

BRISTOL OLD VIC HERITAGE

BRISTORY:

THE HISTORY OF BRISTOL IN 1766 SECONDS
RESOURCE PACK

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INTRODUCTION

BRISTORY: THE HISTORY OF BRISTOL IN 1766 SECONDS

What is the history of Bristol? How do you stage it in under half an hour?

Join Bristol Old Vic's Made in Bristol company as they take a whistle-stop tour through the annals of time. Will they make it to Bristol, 2021? And if they do, how different will it look in the light of what they have discovered?

A fast-paced, home-made history of Bristol, for young Bristolians by young Bristolians.



A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR LISA GREGAN:

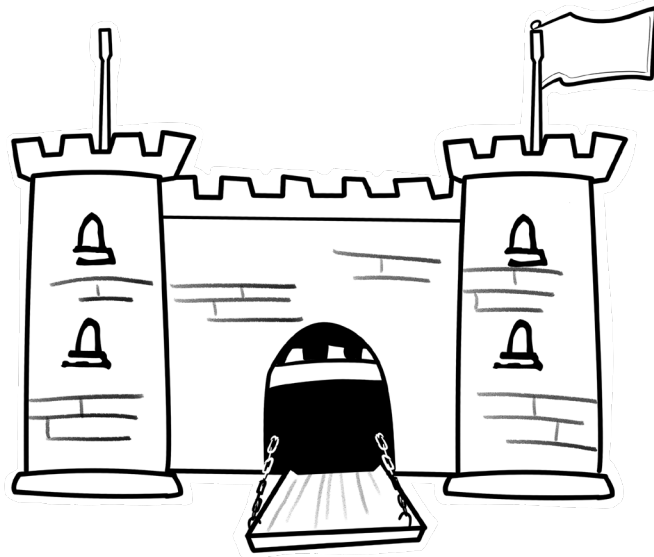
Bristory was made in response to the pandemic of 2020 (and 2021). Having seen the pressure on teachers and young people we wanted to offer something educational, fun, and most importantly free. We have an amazing Heritage department at Bristol Old Vic and over the past three years we have been collaborating on developing the relationship between theatre and history. The idea of a school show felt like the perfect opportunity to put everything we have learnt into practise.

Our amazing young theatre makers 'Made in Bristol' did not take the responsibility to tell the history of Bristol lightly. They researched rigorously, debated with passion, experimented with fearlessness, and made a piece of work that I know comes from their hearts and means a lot to us all. We hope that you enjoy the film and hope that we will be performing live again for you all very soon.



BRISTORY TIMELINE

- 500 BC - 332BC** People start living in Bristol.
- 43 AD - 410 AD** The Romans build a settlement named Abona at the present Sea Mills.
- 1062** Harold Godwinson takes ships from Bristol to subdue Welsh forces.
- 1066** The Normans erect a castle on the present site of Castle Park.

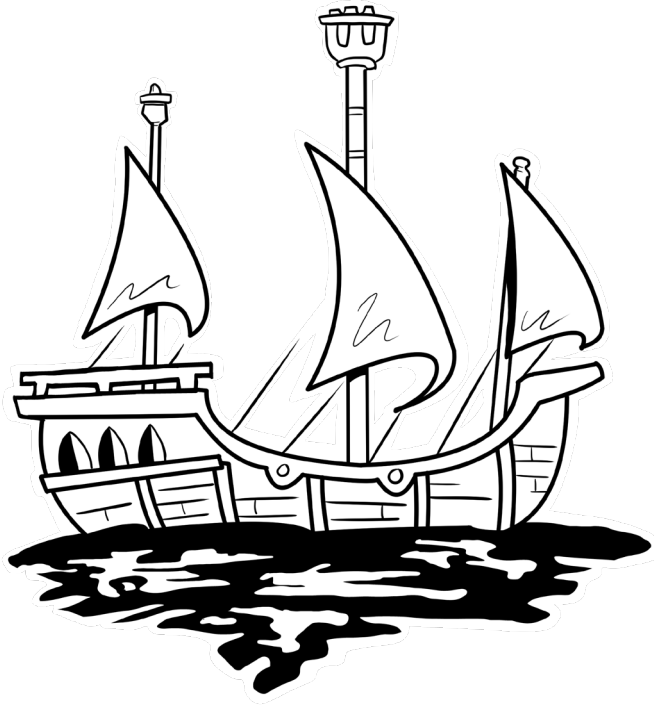


- 1238** The first St James' Fair takes place. It attracts traders from across the country and there are many shows and spectacles to be seen.



