



Y6 Transition work

Using historical sources to investigate Black history

What evidence do historians use?

Historians try to find out what happened in the past. To do this they need to piece together what happened from the clues that survive. Historians call these clues **sources**.

Historical sources are something that tells us about history. It may be a document, a picture, a sound recording, a book, a cinema film, a television programme, or an object. Anything from the period in question that conveys information can qualify as a source. You are going to look at two sources from the National Archives that help you answer the enquiry questions below.



Enquiry questions: Who was Walter Tull? How can we use sources to find out about him? What can he teach us about what happened in the past?

Walter Tull was born on 28 April 1888 in Folkstone, Kent. His father was from Barbados and his mother from Kent. His parents died when he was aged 9 years old. Walter and his brother were brought up in an orphanage in Bethnal Green, East London. From 1908 he started to play football and was signed by Clapham FC, then the following year by Tottenham Hotspur F.C. He was the second person of African-Caribbean mixed heritage to play in the top division of the Football League. He later moved to Northampton Town F.C. in 1911 where he played half-back.

At the start of the First World War Tull joined the 17th (1st Football) Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment as a Lance-Corporal. In 1915 he served in France and was later placed in hospital for shell shock. In 1916, he returned to action in September and fought in the Battle of the Somme, afterwards attending officer training in Britain then going back to serve in the 23rd Battalion of the Middlesex regiment as a second lieutenant.

Despite army rules which forbade a 'person of colour' being commissioned as an officer (a leader of men), Walter was promoted to lieutenant after officer training school at Gailes, Scotland. In 1917, Tull is widely considered the first African-Caribbean mixed heritage man to be commissioned as an infantry officer in the British Army.

Walter Tull died aged 29 in 1918 while leading an attack on the Western front during the Second Battle of the Somme in March. The Commanding Officer of the 23rd Battalion recommended him for a Military Cross for bravery.

These two original sources can be used to find out more about the life of Walter Tull.

TASK ONE - Follow the link below to look at the full photograph and answer the 4 questions.

1. How can you tell this is a football team?
2. Where was this photograph taken?
3. Can you spot Walter Tull?
4. What team did he play for?

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/walter-tull/source-one-walter-tull-photograph/>

TASK TWO - Follow the links below to look at the source and answer the 6 questions.

5. What was Walter Tull's full name? When was his birthday?
6. What age was he when his parents died?
7. Did Walter eventually become an officer? Can you find out?
8. How old was he when he died? Can you find out?
9. Use this document to explain why he was important in history.
10. How do you think he felt being the first African-Caribbean man to change history in this way?

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/walter-tull/source-two-walter-tull-temporary-commission/>

Use these websites for further research and extra tasks

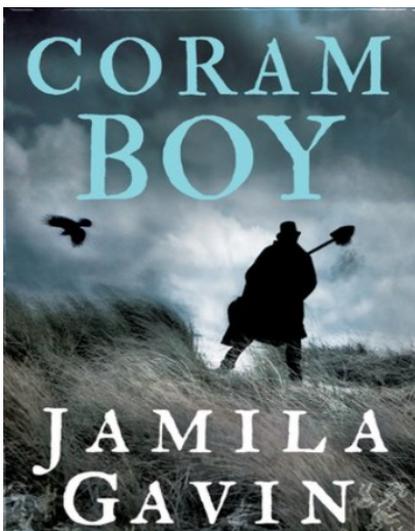
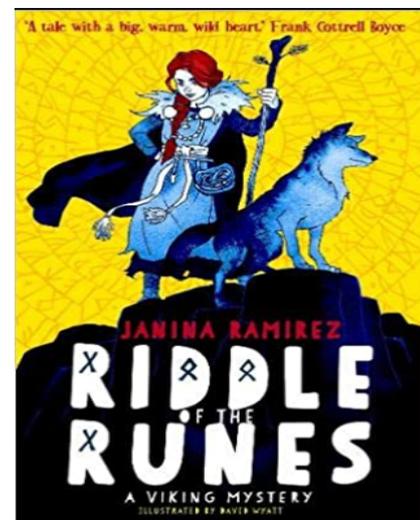
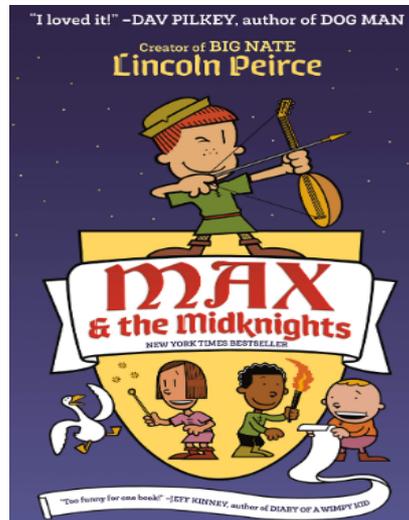
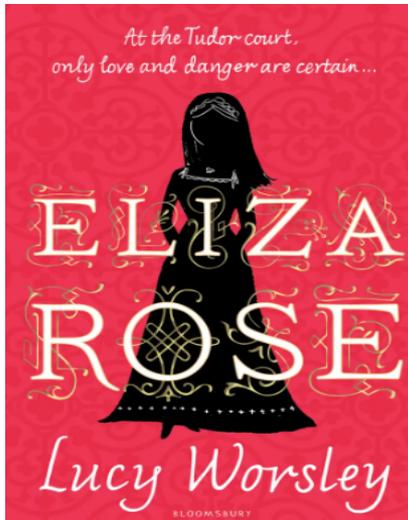
BBC Bitesize (KS2) - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqhyb9q/articles/zbgbxvdm>

BBC Sport article - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/43504448>



Y6 'Go the extra mile' work

History is all about stories! This could be about key events, important individuals, or time periods. To 'go the extra mile' there are some books below that you could read in preparation for starting KS3 History in September. As you will already know from primary school, reading is important in helping you with your vocabulary, developing your understanding and improving confidence. By reading some of these books it will increase your passion for History too.



Books for KS3 History

