

# Samuel Coleridge Taylor Information Gap

Developed by Judith Evans at Netley Primary School in London Borough of Camden. Like the other information gaps we have on line it is designed to encourage children to share information orally and write notes that can later be expanded into a fuller text. There are three texts. A third of the class work first on either A, B or C in groups, and then jigsaw so that the new groups consist of children with all three texts to share.

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

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## 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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## BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies that promote talk across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to develop and use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We want to encourage you to change them and adapt them to your classroom and students. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project posts online many activities in all subject areas. An online newsletter is also updated regularly.

\*These activities are influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in non selective classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of oracy. They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of talk.

\*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

\*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in pupils' first languages and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

\*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

\*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

\*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work more effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

# Samuel Coleridge Taylor

## Sheet A

Samuel Coleridge Taylor was a composer and conductor. He was well known during his life. He was born during the reign of Queen Victoria, so he was a Victorian. He was a black classical musician, which was very unusual at that time.

He was born in Holborn, which now part of Camden. His father came from Sierra Leone and trained as a surgeon in London at King's College. He returned to Sierra Leone after Samuel's birth.

Samuel's step-father, George Evans encouraged him to sing and learn to play music. He sang in the choir at the local church. The choirmaster saw how good he was and arranged an interview at the Royal College of Music when he was only fifteen.

Samuel married Jessie Walmisley in 1899 and they had two children, one in 1900 and one in 1903. Both children became musicians.

In 1898 his most famous work was written. Although this was performed many times he only got a one time fee of £25. This made it hard to support his family.

Samuel had several jobs as well as being a composer. He was a conductor of the Croydon Symphony Orchestra and the Rochester Choral Society. He was also involved in several theatre productions.

He was invited to visit America, where there were choral societies named after him. In 1904 he conducted at a concert in Washington where the audience numbered two thousand seven hundred.

He died of pneumonia after collapsing at West Croydon railway station. After he died people realised that it was unfair that composers did not get money each time their music was played and the Performing Rights Society was formed to change this.

Samuel's music has gone out of fashion now but his achievements were remarkable at a time when very few black people got the chances he had.

# Samuel Coleridge Taylor

## Sheet B

Samuel Coleridge Taylor was a composer and conductor. He was well known during his life. He was born during the reign of Queen Victoria so he was a Victorian. He was a black classical musician, which was very unusual at that time.

He was born in 1875. He was named after the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge. His father was Daniel Peter Hughes Taylor a surgeon who went back to Africa when Samuel was born. Samuel was brought up by his mother, Alice Martin. Alice had good friends Sarah and Benjamin Holman who helped her. Benjamin gave Samuel his first violin. Later Alice married George Evans and went to live in Croydon

Samuel sang in a choir in Croydon. The choirmaster had a lot of useful contacts and arranged an interview for Samuel at the Royal College of Music in 1890. He studied composition under Charles Stanford who was very famous at that time. Samuel was the only black student at the college and at first they were worried about admitting him. In the end Stanford persuaded them that he deserved a chance.

He was a very successful student and worked hard. The lecturers praised his work. When Stanford heard another student make a racist comment, he told the student off saying that Samuel had more music in his little finger than the other student had in his whole body.

Samuel married Jessie. Although people admired his music there was a lot of racism. Samuel used to get very upset if people made hostile comments about his wife being a white woman married to a black man. Their daughter Gwendolyn was born in 1903 and had to endure negative comments as well.

Samuel wrote music but also worked as a teacher. He taught music at several colleges, including the Guildhall and Trinity College. When Samuel went to America for the first time in 1901 he conducted choirs made up of black people. When he went for the last time in 1910 he conducted white orchestras, which was unusual.

After Samuel died in 1912 people had special concert and raised money for his family. They also put up a very grand headstone at his grave.

# Samuel Coleridge Taylor

## Sheet C

Samuel Coleridge Taylor was a composer and conductor. He was well known during his life. He was born during the reign of Queen Victoria, so he was a Victorian. He was a black classical musician, which was very unusual at that time.

He studied music from an early age and sang in two church choirs. He was very talented and got the chance to study at the Royal College of Music in 1890 when he was only 15. He began by studying the violin, but after two years changed to studying composition. His work was noticed by Edward Elgar a famous composer.

This was all before radios, the internet, Ipods and CDs. People had to play music on their own instruments. Shops would sell the sheet music so people could play themselves. Novellos were a big sheet music company and they liked his music and thought people would buy it; so they began to sell his scores.

He is best known for his composition "Hiawatha's Wedding Feast". This was based on a famous poem. At that time many people sang in choirs or listened to them. His score was published before the performance and a lot of famous people announced that they would attend. Two years after he wrote "Hiawatha" his son was born and he named him Hiawatha.

Samuel did several jobs, all to do with music. He was involved in music festivals and was a judge at an Eisteddfod a special Welsh festival.

Samuel died young. He was only thirty seven. For a few years before his death he was working very hard. He produced "Twenty Four Negro Melodies" to try to make the music of black workers in the USA better known. He travelled to the USA three times and was very popular there.

Samuel's music is not so popular nowadays and even in his lifetime many people only liked Hiawatha. It is still worth finding out about him to show that even in Victorian times poor black people could get the chance to do things if they were lucky. It is interesting to think about how the world has changed.

What do you think would have happened to Samuel if he had been born in 1995 rather than 1875?

# Samuel Coleridge Taylor- Information Grid.

When was he born?  Where was he born?	Who were his parents?	Who were other important people when he was growing up?	What were his first musical experiences?  Where did he sing?	What was his big chance?  How old was he?	Was he a good student?
Why is he famous?	Who helped him at the start of his career?	What was his most important piece of work?	Who did he marry?  How old was he?	When did he die?  How old was he?	What did he die of?
What jobs did he have?	How many children did he have?  What were their names?  When were they born?	Did he visit America?  If so, when?	Was he happy?	Was he rich?	After he died what happened?
What things did he do that were unusual?			How was entertainment different in his lifetime from how it is today?		
Was he lucky or unlucky in his life?			What would his career have been like if he had been born in 1995?		