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# Carnival

## KS1

### Learn about, plan and stage your own carnival...

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This is one of four units designed to be delivered at any, or all three of the stages of Primary school. Through exploration of the topic 'Carnival', children at KS1 can develop 'Building Blocks' of knowledge and understanding in key areas that will help equip them to make sense of the challenging history of transatlantic slavery later in their schooling. Explore the unit's 'Learning Objectives' to understand how this unit prepares children for approaching this history. The topic has been designed to also deliver key components of the KS1 curriculum.

Children in this unit learn about, plan and stage their own carnival. In doing so they explore some of the historical and cultural significance of carnival in Britain today. Children at EYFS will use the unit as a platform to learn about African, Caribbean and South American culture and how and why it has a strong influence in UK society today. As the children progress through to Key Stage 2, the unit provides a creative and non-threatening entry into learning about the history and legacies of transatlantic slavery.

The unit is structured around a learning cycle and offers teachers a topic that can be tailored according to the needs and interests of the class and teacher.

- [Carnival](#)
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## Stage 1: Entry Activity

### Carnival

Children are introduced to 'carnival' through images, video clips, music and stories to establish an understanding of what it is (context of UK carnivals eg. Notting Hill; St Paul's, Leeds). The class (or school) will be staging its own carnival parade and to do this they must find out about carnival, the Caribbean and why we have carnival in the UK.

### Teacher Approach

Adult led / supported – drawing out questions from the class such as:

- Why do people celebrate carnival?
- Why do the costumes look like this?
- Where does the tradition come from?
- Who has been to one?
- Why is it held in August?

**Big Question: Why is carnival celebrated today in Britain?**

## Stage 2: Immersion

Children identify their challenge and raise their own questions to investigate. Final challenge is introduced.

**Big Question: Why is carnival celebrated today in Britain?**

### Pupil voice

opportunity for learners to ask questions to direct the enquiry

- Is there a carnival near where I live?
- Which cities have carnivals?
- Why these cities?
- Where does carnival come from?
- How can we tell?
- Why are there people from the Caribbean living in the UK today?
- What is Caribbean life like?
- What stories are told in carnival through costume and dance?

### Teacher Approach

leading the class or dividing into groups to undertake suggested activities

- Exploring any local links, using the internet and museums to find out about Caribbean immigration (such as the Windrush etc) and Caribbean influence on our society.
- Researching the significance of costume, mask and music in carnival
- Researching Caribbean life and culture today.

## Stage 3: Have a go

Children use their learning to have a go – activities that allow them to make mistakes and develop skills.

**Big Question: Why is carnival celebrated today in Britain?**

### Pupil voice

opportunity for learners to ask questions to direct the enquiry.

- Is there a carnival near where I live?
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### Teacher Approach

leading the class or dividing into groups to undertake suggested activities.

- Working with local artists & musicians to develop costume and music
- Using museum collections to explore music, history and storytelling in carnival
- Using collections to inspire empathy/role-play/creative writing activity relating to Caribbean immigration and its legacy

## Stage 4: The Challenge

## **Big Question: Why is carnival celebrated today in Britain?**

### **Suggested 'challenges' to answer the 'big question'**

Children stage a carnival at school – they make their own costumes based on African, Caribbean and South American themes and compose and play their own music.

In addition to this children prepare and present a 'news report' to answer their 'big question' – this is filmed and may also be done as a 'live presentation' to serve as an introduction for parents attending the carnival.

Children prove their learning by answering the 'big question' - adult steps back, children are empowered and supported.

## **Learning Objectives**

Making sense of the history and legacies of transatlantic slavery in Britain today requires first some knowledge and understanding of some key areas. These have been listed in the Building Blocks resource as 'Learning Objectives' under the headings

1. Africa, the Caribbean and North and South America (the African diaspora)
2. Trade Links
3. Human Rights
4. Identity

Carnival within Britain has come to represent a celebration of Caribbean culture and community. The event has a fascinating history and melds together African, Caribbean, South American and European culture and tradition – the convergence of these cultures was and is a direct result of the transatlantic slave trade. Within enslaved African communities, carnival represented a form of resistance – offering a chance to celebrate forbidden African music and culture and mock the slave 'masters' and plantation owners. The costumes, customs and musical traditions in modern day carnival in Britain (eg Notting Hill) and around the world (Trinidad and Tobago; Rio de Janeiro) contain many references to transatlantic slavery and resistance.

