

Olaudah Equiano.

Information Gap Activity
Three texts and shared
questions.

16. Where did he go when he
was free?



11. Where did he stay when he
was in England?

13. What did Pascal
realise in 1763?

21. Who did he marry in 1792?

Olaudah Equiano.

Developed by Steve Cooke

The webaddress for this activity is:

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/olaudahequiano.pdf>

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Basic principles behind our talk for learning activities: Oracy in curriculum contexts!

Build on children's own prior knowledge.
Move from concrete to abstract.
Ensure everyone works with
everyone else.
Extend social language towards
curriculum language.
Provide motivating ways to go over the
same knowledge more than once.

Good for all pupils!
Vital for EAL pupils!

It's empowering to talk an idea through
before you write about it!

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

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We support a network of teaching professionals to develop and disseminate
accessible talk-for-learning activities in all subject areas and for all ages.

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Collaborative Reading Materials with an information gap.

There are three or four different texts with a common question sheet. The principle here is that readers will be unable to complete the questions by simply using the information in their version, but will have to collaborate with other readers, asking questions and eliciting information, hopefully arguing and negotiating. Some of the questions are factual but others try to be open ended. There is also a good opportunity for readers to draw on their own previous knowledge. The answer space on the question sheet is deliberately cramped to encourage notes rather than whole sentences.

We have outlined the following procedure, but you can reorganise things in a variety of ways. You can possibly arrange to pair slower readers with faster ones etc. You could start with threes rather than pairs etc. It depends on your knowledge of the class.

The class can work first in pairs or threes or fours. To start the activity only the question sheet is handed out and groups are encouraged to see what questions they may have some answers to. Each group member then is given a text sheet: within groups they have copies of the same text. The important thing is that the texts are equally spread across the class. E.g. A quarter of the pupils have Sheet A, another Sheet B etc. . Pairs/groups can read the text silently first, and then to each other, and then work together to answer as many questions as they can. They all have to produce a sheet with answers.

You will need to number the individuals in each group or give them an identity e.g. an animal card so that they can move to meet up with other pupils with different texts to form a group of three or four; i.e. they jigsaw. Each participant has either Sheet A, Sheet B etc. They need to take their partly filled question sheets with them. If you print each text on a different colour you will find organising things easier. You can easily see whether they have got into the correct groups. They can then go on to complete the questions by interrogating each other.

If you are thinking about producing your own information gaps, and I hope you do, you may find it easier if you try this method. Find a suitable whole single text containing the information you wish to teach. Formulate a series of questions for the text.

Produce three or four texts where the factual and inferential information is shared between them. Some overlapping of information is fine. You can of course, where appropriate, include visual material, graphs, maps etc. There are now quite a few examples on the website.

Olaudah Equiano.

1. When was Equiano born?	2. What country was he born in?	3. What was his father?
4. What happened to him and his sister when he was 10 years old?	5. Where were they taken?	6. What happened to him after he was sold?
7. Who was he sold to next?	8. What was Captain Pascal?	9. Where did Pascal take Equiano?
10. What did Equiano do between 1757 and 1763?	11. Where did he stay when he was in England?	12. What did the Guerin family teach him to do?
13. What did Pascal realise in 1763?	14. What did Pascal do as a result?	15. When did Equiano manage to buy his freedom?
16. Where did he go when he was free?	17. How did he spend the next 11 years?	18. What did he do when he was forty-three?
19. Who was his book used by?	20. Why did Equiano travel around the British Isles?	21. Who did he marry in 1792?
22. What did they have in 1793?	23. How old was their daughter when she died in 1797?	24. When did Equiano die?

Olaudah Equiano.

Many years ago in West Africa, a man called Olaudah Equiano was born. His father was the chief of his tribe.

One day Equiano and his sister were looking after their village. Their parents and all the other people had gone to work in the fields. Suddenly some strangers jumped over the village walls, grabbed Equiano and his sister and ran off with them. They were both made to walk for many miles. At last they reached a market where they were sold as slaves. The people who bought them took them to Barbados on a ship. In Barbados Equiano was sold again. His new owner took him to Virginia in North America.

Equiano was then sold again, this time to a man whose name was Captain Pascal. Captain Pascal took Equiano to England between 1757 and 1763.

Equiano often sailed with Captain Pascal to the West Indies, the Mediterranean and North America. When he was not working on a ship he lived with a family whose name was Guerin. The Guerin family taught him to read. He was baptised at St. Margaret's Church in Westminster, London.

When he was forty-three Equiano wrote his life story. He travelled all over the British Isles telling people how evil slavery was.

Olaudah Equiano.

Benin is a country in West Africa. A man called Olaudah Equiano was born there many years ago in 1746.

One day, Equiano and his sister were looking after their village. Suddenly some strangers jumped over the village walls, grabbed Equiano and his sister and ran off with them. They were both made to walk for many miles, night and day. At last they reached a market where they were sold as slaves. The people who bought them took them to Barbados on a ship. In Barbados Equiano was sold again. His new owner took him to Virginia.

After working in Virginia for six months, he was sold again, this time to a man whose name was Captain Pascal. Captain Pascal took him to England between 1757 and 1763.

Equiano hated being a slave and wanted to be free. When Captain Pascal realised this he sold Equiano to a man called Captain Doran.

Somehow Equiano managed to raise the money that Captain Doran wanted so that he could buy his freedom. He bought his freedom in 1766. He then came back to England. He spent the next eleven years working on ships as a merchant seaman. He even went on an expedition to Greenland. This was in 1773.

When he was forty-three Equiano wrote his life story. Many people did not like slavery (buying and selling people) and they often used Equiano's life story to tell other people about the evils of slavery.

Olaudah Equiano.

A man called Olaudah Equiano was born in Benin many years ago. His father was the chief of his tribe.

One day, Equiano and his sister were looking after their village. Their parents and all the other people in the village had gone to work in the fields. Suddenly some strangers jumped over the village walls, grabbed Equiano and his sister and ran off with them. Equiano was ten years old at the time. They were both made to walk for many miles. At last they reached a market where they were sold as slaves. The people who bought them took them to Barbados on a ship. In Barbados Equiano was sold again and his new owner took him to Virginia, in North America. In Virginia he was made to work on a plantation.

After working on the plantation for six months he was sold again, this time to a man called Captain Pascal. Captain Pascal was an officer in the English Royal Navy. Captain Pascal took Equiano to England between 1757 and 1763.

In 1792 Equiano married a woman called Susan Cullen. She was from Ely in Cambridgeshire. They had a daughter whose name was Anna Marie. Sadly Anna Marie died in 1797. She was four years old when she died.

Equiano himself died in 1801. Unfortunately he died before slaves were allowed to become free and also before slavery was abolished.