



Transition Day
Wednesday 30th June 2021

Subject: History

Task: Which individual from history most interests you?

As a history department we would love to find out which individuals from history interest the Class of 2028. This could be someone you have already studied in primary school, someone who was influential in a hobby you are passionate about, or someone that you research about specifically for this task.

You need to include:

- The background of the individual (who were they, when did they live, where were they from)
- Images of the individual
- Notable contributions (what made them famous?)
- Why they interest you (what qualities do they have that inspired you- this could be an achievement or one of their personal qualities)

There are two (edible!) prizes on offer for:

- Most original (the winning entry is likely to be about an individual who your history teachers have rarely heard of and agree is interesting)
- Best justification (the winning entry will explain in detail why they personally find this individual interesting and why others should as well)

To get you started there are some example individuals on the reverse of this page. You are more than welcome to use one of these or to focus on someone different.

Resources required:

You can use the internet and any relevant books to carry out research. How you present your chosen individual is up to you. It can be done on the computer or it can be handwritten. The final outcome could be a poster, a presentation or an essay.

Share your work with us:

Once you have completed your final outcome you can email us your work or a photograph of your work to tom.kidman@avonbourneacademy.org.uk or tweet us @avonbourne_2028 and @avonbournehist. We would love to see how you got on!



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Some examples of interesting individuals

Eleanor of Aquitaine	Anne Frank	Emeline Pankhurst
Alexander the Great	Mahatma Gandhi	Rosa Parks
Alfred the Great	Oleg Gordievski	Katharine Parr
Aristotle	Henry VIII	Ignatius Sancho
Ludwig van Beethoven	Steve Jobs	Mary Seacole
Napoleon Bonaparte	Genghis Khan	William Shakespeare
Queen Boudicca	Dalai Lama	Mother Theresa
Julius Caesar	Ada Lovelace	Lewis Tregonwell
Winston Churchill	Martin Luther King Jr	Alan Turing
Charles Darwin	Nelson Mandela	Tutankhamun
Walt Disney	Una Marson	Oprah Winfrey
Thomas Edison	Mansa Musa	Nicholas Winton
Albert Einstein	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Queen Victoria
Elizabeth I	Florence Nightingale	Leonardo da Vinci

Who does the history department find interesting?

Miss England: I find the Dakota Native American chief, Sitting Bull interesting. He was a chief (leader) who united the Sioux tribes into the largest Native American force at a time when Native Americans faced destruction at the hands of white settlers. He continued to resist against white settlers moving westwards even when it seemed impossible. Sitting Bull stood against the might of the US army and achieved the greatest Native American victory at the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876. He inspired other Native Americans through his bravery in battle, killing his first buffalo at age 10. He went to battle with his father against Crow warriors and was given the name 'the bull who will not move'. Sitting Bull wanted to protect the culture and values of the Native Americans against white invasion and defend native lands. When food and resources were scarce for his people, he surrendered himself to the US Army in exchange of protection for his people. He was kept prisoner for two years. This quote I think is particularly inspiring: "As individual fingers, we can easily be broken, but all together we make a mighty fist." ~ Sitting Bull

Miss Heaver: Harriet Tubman is someone who led a fascinating life. Tubman was born into slavery in America at a time rife with racism but went on to escape, become a leading figure in the Underground Railroad, and a nurse, scout, and spy in the American Civil War. As a



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child it is believed that she suffered a severe head injury when protecting another enslaved person from an overseer's punishment which resulted in long term medical issues. In 1849, she left behind her loved ones to seek freedom in Philadelphia. However, the following year she returned and helped her family escape. This was the first of many journeys where she helped enslaved people escape to Canada, each time risking her own life to help others. She was arguably the most famous conductor of the Railroad becoming known as the 'Moses of her people'. After the Civil War broke out, Tubman served as a nurse for injured soldiers, and again risked her own life to work for the Union forces to scout and spy in Confederate territory for stores of ammunition which could be targeted by the army; all the time at great personal danger and paid so little she had to bake goods to support her family. When the war ended, Tubman opened her home to orphans and the elderly who needed help and for the rest of her life campaigned for key causes such as equal civil rights and women's suffrage. She overcame huge personal obstacles displaying huge amounts of courage, integrity, determination and kindness, in a time and place where everything seemed stacked against her. I find this quote from Harriet Tubman particularly interesting and inspiring: "every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