It is important when children learn the history of transatlantic slavery at Key Stage 3 that they understand the many ways in which African people resisted their enslavement and that there were many forms that this resistance could take – physical, cultural, intellectual and passively. Without this understanding, a study of this history can lead to stereotyping, misunderstanding and, at worst, racist impressions of superiority and inferiority. By learning about carnival, children have a positive context within which to place the distressing details of this history and one which helps them to appreciate both its positive and negative legacies in Britain today.

Beginning with simpler concepts at EYFS, then working through more sophisticated issues at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, completion of this unit will allow children to better understand Africa and its 'diaspora', human rights and resistance to their abuses and cultural identity – essential building blocks of knowledge and understanding to make sense of transatlantic slavery. All children will learn this history at Key Stage 3.

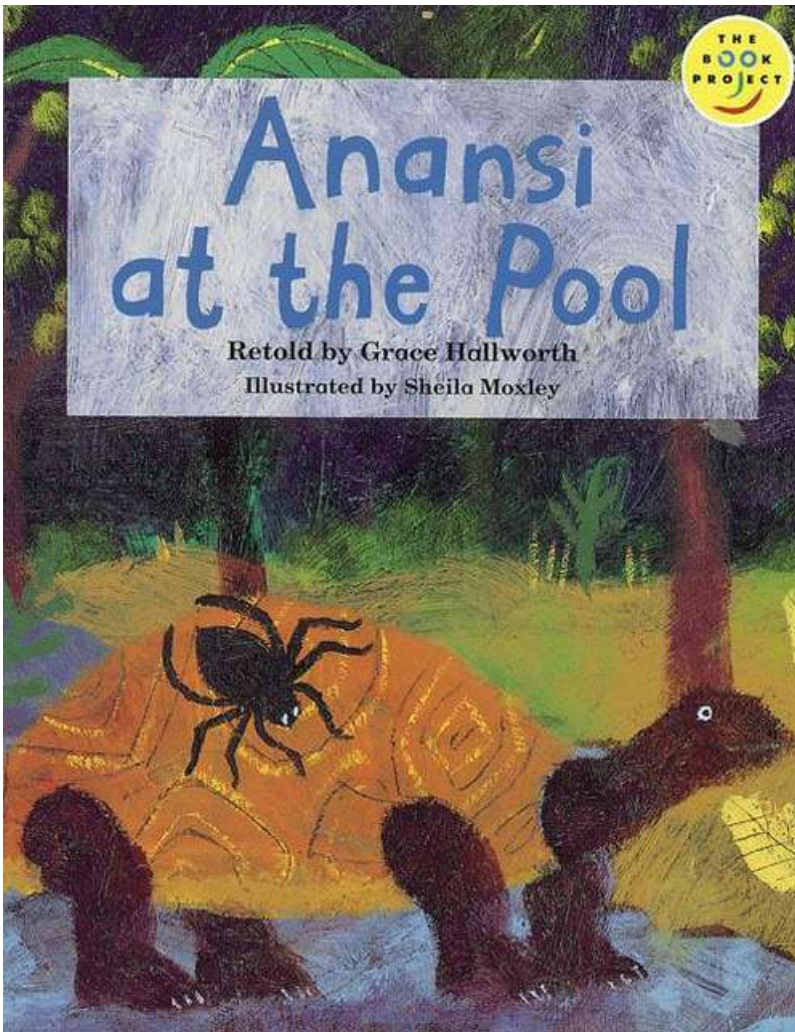
## **USI Carnival 'Building Blocks' Learning targets**