BRISTORY TIMELINE

- 1497** Italian-born adventurer John Cabot sets sail from Bristol on the ship Matthew looking for new lands to the west.
- 1498** Cabot sets sail on his second voyage to the Americas and is never heard of again.

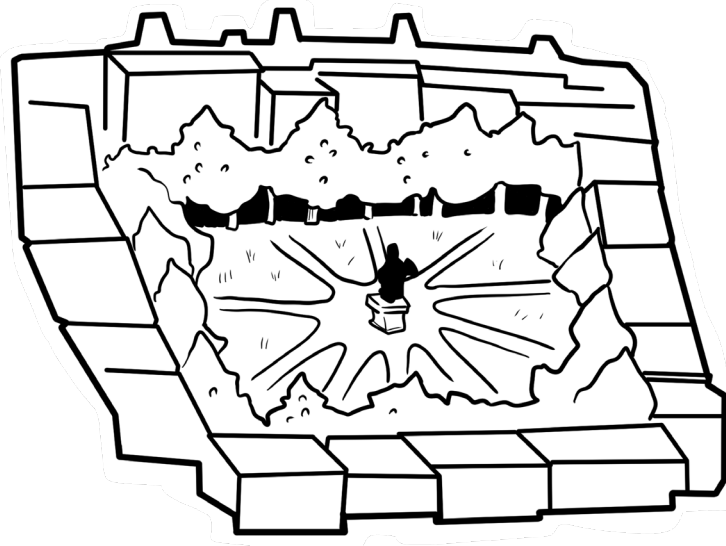


- 1552** The Society of Merchant Venturers is founded.
- 1643** Having sided with Parliament in the English Civil War, Bristol is attacked by Royalist soldiers.
- 1656** Bristol Castle is demolished.
- 1680** Bristol merchant Edward Colston joins the Royal African Company. Between 1680 and 1692 the company transports over 84,000 African men, women and children to the Caribbean and the rest of the Americas. As many as 19,000 die on the journey.
- 1687** Dinah Black, an enslaved woman living in Bristol, escapes from a ship bound for the West Indies.
- 1737** Bristol overtakes London as England's number one slaving port.
- 1745** Hannah More is born in Fishponds.
- 1766** Bristol Old Vic, or the Theatre Royal Bristol as it was originally known, opens.

BRISTORY TIMELINE

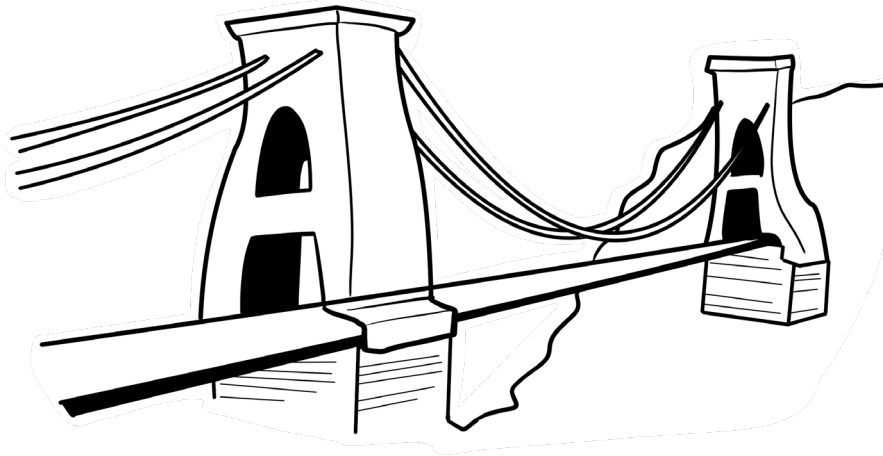


- 1784** Pero Jones is brought to live at 7 Great George Street (now the Georgian House Museum) by his enslaver John Pinney.
- 1807** Parliament bans the slave trade but does not make owning enslaved people illegal.
- 1809** The Floating Harbour opens.
- 1825** The Commissioners for Paving, Cleansing and Lighting take the Bristol Dock Company to court over stinking sewage in the Floating Harbour.
- 1833** Parliament makes the purchase or ownership of enslaved people illegal.
- 1833** Isambard Kingdom Brunel is appointed chief engineer of the Great Western Railway.
- 1831** Riots take place in Queen Square after the House of Lords rejects a proposal to give more people the right to vote.

