, but they have often been **very slow**.

For example, Martin Luther King Jr started **fighting for equality over 50 years ago, but the struggle is still happening today**.



Watch (1 min)

Watch the clip of James Baldwin talking about the fight for equality in the US from over 30 years ago.
Then, answer these questions.

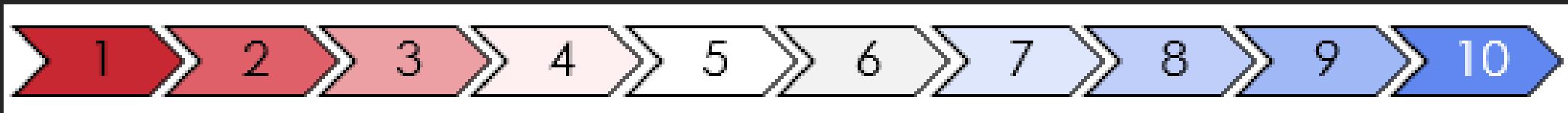
How was James **feeling** in this video?

Do you think James **would say the same thing today?**
Why/why not?

Does this show change could be happening?

Not at all

Definitely



Anti-racism protests aren't only happening in America – **they're happening across the whole world.**

This means that **many more people are learning about racism** and are **taking a stand** against it.



UK

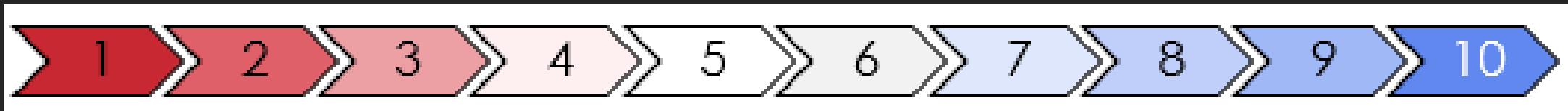


Syria

Does this show change could be happening?

Not at all

Definitely



Despite protests starting peacefully, a few have turned violent, with buildings being set on fire and shops being looted.

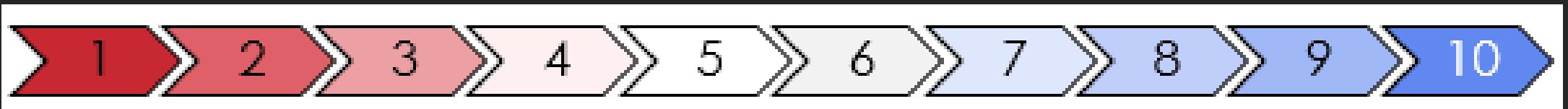
Other reports say that protests only became violent after police officers tried to stop them from happening, or that violence was started by non-protesters. However, it is impossible to know the truth.

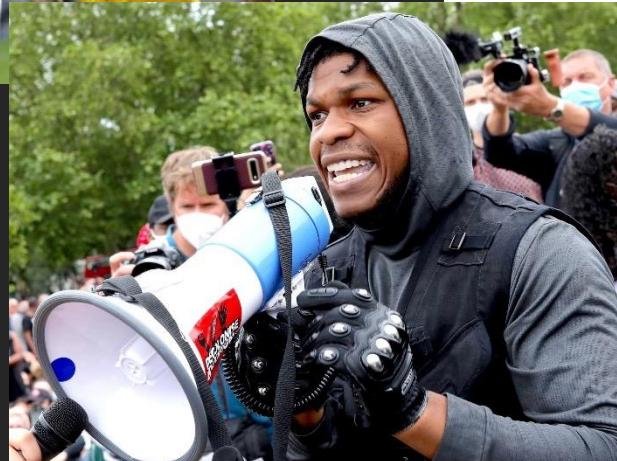


Does this show change could be happening?

Not at all

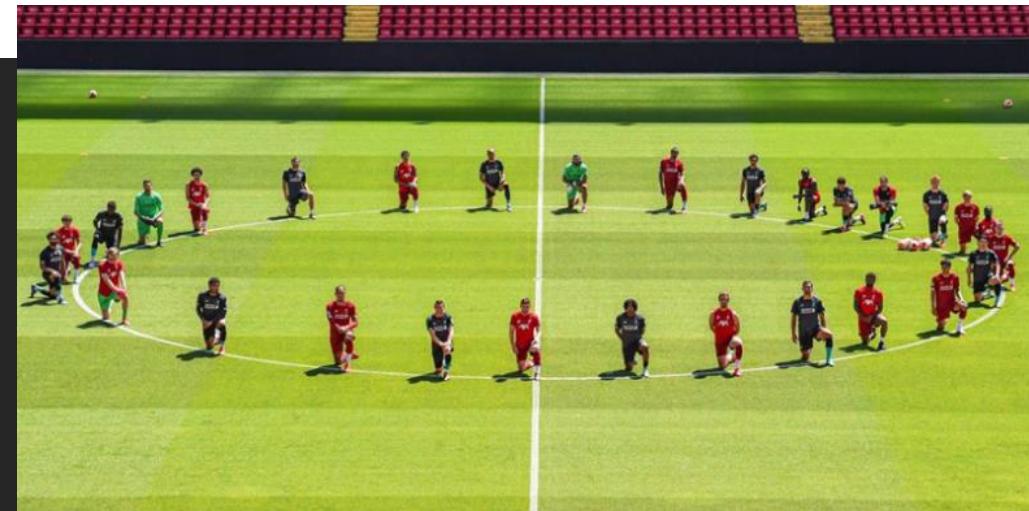
Definitely





Influential figures, such as footballers & singers, and companies have spoken out about it, which has helped spread awareness.