**By completion of this unit at Key Stage 2 children will:**

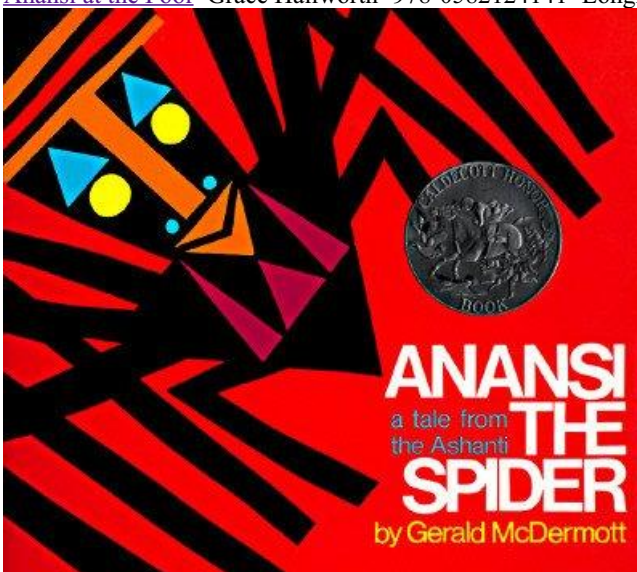
- 1. Africa, the Caribbean and North and South America (and the African 'Diaspora').**
  - c. Be able to identify some of the Caribbean islands and North and South American countries on a contemporary map and use their knowledge to describe some of the geographical features, traditions, culture and ways of life in these countries.
  - d. Know why North and South America and the Caribbean has a strong link to Africa and be able to communicate their thoughts and feelings about this history.
  - e. Know how and why Britain has historical connections to these countries that impacted directly on their development and Britain's, and understand how these connections are reflected within Britain's diverse society today.
- 2. Trade Links**
  - f. Be able to make links between the history of Britain, Africa, the Caribbean and North and South America to understand why inequalities exist between these countries in terms of trade.
- 3. Human rights**
  - b. Know that people in the world suffer abuses of their human rights and use their knowledge to give examples.
  - c. Be able to give examples of when and how individuals have resisted the infringement of their human rights past and present.
- 4. Identity**
  - a. Know that British society is shaped by a long history of various forms of migration from around the world and be able to

give examples of how this has influenced our identity, and how Britain is viewed by other countries.

- b. Be able to identify some of the direct influences of African, Caribbean and North and South American culture, individual achievement and tradition on British contemporary life and use their knowledge to discuss this.
- d. Be able to make historical connections between Britain, Africa, the Caribbean and North and South America and use their knowledge to recognise how this history's legacy has shaped attitudes and values in both negative and positive ways.

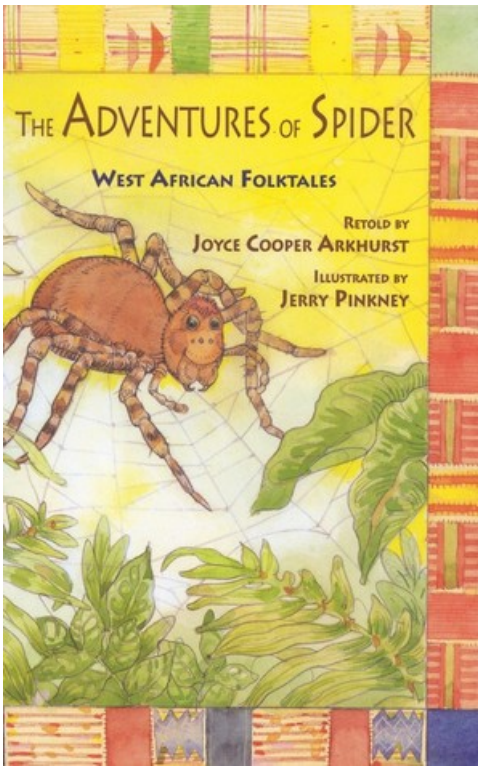


[Anansi at the Pool](#)- Grace Hallworth- 978-0582124141- Longman Book Project- 1994

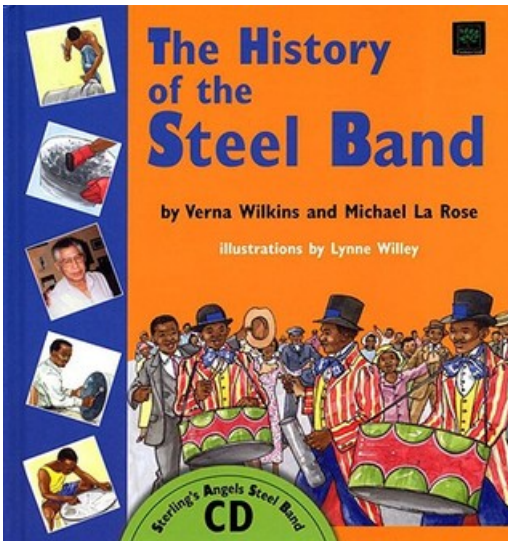


[Anansi the Spider – a tale from the Ashanti](#)- Gerald McDermott- 978-0833513601- Turtleback Books

