

BIG NEWS

WORLDWIDE PROTESTS

PROTESTS against racism have been taking place all over the world, following the death of George Floyd in the USA.

George Floyd was a black American man who died while being held down by a white police officer. The officer was filmed kneeling on Mr Floyd's neck for several minutes and has since been charged with murder.

People all over America immediately took to the streets to protest against police violence and racism. The protests have now spread around the world, united by the words 'Black lives matter'.

In the past week, tens of thousands of people have taken part in protests in the UK.

Although the vast majority of protesters have been peaceful, some have been accused of taking things too far. In Bristol, the statue of a slave trader, Edward Colston, was pulled down by the protesters.

Edward Colston was once the city's MP, but he made his money from trading slaves. In the 1600s, Colston's ships took about 80,000 men, women and children from Africa to America. They were sold as slaves.

He gave a lot of money to churches, hospitals and schools in Bristol. His statue has stood in the city centre since 1895, but many people have been unhappy that he is still honoured in this way. The Mayor of Bristol said the Edward Colston statue was an "insult" to black people. The statue was thrown into Bristol Harbour.



Protesters hurl Edward Colston's statue into Bristol Harbour



Questions on: 'Worldwide protests'

- 1) In which country did George Floyd die?
- 2) What makes his death shocking?
- 3) Which **three words** have been used by all the protesters to explain why they are out on the streets?
- 4) Why do you think the protests have spread around the world, including the UK?
- 5) What happened in Bristol that upset some people, but pleased many others?
- 6) Find three facts about Edward Colston.
- 7) What is the **opinion** of the mayor of Bristol?
- 8) Do you think it was okay for the protesters in Bristol to throw the statue into the water, or not? Explain your thoughts.

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