# Can you help Brighton and Hove Black History group to solve a local mystery?

Lesson 1

Picture from imagination by Dr Ludo Foster



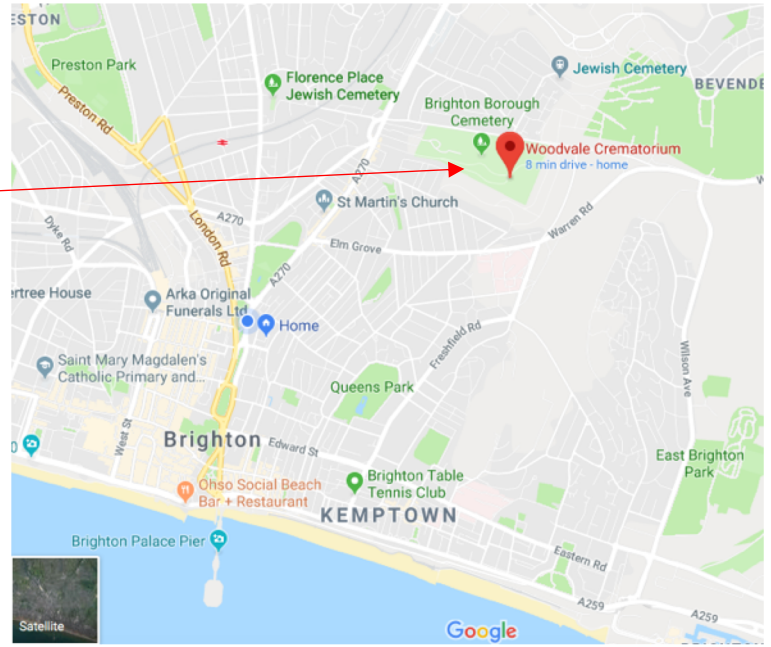
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BRIGHTON & HOVE BLACK HISTORY

# It all started when a council worker discovered a grave in Woodvale cemetery, Brighton




In Memory of Tom M.S. Highflyer.
Rescued from a slave dhow August 24, 1866
Baptised by his own request at Brighton March 30, 1870.
Died at Brighton June 20, 1870.
Supposed to be about 12 years old.
Jesus said Him that cometh unto me will be no wise cast out

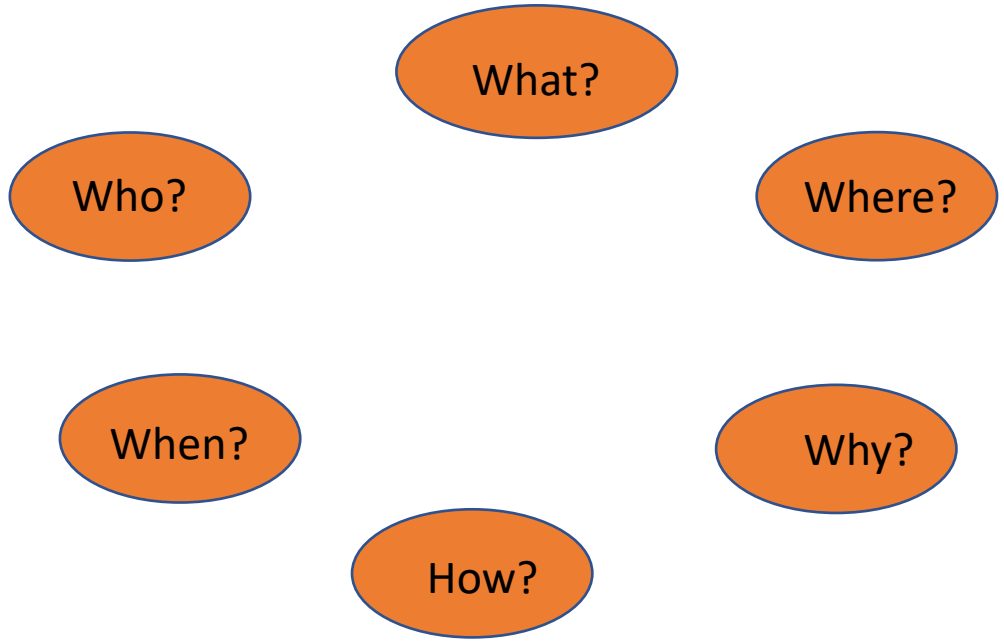



***What do you notice?***

# What questions can a Historian ask?

Historians like to solve mysteries about people.

They always start with questions




***Write down some questions you would ask about Tom Highflyer?***

Where was Tom from?

Who rescued him?

What was Brighton like in 1870?

How did he die?

Where were his family?

How did he feel?

Why did Tom end up in Brighton?

***What questions can you think of?***



# Evidence

Historians are hardly ever completely certain about what happened. For instance you might have learned that the Second World War started in 1939, but for China it started when they were invaded in 1937, and America didn't join until 1941 – so when was it a world war?



Photo by Ivan Leung on Unsplash

We have to ‘weigh up’ the evidence and decide how sure we can be about what it seems to tell us about what happened.

We make claims about what happened but we use different language depending on how certain we are about our claims.

This is called tentative language. For instance:

- “Tom **might** have been rescued by someone from Brighton”
- “Tom **was probably** captured to be sold as a slave”

***Can you think of some other sentences?***



# A line of certainty

Put these sentence starters in order of certainty

This might suggest that that....

It is very likely that...

Tom could have been....

This indicates that....

This suggests that.....

Tom was possibly....

We think that...

Tom clearly experienced..

Tom might have.....

This implies that...

He probably....

We know that Tom....



**Not very sure**

**Almost certain**



# Researching Tom's life



Photo by Jonathan Simcoe on Unsplash

Brighton and Hove History group were really excited to find Tom's grave. We wanted to know more about our local boy.

We went to **The Keep** which has old records and old school books and we looked at the census and used the internet to try to find out Tom's story……



Photo by Andrew Neel on Unsplash

# We started with Tom's headstone



*(A slave dhow is a boat used to transport people who had been captured)*

This seems to prove that...

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This suggests his name was....

*(Baptism is a Christian ceremony)*



This suggests that...

It is highly likely that Tom died on....(date).

***Write down some claims about his life on a paper square and put them on your certainty line***

# Does the headstone solve the mystery?

Who rescued him?

Was he a Christian?

How did he feel?

Where was he from?

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What happened to him in Brighton?

What was his name?

How did he die?

How old was he?

# Researching Tom's life

***Write a list of other places to find evidence about Tom's life***