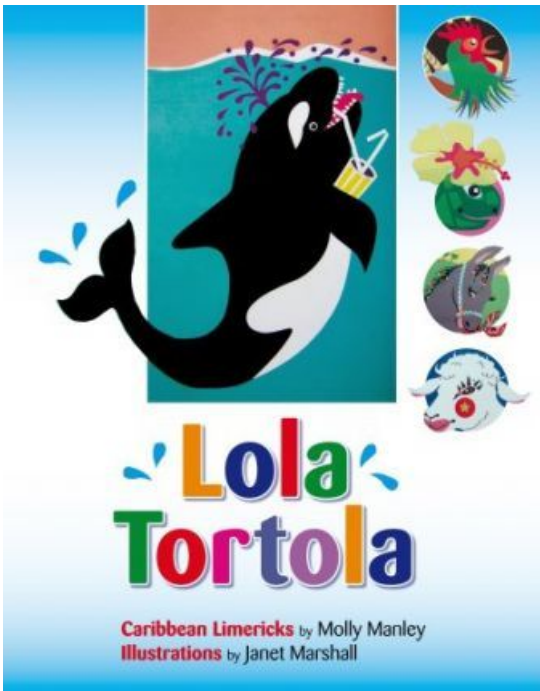




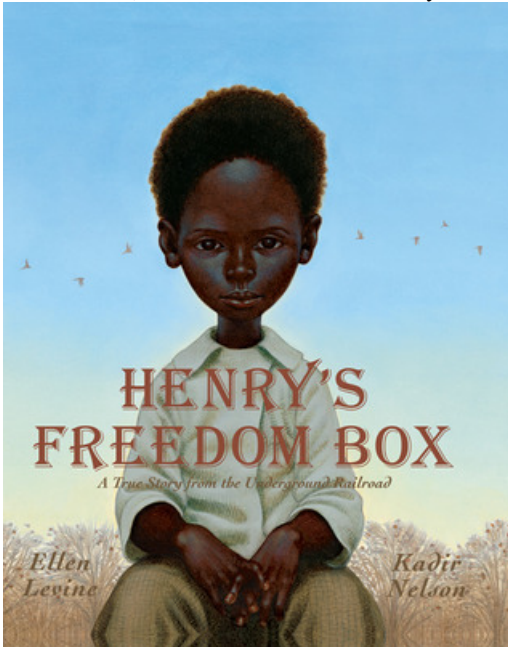
• [The Adventures of a Spider – West African Folktales](#)- Joyce Cooper Arkhurst- 978-0316051071- Little, Brown Books for Young Readers- 1992



• [The History of the Steel Band](#)- Michael La Rose- 9781870516747- Tamarind- 2006



[Lola Tortola: Caribbean Limericks](#)- Molly Manley- 9780230731264- MacMillan- 2009



[Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad](#)- Ellen Levine- 9780439777339- Scholastic Press- 2007



PENGUIN CLASSICS

MARY PRINCE

*The History of Mary Prince*

[Mary Prince: The History of Mary Prince](#)- Mary Prince- 9780140437492- Penguin- 2017