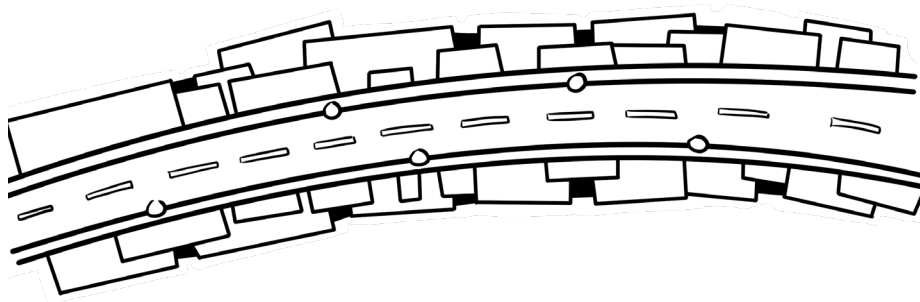


BRISTORY TIMELINE

- 1838** The paddle steamer SS Great Western, designed by Brunel, begins travelling to the United States.
- 1840** Temple Meads Station, designed by Brunel, opens.
- 1843** The iron steamship SS Great Britain, designed by Brunel, launches.
- 1864** The Clifton Suspension Bridge, designed by Brunel, opens.

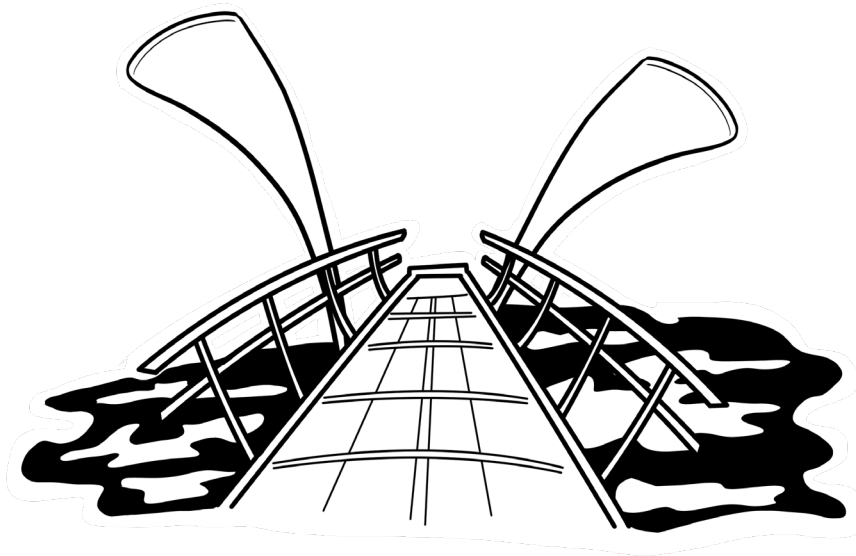


- 1895** The city erects a statue of Edward Colston in The Centre.
- 1907** Annie Kenney moves to Bristol to organise the city's campaign for women to be given the right to vote.
- 1909** Numerous Suffragette protests surround Winston Churchill's visit to Bristol to make a speech against women being given the vote.
- 1940** The Bristol Blitz begins.
- 1944** The Bristol Blitz ends.
- 1944** The Park Street Riot takes place.

