## A GUIDE TO USING THE RADICAL READ

# BRITISH COUNCIL



## FLEXIBLE RESOURCE

**Radical Read** is a flexible learning resource, which can be used in and out of the classroom. This online pack contains a number of themes exploring the involvement of young people in peaceful protest, inspired by the commemoration of the Peterloo Massacre in Manchester, England in 1819.

It includes powerful stories of how young people around the globe have used protest and collective action to promote democratic rights.

Some sessions explore a single demonstration or protest movement, while others draw on a range of case studies to explore a theme. We have designed these different plans to encourage students to think about their role within the world, their relationship to their community and society as a whole, and to take inspiration from the examples of other young people.

**The resource** can be used in schools, colleges and other youth settings within a specific lesson, assembly or curriculum day and allows for a flexible approach, across ages, stages and interest.

The pack contains a wide variety of sources to support the delivery of activities. Some of these are original materials that were written by young people, while others are extracts from a range of different sources, from leaflets to young adult fiction and historians' works. They were selected to help provoke questions, provide context, and stimulate critical thinking.

Also included are links to curriculum subjects, the British Council Core Skills and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

You may find that some of the case studies contained within the plans are more relevant to your students' needs and interests than others. Alternatively, you may find some of the plans contain more sources and activities than can be covered within the time that you have available. In either case, feel free to use selections from the material rather than the entire intact plan, or else separate some activities into a separate session.



## HOW TO USE THE PLANS

Each plan contains, a set of educators' notes, printable worksheets, and a slide show with notes. Split across these different sections are a range of sources, discussion questions, and activities designed to stimulate critical and creative thought about a variety of topics. A mixture of videos, images, and written passages make up the sources used in the sessions, so we recommend checking them in advance to assess their suitability for your group and to ensure that you have the means to display them all.

We further recommend that you check to ensure that the videos can be played within your classroom before the session begins.

Please note that some of the topics and sources contained in the Radical Read address sensitive topics, which may directly impact on the students you work with it.



# LIST OF SESSIONS

#### Peterloo

This session introduces students to the Peterloo Massacre. Students are encouraged to think about the importance of banners to protest movements, and are introduced to Percy Shelley's poem *Masque of Anarchy*.

#### We need unions!

The Matchgirls' Strike of 1888 forms the central case study, and the students are encouraged to think about the links, which can be drawn between historic and contemporary trade unionism.

#### Youth Resistance to the Nazis

In this session students will be introduced to two youth movements who stood up to the Nazi regime, the White Rose movement and the Edelweiss Pirates. They will consider what life was like for young people under Hitler's rule, and the differences and similarities between these movements.

#### School-Yard Protest

Your group will look at the different ways that students have organised protests in their own schools against policies they considered unfair.

#### Our Right to Education

The group will consider the importance of being able to access education, and look at the work of Malala Yousafzai.



# LIST OF SESSIONS

#### **Rising Against Racism**

This session will focus on two different examples of youth-led anti-racist campaigning, drawing on contemporary and historical examples. The case studies are the Soweto Uprising which occurred in South Africa, 1976, and the Ferguson Protests in the USA, 2014, which helped propel #Blacklivesmatter into the international spotlight.

#### School Strike for Climate

In this lesson, students will be introduced to the 'school strike 4 climate' movement, which began in Sweden with the work of Greta Thunberg and has since spread to many other countries. Students are encouraged to think about the ways in which support can be built for environmental protests.

#### Young Women say No

Students will look at different instances of protests led by young women which aimed at challenging gendered violence. It draws on both historic campaigns as well as the contemporary #MeToo movement to examine the different means people have used to draw attention to, and effect change around, this issue.

Please note that some of the plans contain links to external websites. These links are provided for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or an approval.



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