



Citizenship –Pupil's notes

Theme - Gypsies and Travellers

Introduction

Brian Hatton and Gypsies and Travellers

Many people have looked at Brian Hatton's paintings and seen an empathy with Gypsies and Travellers. He himself had a secure middle-class life and probably saw their life as romantic and colourful and maybe they represented the freedom of the open road. Whilst Brian may have seen them as romantic subjects, he drew them honestly. He drew broken boots and tattered shawls and showed the harshness of their lives and the poverty that was common amongst many people who worked the land. See the link below to a drawing held in the British Museum that shows the exhaustion on the faces of the itinerant workers.

Brian clearly found Gypsies and Travellers interesting models for his work as he chose to draw them so often. It may also have been a shared love of horses that inspired Brian to work with the travelling community.

Useful web links

["Turnip Hoeing" at the British Museum](#)

Gypsy and Traveller history

Romany Gypsies are thought to have originated in India and it is believed that they left there between 1000-1200 AD. Gypsies travelled from India through the Middle East to Egypt. The term Gypsy is believed to be a corruption of the word Egyptian. Gypsy culture evolved during their migration from Asia and across Europe. The arrival of Gypsies in Britain was first recorded in 1505 in Scotland and 1514 in England. The Romany language is of Indo-Iranian origin.

In 1530, the Egyptians Act was passed in England; this aimed to rid the country of all Gypsies by banning immigration and requiring Gypsies who were already in England to leave the country within sixteen days. In 1554, this Act was amended and imposed the death penalty for Gypsies already in England if they did not leave within a month. In 1783, a second Egyptians Act repealed these previous acts against Gypsies. However, throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries other acts continued to impact upon Gypsy culture and lifestyle. Even today, legislation is generated that targets Gypsies and Travellers and impacts upon their lives.

There are many types of Gypsies and Travellers: Irish Travellers, Scots Travellers (Nachins), Welsh Gypsies and Travellers (Kale) and English Gypsies and Travellers (Romanichals).

Other types of Gypsy and Travellers include Travelling Showpeople (Fairground Travellers), Boat Dwellers (Bargees) and Circus Travellers. In addition, there are New Travellers or New Age Travellers, often defined as people who have made a conscious decision to adopt an alternative lifestyle.

Planning law defines Gypsies and Irish Travellers as people with a nomadic way of life. 90% of Gypsy and Traveller planning permission applications are initially rejected compared to 20% overall (1997 research).

Gypsies and Irish Travellers living on local authority or privately-owned sites pay rates, rent, gas, electricity and all other associated charges, measured and charged in the same way as neighbouring houses.

Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are now all recognised as having protection under the Race Relations Act as they have been finally recognised as minority ethnic communities in law. Many Gypsies and Travellers are subject to racist attacks and name-calling, the withdrawal of services and refusal of admission to shops and pubs and so on. This is despite the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000, which has made all these things illegal.

Useful web links

<http://www.hants.gov.uk/rh/gypsy/resources/history.html>

Hampshire County Council

http://www.bbc.co.uk/insideout/southeast/series8/week_three.shtml

BBC Inside out

<http://www.grtleeds.co.uk/information/raceIssues.html>

Gypsy Roma Traveller

<http://www.grthm.co.uk/>

Gypsy Roma Traveller History month

Lesson activities - facts and opinions

Face 1 - Fact or opinion?

Key Question - Have facts or opinions influenced our ideas of Gypsy and Traveller communities?

Resources

- Images from Brian Hatton collection- [Gypsies and Travellers, Art Works](#)
- Paper/ Pens
- **Activity sheet** : Gypsies and Travellers in the British Isles - True or False – found below
- **Answer sheet** : Gypsies and Travellers in the British Isles - True or False – found below
- Cube Template – found at the end of this document

Useful web links - Face 1

http://www.passingplaces.org.uk/citizenship_resources.htm

Activity 1, face 1 - What we think we know

This is a lesson looking at the Gypsy and Traveller communities as an example of groups who have been frequent victims of prejudice. You will be expected to examine any prejudices you have and think about what you and others can do to reduce prejudice and discrimination in the future.

