

The Battle of Cable Street – Assembly Plan

This assembly plan accompanies our 12-minute film on the Battle of Cable Street (available on Youtube [here](#)). It provides thoughts on how teachers could introduce and follow up on the film.

Introduction

Before showing the film, explain that 90 years ago, in London, an event took place in the East End of London which back then had a large Jewish population. Explain that when a fascist group planned to march through that area, communities (both Jewish and non-Jewish) came together to resist prejudice and intolerance, and these events have been remembered and commemorated in song, theatre, books, memorial plaques and educational resources. Even today, nearly a century on, people who stand up against hatred often refer to the events on Sunday 4th October, 1936 during what became known as the Battle of Cable Street.

Explain that students are going to watch a short film those events and ask students to consider the relevance it has for us in modern Britain, and what it tells us about the importance of people coming together to challenge antisemitism, fascism and indeed prejudice of any kind.

After the film

Once the film is finished, explain that you hope students recognise the continued importance of the Battle of Cable Street and why it is still remembered today. Suggest that students might have recognised the parallels with today as well as important differences. Ask them to think about the power of different communities coming together and suggest that we can use the memory of Cable Street as inspiration to stand up against hatred.

Optional

Depending on the context in which the film has been shown - the number and age of students present, for instance - the teacher leading the assembly may be able to prompt some comment and discussion. Students may be asked to comment on some of the following points.

- What might draw people to join the Blackshirts (E.g. poverty, unemployment, frustration and anger with the government, as well of course as outright prejudice and hatred);
- Why the East End stood against the British Union of Fascists;
- Why the Battle of Cable Street has been remembered for so long;

Again, depending on the context of the assembly, it may be appropriate to ask students - individually or in pairs/threes - to produce a response to the film and the events of the 4th

October, 1936. This could be displayed in school or entered into Learn About Britain's [competition on the Battle of Cable Street](#).

However the film is presented, it is important that students are given the opportunity to engage with the film, even if that is only through questions raised by the teacher leading the assembly.

Exploring the Battle of Cable Street in more depth

If you want to explore the Battle of Cable Street in more depth, Learn About Britain has produced a six-lesson unit for key stage 3 students exploring the lead up to the 4th of October 1936, the aftermath, trends in antisemitism and hatred in the UK and the contemporary relevance of the Battle of Cable Street. You can find these [here](#).