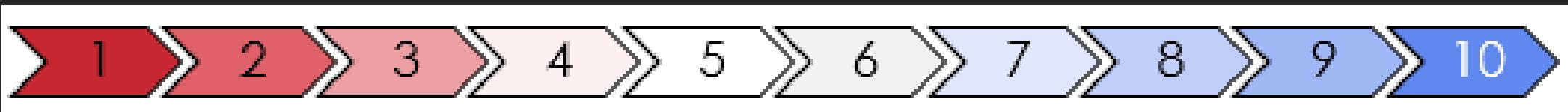
It has also been discussed on TV shows, radio channels and across vlogs, making it the most talked about topic in the last few weeks.



Does this show change could be happening?

Not at all

Definitely



With protests turning dangerous, US President Donald Trump said he was “sickened” by the death of George Floyd and that “justice will be served¹”. He also said he would be sending the army in to end violent protests¹, and tweeted that he had done more for Black Americans than most other presidents.

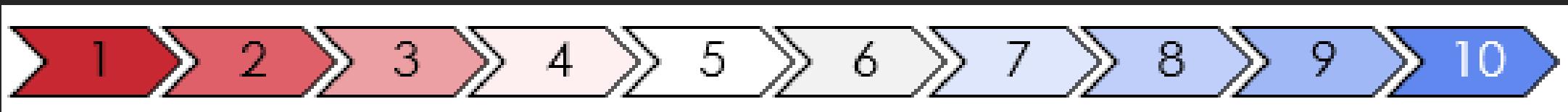
However, many people are angry and feel that the American Government is not doing enough to tackle racism in America.



Does this show change could be happening?

Not at all

Definitely



Social media has been more involved than ever before, with billions of people from all different races supporting the protests and standing up for the rights of black people.

Last week, there were over 19 million posts on Instagram using the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter and more than 4 billion views on TikTok.

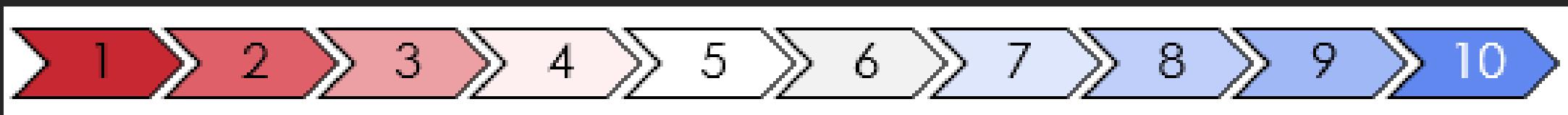


And on Tuesday 2nd June, more than 20 million people took part in an online “blackout” to show that they supported the protests.

Does this show change could be happening?

Not at all

Definitely



A petition was started on change.org demanding justice for George; it wants to make sure the police officers that were involved are arrested and taken to court.

This petition had over 15 million signatures last week, and is the biggest petition that change.org has ever had.



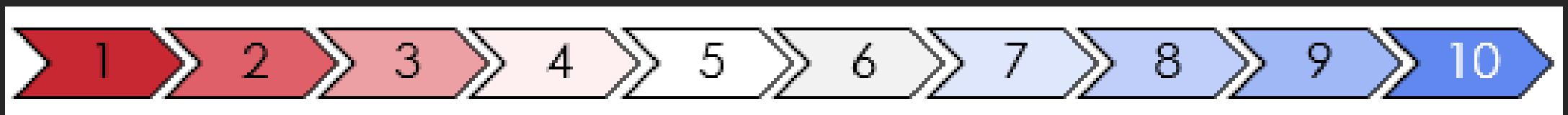
15,177,649 have signed. Let's get to
16,500,000!



Does this show change could be happening?

Not at all

Definitely



Monday 22nd June 2020

WAL: how to interpret information and discuss change

Is change coming?

Reflect

Think about all the evidence that you have seen so far.

Considering it all, answer the following question in your book in as much detail and providing as much evidence as you can:

Do you think real change is happening? Why/why not?



Challenge:

Think back to the statistics that you saw at the beginning of the lesson. What changes do you think need to be made to end systemic racism in America?

Black Americans are 2x more likely to be unemployed than white Americans.

Black Americans are 3x more likely to be excluded from school than white Americans.

Only 13% of people in the US are black, yet 40% of the people in prison are black.

72% of white Americans own their own house, whereas only 42% of black Americans do.

Black Americans are 30% more likely to be pulled over by the police when driving.