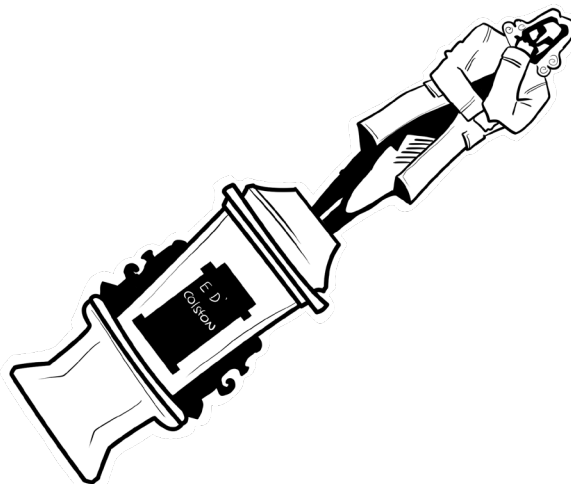


BRISTORY TIMELINE

- 1946** Michael Dillon becomes the first person in the UK to undergo female to male gender reassignment surgery. His surgeries take place at Bristol Royal Infirmary.
- 1963** The Bristol Omnibus Company is boycotted over its refusal to employ Black or Asian bus crews.
- 1968** The first St Paul's Carnival takes place.
- 1979** The first Bristol International Balloon Fiesta takes place.
- 1980** Riots in St Paul's bring the area national attention.
- 1999** The city builds a new bridge linking Queen Square and Millennium Square. It is named Pero's Bridge to commemorate the life of Pero Jones and "the countless African men, women and children whose enslavement and exploitation brought so much prosperity to Bristol through the African slave trade".



- 2008** A new shopping centre named Cabot Circus is opened.
- 2020** Edward Colston's statue is toppled.



TEST YOUR MEMORY

ARMED WITH YOUR NEW KNOWLEDGE OF BRISTOL'S PAST, CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

1. What was John Cabot's ship called?
2. How many women helped defend Bristol from Prince Rupert during the English Civil War?
3. Who ordered the destruction of Bristol Castle?
4. How many times do we see riots in the show?
5. Can you remember the name of the cardboard puppet?
6. What year did Bristol Old Vic open?
7. Can you name one thing Hannah More was famous for?
8. Isambard Kingdom Brunel designed which bridge in Bristol?
9. What did Annie Kenney, Theresa Garnett and Vera Holme campaign for?

CAN YOU PUT THESE EVENTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER?

- A. The Trial of The Stinky City
- B. Queen Square Riot
- C. John Cabot's first voyage
- D. The Bristol Blitz
- E. The arrival of the Romans
- F. The opening of Bristol Old Vic
- G. The first St James' Fair
- H. The destruction of Bristol Castle
- I. The first Bristol International Balloon Fiesta
- J. The Bristol Bus Boycott

The answers are at the end of the pack.

WORD SEARCH



Blitz

Bluestocking

Boycott

Castle

Colston

Dinah

Matthew

Pero

Romans

Suffragette

TRY IT YOURSELF

Four months ago, Bristory didn't exist. Everything you watched was created over the course of a single school term.

At first, the thought of trying to tell nearly 1500 years of history in half an hour seemed impossible. How would we decide which stories to tell? Where would we find the information we needed to tell them? How would we make the past relevant, engaging and maybe even a little bit funny?

We began with some simple games and exercises which helped us relate to and empathise with people from Bristol's past. This helped us decide how to best tell their stories. We think these exercises will work as well in the classroom as they did in our rehearsal room.

We've also included a list of all the resources we used to research our show. We hope they inspire you just as they inspired us.

ON YOUR OWN

1. **Research** a local historical figure and write a short monologue about a key event in their life. A monologue is when one person speaks directly to the audience and shares their feelings or point of view. The best monologues are like mini-stories with a beginning, middle, and end.
2. **Choose** two decades from Bristol's past and research what day to day life was like during them. What jobs did people do? Where did they shop? How did they travel? What did they do for fun? Write a short piece of dialogue between two fictional characters, one from each decade you researched. Dialogue is what characters say aloud to each other. It helps bring them to life. What do your characters have in common? How are their lives different? Would they recognise each other's Bristol?

