

Diversity, Art and Citizenship

School Session Overview

October 2025

Key information	
<p>Length of session: 90 mins</p> <p>Key Stage: KS2</p> <p>Location(s) of session: Queen's House</p>	
Learning objectives	Curriculum links
<p>Learners will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop their observational skills analyse famous artworks and imagery discuss topical issues linked to diversity and citizenship broaden their understanding of British History 	<p>KS2 Art, History, Citizenship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils should be able to think critically and develop a more rigorous understanding of art and design. Decode artwork equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design.
Key words	
Community, Diversity, Art, Expression, Citizenship	
Overview of the session	
<p>Pre-activity</p> <p>Learners look at Yinka Shinobare CBE's 'Nelson's Ship in a Bottle' outside the entrance to the National Maritime Museum. They consider how it was made and what messages it conveys.</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Inspired by the patterns in 'Nelson's ship in a Bottle' learners discuss how flags, motifs and symbols can be used to represent identity and community</p> <p>Activity 1: Icon/Flag making</p> <p>Learners design and share their own geometric patterns and flags that represent them and their communities.</p> <p>Gallery Exploration</p> <p>Learners tour the Queen's house and look at specific artworks like the bust of Olaudah Equiano. They examine the icons embedded in the artwork and discuss what they could mean.</p>	

Activity 2: Art and interpretation

Supported by the facilitator, learners respond to the painting 'Ship of Fools' by Kehinde Wiley. They imagine what the people in the painting are thinking and feeling.

Plenary

An opportunity to share thoughts and questions.

Suggested pre visit knowledge/activities

Prepare learners to think about how symbols and patterns express who we are. You could show examples of different national flags or cultural patterns (e.g., Adinkra symbols, tartans, Aboriginal designs, or emoji).

Introduce Yinka Shonibare CBE and Kehinde Wiley and explore some of their art online

Suggested post visit activities

Learners could use the ideas they captured during the session in response to 'Ship of Fools' to write a poem inspired by the artwork.

Links to useful resources

[Nelson's ship in a bottle | Royal Museums Greenwich](#)

[The Armada Portrait: Elizabeth I | Royal Museums Greenwich](#)

[Ship of Fools | Royal Museums Greenwich](#)

[Analysing and interpreting an artwork.pdf](#)