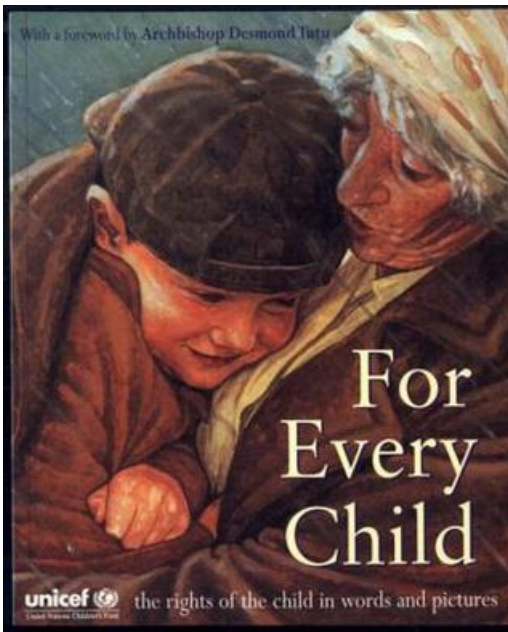


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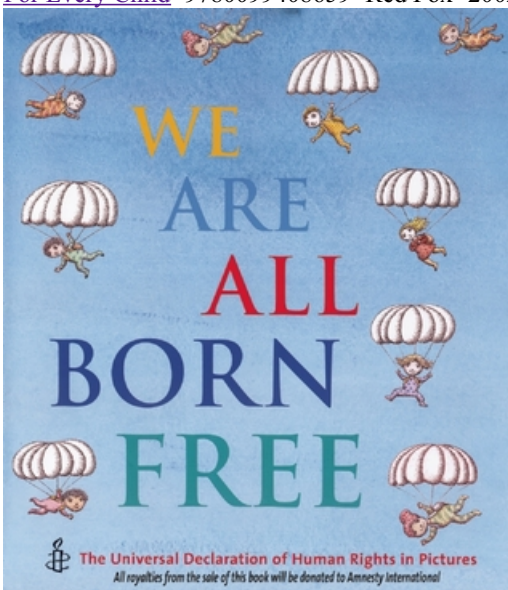
OLAUDAH EQUIANO

*The Interesting Narrative  
and Other Writings*

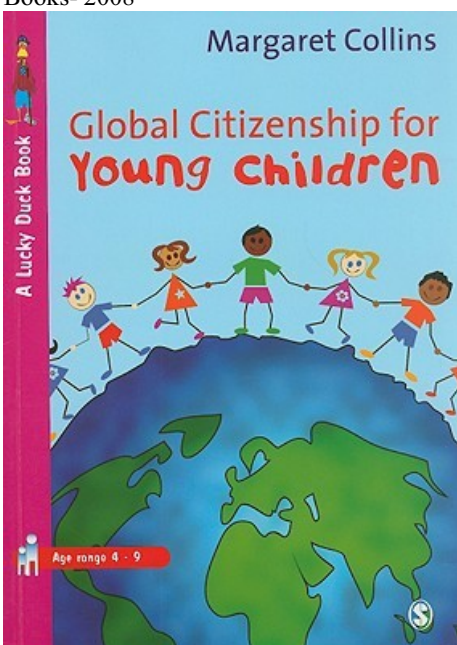
[The Interesting Narrative and Other Writings](#)- Olaudah Equiano- 9780142437162- Penguin Classics- 2003



[For Every Child](#)- 9780099408659- Red Fox- 2002

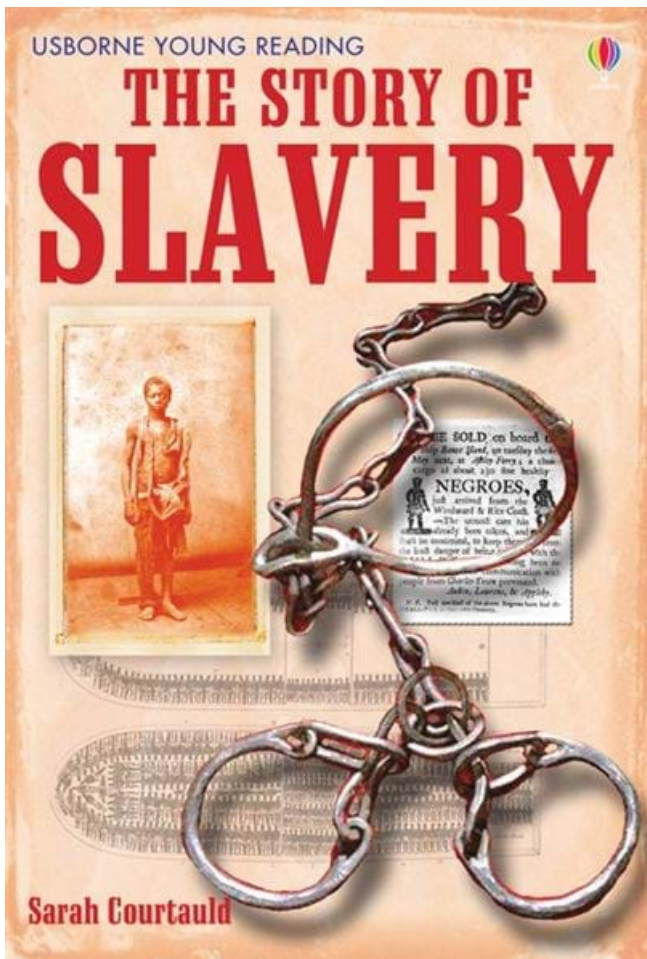


[We Are All Born Free: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures](#)- 9781845076504- Frances Lincoln Children's Books- 2008



[Global Citizenship for Young Children](#)- Margaret Collins- 9781412946308- Sage Publications Ltd- 2008





- [The Story of Slavery](#)- Sarah Courtauld- 978074608752-7- Usborne

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