Maureen McLean/Shutterstock

Picture News
Why do we have statues?
Maureen McLean/Shutterstock

In the news this week...

Following protests campaigning for Black Lives Matter, demonstrators in Bristol pulled down a statue of a former slave trader, Edward Colston and threw it into the harbour. It is likely that the statue will now be placed in a museum.

Do you have a favourite statue?

Learn more about this week's story here.
Watch this week's useful video here.
This week's Virtual Assembly here.

Picture News

How does it make me feel?

sad	angry	happy	confused	excited	worried	shocked	afraid
despondent	aggrieved	beaming	addled	animated	agitated	astonished	alarmed
disconsolate	annoyed	buoyant	baffled	elevated	anxious	astounded	apprehensive
dismal	discontented	cheery	bemused	enlivened	apprehensive	disconcerted	daunted
doleful	disgruntled	contented	bewildered	enthusiastic	concerned	distressed	fearful
downhearted	distressed	delighted	disorientated	exhilarated	disquieted	dumbfounded	frantic
forlorn	exasperated	enraptured	indistinct	exuberant	distraught	horrified	horrified
gloomy	frustrated	gleeful	muddled	thrilled	distressed	staggered	petrified
melancholic	indignant	glowing	mystified		disturbed	startled	terrified
miserable	offended	joyful	perplexed		fretful	stunned	
woeful	outraged		puzzled		perturbed	surprised	
wretched	resentful				troubled		
	vexed				uneasy		

Picture News

Assembly Resource

Read through the resource below, which provides information about people that have statues in their memory and information on others that don't. Who do you think are the most deserving of having a statue and why? Can you think of anyone else throughout history who you believe deserves celebrating?

Sweden's statue of 38-year-old Danuta Danielsson

In 1985, 38-year-old housewife and mother, Danuta Danielsson, ran into a group of people making racist comments, she hit one of the group on the head with her handbag.

In 2015, handbags started appearing dangling from the arms of famous statues around the world. It was a protest against a refusal by Swedish officials to grant permission for the statue of Danuta. The protests worked and the statue was unveiled shortly after.

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Thomas Clarkson (1760-1846) was a life-long campaigner against slavery from his late teens and does not have a statue in his name. It has been suggested that a statue of him could replace the recently pulled down former slave trader, Edward Colston, in Bristol as he derived much of his knowledge of the trade from research there. In 1823, Clarkson returned to Bristol to speak at the first meeting of the Bristol Auxiliary Anti-Slavery Society.

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Mary Seacole (featured on this week's poster and pictured left) was a nurse who set up a hospital during the Crimean War. Her statue was unveiled in 2016.

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Rosalind Franklin, a scientist working at King's College London, alongside fellow scientists James Watson, Frances Crick and Maurice Wilkins, sadly died in 1958, just before the other three scientists were able to complete their work that led to the discovery of the structure of DNA. The remaining three scientists claimed the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1962. Sadly, as Rosalind died a few years earlier, her work was never recognised. It has been suggested that a statue is erected in her name.

Resource 1

Look at the resource below, which shows examples of statues.

A statue is an object made from a hard material, usually stone or metal. They are often of people and animals and are life-size or larger.

Have you seen a statue before? Who or what was the statue of? Where was the statue?

Resource 1

Look at the resource below, which shows examples of statues.

Statue of Amy Johnson, the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia in 1930. The statue is found at Hull and Herne Bay, Kent.

Statue found in Jardin du Luxembourg in Paris.

Picture News

Resource 1

Look at the resource below, which shows examples of statues.

Statue found in Canada of horses and a cowboy.

A statue of a lion found in a garden.

Statue in York of Constantine I, a Roman Emperor.

Resource 2

Look at the resource below, where some children share who they think deserves a statue and why.

Do you agree that these people should have a statue? Why/why not?

Bronze sculpture of Nelson Mandela, Parliament Square, London.

Picture News

Resource 2

Look at the resource below, where some children share who they think deserves a statue and why.

I think my mum should have a statue. She is the best mum in the world! She looks after me and my brother, she is always there to listen and to help us, she is so kind and she is always helping other people too.

Lewis

I live in Leicester and feel very proud that Elizabeth Heyrick, who was born in the late 1700's, was also from Leicester. She campaigned for the immediate abolition of slavery. I think she should have a statue in Leicester so we can remember her and celebrate her contribution.

Stefcia

Resource 2

Look at the resource below, where some children share who they think deserves a statue and why.

Marcus Rashford, the professional footballer, definitely deserves to have a statue. Not only is he an amazing footballer, he has done so much to fight for free school meal vouchers for those that need them during lockdown.

Alina

I think that Greta Thunberg should have a statue. She has done so much to raise awareness of the climate crisis we face. A statue would not only honour her work but also remind people this is still an issue and we must continue to tackle it.

Zachary

Reflection

Statues and monuments can mean different things to different people. As time moves on, society changes and so it is important for us all to reflect on what we value and choose to celebrate collectively.

British Values

Democracy

Peaceful protests can provide an opportunity for people to collectively voice concerns, often these protests can raise wider awareness and lead to positive change for all.

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This Week's Useful Vocabulary

Demonstrators – people who take part in a public protest march or gathering.

Monuments – a statue, building or structure built to remind people of an event in history or a famous person.

Offend – cause someone to feel upset, annoyed, or resentful.

Prominent – important.

Protests – the act of saying or showing publicly that you object to something.

Warrant – if something warrants an action, it makes the action seem necessary or appropriate for the circumstances.