TRY IT YOURSELF

IN GROUPS

1. In groups of three or four, prepare a **role-play** from the point of view of the first Roman soldiers to arrive in Bristol. Do they like it here? Do they get on with the locals? What are they going to build first?
2. In groups of three or four, prepare a **role-play** from the point of view of the residents of Bedminster called to testify at the Trial of the Stinky City. What do they want to tell the court? How does the awful stink affect their lives?
3. In groups of three or four, prepare a **role-play** from the point of view of the children sheltering in an air raid shelter during the Bristol Blitz. What can they see? What can they hear? What have they brought with them to the shelter?
4. In groups of four or five play a simple **mime game**. Each learner chooses a character or event from Bristory and mimes it to the rest of the group. The other learners must work out what they mimed. They can ask up to ten questions, to which the learner can only answer 'yes' or 'no'.

RESOURCE LIST

BOOKS

- David Olusoga, *Black and British: A Short, Essential History: A Short Essential History*.
- Charlie Revelle-Smith, *Weird Bristol*.
- Jane Duffus, *The Women Who Built Bristol 1184-2018*

VIDEOS

- The Life and Death of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Joseph Wallace Productions: <https://vimeo.com/26677364>
- The Story of Bristol Bus Boycotts, The Black Curriculum: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSyzaXXKUaQ>

PODCASTS

- The Bristol History Podcast, The Bristol Cable: <https://thebristolcable.org/bristol-history-podcast/>

WEBSITES

- Black Lives in England, Historic England: <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/inclusive-heritage/the-slave-trade-and-abolition/sites-of-memory/black-lives-in-england/>
- Stories, Bristol Museums: <https://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/stories/>
- Archive, Bristol Old Vic: <https://bristololdvic.org.uk/archive>
- Hannah More, Jane Austen Centre: <https://janeausten.co.uk/blogs/authors-artists-vagrants/hannah-more-expert-abolitionist>
- Know Your Place: <https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp>
- Tyntesfield, National Trust: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tyntesfield/features/who-was-hannah-more>
- Pride of Place: England's LGBTQ Heritage, Historic England: <https://www.historypin.org/en/prideofplace/geo/52.522373,-1.813142,6/bounds/49.195492,-14.692781,55.615094,11.066497/paging/1>
- Story, SS Great Britain: <https://www.ssgreatbritain.org/story>

A FINAL THOUGHT

Bristol is a big city with a lot of history and we only managed to explore a tiny bit of it in our show. There are still so many stories waiting to be told.

Why not create your own show focusing only on the area around your school and all the interesting things which have happened there?

We'd love to see what you get up to.

MORE FROM BRISTOL OLD VIC HERITAGE AND ENGAGEMENT

RE:SOURCES (<https://bristololdvic.org.uk/interact/teacher-resources>)

Developed in collaboration with Light Up Learning, the University of Bristol Theatre Collection and Bristol Archives, RE:SOURCES shine a light on the amazing stories of a theatre that has been entertaining Bristol for the last 255 years.

Key parts of the Key Stage 2 history curriculum are all addressed, as are key requirements for other subjects including English, science and design and technology.

LOAN BOXES

Our brand-new loan boxes and virtual loan box workshops bring Bristol Old Vic Heritage directly to your classroom.

A box of Bristol Old Vic artefacts and resources can be loaned to your school for a half term. Each box contains a selection of genuine and replica artefacts, photographs and documents ready for learners to handle. The boxes are an ideal starting point for promoting and developing observation, questioning and empathising skills. They are also ideal for stimulating creative writing, art and design.

Available boxes:

Take your seats box

We all love a trip to the theatre, but how has this favourite pastime changed from the Georgian period to today?

This box includes:

- Photos
- Playbills
- Programmes
- Tickets
- Documents and letters
- Artefacts including: pottery and animal bones.

Behind the Curtain box

How have technicians, artists and designers brought fantastical stories to life on our stage over the last two- and a-bit centuries?

This box includes:

- Photos
- Playbills
- Programmes
- Letters and documents
- Costume designs
- Set designs
- Model box pieces
- Props and costumes

To enquire about booking a loan box please email heritage@bristololdvic.org.uk

ANSWERS

QUIZ

1. The Matthew
2. 200
3. Oliver Cromwell
4. 3
5. Dinah Black
6. 1766
7. Poet, Author, Abolitionist
8. Clifton Suspension Bridge.
9. Votes for Women
10. 1968

TIMELINE ORDER

E. G. C. H. B. F. A. D. J. I