

5. THE BEGINNINGS OF THE MODERN WORLD

Pages 106-168

Tolerance

RENAISSANCE THINKING (P106)

'Renaissance thinking says: If you like something from the past you can make a new version of it for yourself.' (Page 106)

ACTIVITY: Can you make a new version of a building from the past. Perhaps you wish to sketch it on paper, or make a model using cardboard, recycling materials or matchsticks. What part of the building will show the past that you like, and which bits are your new inventions? Maybe you want to use your current home as a base, but incorporate past great ideas into it?

RESEARCH: Find out about other great Renaissance figures, other than Leonardo da Vinci. Who inspires you and why?

ACTIVITY: Some people think the Mona Lisa by da Vinci is a very important painting from this time. Have a go at using it as a basis for a 'Renaissance'. How could you represent the Mona Lisa in a new modern way? Maybe you could create her portrait in a computer programme, or out of Lego, or from a collage of modern photographs.

Listening

WHY THE AZTECS WERE DEFEATED (P113)

RESEARCH: Find out more about Tenochtitlan.

ACTIVITY: Imagine you are Cortes, write a diary entry or a letter home about your discovery.

'The most popular game was a sport called Ullamaliztli.' (Page 116)

ACTIVITY: Can you invent your own new sport. JK Rowling invented Quidditch when writing Harry Potter. What would your new sport be called? What is the aim? What are the rules?

'Winning isn't to do with being a good person and losing doesn't mean you are bad. And some people, when they win, make it look as if that means they are a great person - even if they've just won a card game, which actually depends just on luck.' (Page 121)

ACTIVITY: Find examples of people who make themselves look like a great person, just by winning something? What does it mean to be a good winner? And a good loser? Write down five attributes for each. Are you a good winner and a good loser?

THE NATIVE AMERICANS (P122)

ACTIVITY: Find a Native American story and rewrite it in your own words.

'Can you imagine what it was like to be a Native American in the 1600s?' (Page 129)

One of the best things we have as humans is our imagination, and we can use it to help us understand people who are different from us. What exercises can you do to make you more empathic? (Empathy means to understand what it's like to be someone else).

Listening is a good example.

Understanding

A BREIF HISTORY OF PANDEMIC DISEASES (P130)

RESEARCH: Investigate life expectancy across the globe. What is it, how does it differ in different countries, in your own country? Why do you think this is?

Hygiene is very important in medicine and health. You may have needed to demonstrate washing your hands properly during the Covid Pandemic.

ACTIVITY: Draw a poster to show how to do this properly, and explain why it is important.

The big idea in this chapter is 'counter-intuition.' Divide your page into two columns, one labelled intuitive, and one counter-intuitive. See if you can fill the columns with ideas. Start with the ones given in the text to help you.

WHY DID MILLIONS OF AFRICANS END UP IN THE AMERICAS (P137)

ACTIVITY: Write a timeline of the slave trade. Use the dates in the text to start. 1737, 1807, 1833, 1865. Research and add more important events. You can go all the way up to the civil rights movement and Black Lives Matter.

RESEARCH: Find out about the removal of the Edward Colston statue in Bristol, UK. What did this have to do with the slave trade?

ACTIVITY: Hold a for and against debate on the removal of the statue. What does the removal teach us about the time in which Colston lived, but also our own time. What will future generations think about us removing the statue?