Miss Graham: Krystyna Skarbek, often known as Christine Granville, was an extraordinary individual. The daughter of a Polish aristocrat, she was the longest serving female secret agent for the British during the Second World War. By trekking and skiing across borders, she smuggled highly secret information from the Nazis back to the Allies - often hidden in her gloves. In January 1941, the Gestapo (Nazi secret police) arrested Skarbek and another agent and, after two days' interrogation, Skarbek severely bit her tongue to make it seem that she was coughing up blood. Since the Gestapo were worried that Skarbek was suffering from tuberculosis, a dangerous and contagious illness, they decided to release both agents who they believed to be infected. Her bravery and ingenuity here is inspiring, helping save another agent in a challenging situation. Among the information that Skarbek smuggled across borders was the first film evidence of Nazi-German preparations for Operation Barbarossa, the planned invasion of the Soviet Union. Allegedly, this caused Winston Churchill to remark that Skarbek was his favourite spy. Throughout her career as a spy, Skarbek stayed incredibly loyal to her goal of freeing Poland from Nazi rule, demonstrating exceptional resilience and determination in the face of extremely dangerous challenges.

Mr Kidman: I find Sir Nicholas Winton a really interesting figure from history. In 1939 (just before the start of World War Two), he rescued 669 children from Czechoslovakia (which was being controlled by the Nazis) and they were raised in British families during the war. Although many of the children hoped to be reunited with their parents and families after the war, most of them discovered that their parents had been murdered in the Holocaust. It was Winton's actions, by compiling lists of the children and travelling with them on the trains to Britain, which prevented them from meeting the same fate. Sir Nicholas Winton's actions therefore saved hundreds of lives. Winton did not hide what he had done in 1939 but it was not well-known publicly because he did not think he had done anything extraordinary- a fine example of how modesty is an excellent character trait. I therefore think Sir Nicholas Winton's actions are an example to us all- how each individual life can make a huge



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difference to humanity. I will leave you with this quote by Sir Nicholas Winton: "I have a motto that if something isn't blatantly impossible, then there must be a way of doing it".

Mr Lavy: The individual that interests me most from history is probably Clement Atlee. Atlee became Prime Minister after World War Two, having supported the former Prime Minister Winston Churchill during the war. Also, in the 1930s, Atlee was trying to tell people how evil Hitler was when even the British government would not listen and were instead trying to keep the Nazis happy. In my mind, Atlee is the greatest Prime Minister that the UK has ever had. He helped to create a fairer society and a land fit for the heroes who fought so bravely during World War Two. His government was also responsible for forming the NHS, which has been so important to me, my family, and the whole country, especially in the last year. Countless lives have been saved and improved due to the Welfare State formed by Atlee's government after World War Two, this is something for which I think we should all be grateful.

Mr Robjohn: Tsar Nicholas II, the last Tsar (king) of Russia, and grandson of Queen Victoria, fascinates me. When he succeeded his father in 1894, he had very little experience of ruling people and was worried about being Tsar. He is believed to have said, "I am not prepared to be Tsar; I never even wanted to become one." During his reign, Nicholas II became very unpopular. Most people in Russia at this time were extremely poor and they felt that the Tsar did not care about them. Even when they protested in 1905, the Tsar's police shot many protesters dead. When Russia joined Britain and France in 1914 to fight against the Germans in the First World War, the Russian army did not do very well, and Nicholas II was blamed. Also, whilst at war, there were severe food shortages which led to lots of protests, and many people died of hunger. Nicholas had no choice but to abdicate (step down) in 1917. Nicholas pleaded with his British cousin King George V to help him, but he didn't, and his family were executed on 17 July 1918.

Mrs Richter: Alexander Hamilton, one of America's Founding Fathers, was born in 1755 and had such an interesting life that Lin Manuel Miranda has written a hit Broadway musical about him. He was involved in the American Revolution and was George Washington's most trusted adviser. After the revolution, he became one of the leaders in American politics, and the first political parties in American history (Federalists and Republicans) were based chiefly on whether people agreed or disagreed with Hamilton's policies. Hamilton is an intriguing historical character, for a number of reasons. For example, he created institutions in America that are still important today, such as the Bank of the United States and the Coast Guard. He was also an abolitionist. Hamilton was a lawyer and a prolific writer – his biographer Ron Chernow described him as "the human word machine" – and his interpretations of the American Constitution are still often used by the U.S. Supreme Court. Hamilton died when a political rival shot him in a duel. One of the most inspiring things about Hamilton's life and legacy is that he was an immigrant, an orphan, and started life with nothing, yet read everything he could, worked hard and went on to become one of the most influential figures in American history.