Working in a group, look at the activity sheet **Gypsies and Travellers in the British Isles - True or False**.

Discuss each statement and decide whether it is true or false - several answers may be both true and false.

Activity 2, face 1- True or false

Look at the answer sheet and go through each statement to see if it is true or false. Discuss the answers as a group. If you have got the answers wrong think about where your opinion came from.

Activity 3, face 1 - Promoting a positive image

Discuss in your class what could be done to promote a more positive image of the Gypsy and Traveller community by the group of people you are given –

- Press and Media
- Gypsies and Travellers
- Schools
- Artists and Screen writers
- Councils or Police

Nominate a spokesperson and share your thoughts with the rest of the class.

Activity 4, face 1 - Fact and image

Choose one positive fact and an image from the Brian Hatton collection, which shows a positive fact and print this out to place on Face 1 of your cube.

Gypsies and Travellers in the British Isles: True or False?

No	True or False Statements	T or F
1.	Gypsies and Travellers are all the same people	
2.	You cannot be a Gypsy or Traveller and live in a house	
3.	Gypsies and Travellers travel all the time	
4.	All Gypsies and Travellers go to school	
5.	Gypsies have their own language	
6.	Gypsies and Travellers are allowed to buy land and have a permanent place to live.	
7.	Gypsies and Travellers find the word 'Gypsy' offensive	
8.	Gypsies and Travellers find the word 'Gyppo' offensive	
9.	Most Gypsies are happy to be referred to as 'Travellers'	
10.	All Gypsies are fortune tellers	
11.	Gypsies and have black hair and brown eyes	
12.	Gypsies and Travellers appear in census records	
13.	Some Gypsies and Travellers prefer to keep their heritage secret	
14.	Gypsies and Travellers like horses	
15.	Romany Gypsies originated from Romania	
16.	Some Travellers originated from Ireland	
17.	Gypsies originated in Egypt	
18.	Gypsies and Travellers don't pay taxes	
19.	Romany Gypsies came to England over 500 years ago	
20.	Gold is important in Gypsy culture	
21.	During the 1930s and 1940s, over 250,000 Gypsies were murdered across Nazi Europe	
22.	Gypsies have endured centuries of prejudice which continues today	
23.	The UK media represent Gypsy culture fairly	

Lesson activities - Stow horse fair

Face 2 - Stow horse fair

Key question - How is the horse important in Gypsy and Traveller culture?

Podcast

There is a podcast of the late author Jeremy Sandford talking about Stow fair- recorded at the fair- go to [Gypsies and Travellers, Podcasts and Powerpoints](#)

Resources

- Images from Brian Hatton collection: 'Returning from the Fair' and 'Horse Fair' –go to [Gypsies and Travellers, Art Works](#)
- [Stow Fair Powerpoint](#)
- Podcast of the author Jeremy Sandford talking about the Stow Horse Fair
- Paper size to fit cube

Useful web links - Face 2

<http://www.passingplaces.org.uk/panels/Horses%20and%20Horse%20Fairs.pdf>

Activity 1, face 2 - The horse fair

Look carefully at the Brian Hatton images; 'Returning from the Fair' and 'The Horse Fair'. Now look at the images on the Stow fair powerpoint.

Discuss these quotes from Herefordshire Romany Travellers with a partner:

Quote 1: "Horse fairs are good for keeping up and sharing the old traditions."

Quote 2: "It is nice to see people in the summer you can meet people at Stowe Fair and at Appleby."

Quote 3: "I like the fairs because there are stalls there that you can not find elsewhere. Things like carpets and crown Derby (china) that's why a lot of people go."

Activity 2, face 2 - The horse fair

Choose one quote and an image from either the Brian Hatton collection or the PowerPoint and print this out to place on Face 2 of your cube.

[Stow Fair Powerpoint](#)



Horse Fair



Returning from the Fair

Cube template

