

## What to do today

*IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.*

### 1. Read a news report

- Read *News Report – The Week Junior*.
- Highlight the most important information in this article.
- What could be the headline for this news report? Try to write five different possible headlines.

### 2. Read other newspaper articles

- Read *First News 1 and First News 2*.
- Read *First News Questions*. Think about your answers.
- Write your answers in clear sentences.

### 3. Prepare an interview

- Watch the video of Blue Presenters talking about this news:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LLBDsVREaI>
- Imagine that you were going to interview the three presenters. What questions would you ask them? Write three Question Ideas for each presenter and explain why you are asking them those things.

*Well done. Talk about your answers to First News Questions with a grown-up. You can check your answers at the end of this pack.*

### Try this extra activity

Find out more about this news by watching some of the Newsround programmes on this website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/53070882>

## News Report – The Week Junior



**On 7 June, thousands of people protested in the UK calling for an end to racism. Racism is when people are treated badly or unfairly because of their race. It is when actions and words are used to discriminate against people because of the colour of their skin, their culture or their ethnic background. In Bristol, England, a statue of a 17th century slave trader was pulled down.**

### **Why are people protesting?**

On 25 May, a black man called George Floyd died shortly after he was arrested by a white police officer in Minneapolis, US. In a video of the arrest, the officer is seen putting his knee on Floyd's neck. Floyd could be heard saying he couldn't breathe. The officer has been charged with murder. Many people believe Floyd's death was racist. It is not the first time a black person has died as a result of police violence. This has led to worldwide protests.

### **What happened in the UK?**

In the UK, around 137,000 people demonstrated in cities including Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow and London. In Bristol, protesters pulled down a statue of Edward Colston,

a 17th century slave trader, rolled it along the street and pushed it into the harbour.

### **Who was Edward Colston?**

Colston was born in Bristol in 1636. In 1680, he joined a company that forcibly took people from Africa and sold them as slaves in the Caribbean and in North and South America. There, they were made to work in terrible conditions. Britain was the biggest slave-trading country from 1640 until 1807, when it became illegal.

### **What was the reaction?**

Bristol's mayor Marvin Rees, whose father was Jamaican, said he felt no "sense of loss" at the statue's removal, but said he did not support criminal damage. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said it was a criminal act. In London, a statue of a slave trader, Robert Milligan, was removed by the authorities, and protests were held in Oxford, demanding that a statue of the 19th century figure Cecil Rhodes be taken down. Rhodes held racist views.

### **Is there racism in the UK today?**

Racism still exists in the UK. Black people in England and Wales are 9.5 times more likely to be stopped and searched by police than a white person, and black people are five times more likely to have force used against them by police. Many people believe there is inequality in education, health and at work. One London protester said, "People out here showing support is a great step... but there is still so much more to be done. People still need to educate themselves."

### **If you're upset by this story**

If you're feeling worried or scared by the events described in this report, talk to your parents or another adult you trust. For some advice on dealing with your feelings, visit [theweekjunior.co.uk/TWJ-Protests](https://theweekjunior.co.uk/TWJ-Protests)

# US PROTESTS SPREAD WORLDWIDE



## AMERICA BURNS WITH RAGE



After a peaceful demonstration, clashes between protesters and police led to scenes like this in Seattle

There have been increasing calls for the “defunding” of police departments across the US in recent days. This generally means taking some responsibilities away from the police and using the money for things like investing in better mental health care, so that people with mental health problems can get help instead of being arrested



**PROTESTS** against police brutality have continued across America, including in Minneapolis, following the death of a black American man, George Floyd, while being held down by a white police officer.

Derek Chauvin, the white police officer accused of killing Mr Floyd, appeared via video conference in court on Monday. He didn't enter a plea of guilty or not guilty.

Although the majority of protesters have been peaceful, some have been accused of taking things too far, with shops looted and even set on fire. Some have thrown objects at police, but the police have also been widely criticised for a string of attacks on peaceful protesters and journalists.

Two police officers in Buffalo have been charged with assault after they shoved a 75-year-old man to the ground, and there

have been more than 200 incidents of journalists being attacked, including one film crew who were shot at with pepper bullets while they were on air.

President Donald Trump has been criticised for his response, including by former senior members of his own party. He called protesters “terrorists” and threatened to send the army in to deal with them.

“Given the track record of impunity [no punishment] for racial violence of this nature in the United States, black people have good reason to fear for their lives,” read a statement from dozens of

independent UN human rights experts. “Many in the United States and abroad are finally acknowledging that the problem is not a few bad apples, but instead the problem is the very way that economic, political and social life are structured.”

There have been protests following previous police attacks on unarmed black people in the US, such as the LA riots after Rodney King was savagely beaten in 1991. However, the way this protest has spread around the world suggests that the calls for change in America may be too loud to ignore this time.

## WHO IS SAYING WHAT?

**CRESSIDA DICK, THE METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSIONER**

...said 27 police officers in London had been injured during the first week of protests, when “a minority of protesters became violent” towards officers outside Downing Street. Two officers were seriously injured, she said. She urged protesters to find “another way” to get their voices heard, adding that she was “deeply saddened and depressed” about the violence by a small number of protesters.



**F1 STAR LEWIS HAMILTON**

...praised Black Lives Matter protesters for pulling down the Edward Colston statue in Bristol (p3). He said: “All statues of racist men who made money from selling a human being should be torn down! Which one is next? I challenge government officials worldwide to make these changes and implement the peaceful removal of these racist symbols.”



**PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON**

...said: “People have a right to protest peacefully and while observing social distancing, but they have no right to attack the police.”



**BOXER ANTHONY JOSHUA**

...spoke in his home town of Watford: “The virus has been declared a pandemic, it is out of control. And I'm not talking about COVID-19. The virus I'm referring to is called racism. We need to speak out. We need to be united.”



# UK PROTESTS

**TENS of thousands of people have taken part in protests across the UK to get their voices heard about racism, following George Floyd's death.**

There were demonstrations big and small in towns and cities throughout the country, after a week in which people ignored calls from politicians to avoid mass protests because of coronavirus social distancing.

Demonstrators took to the streets in Edinburgh, Cardiff, Sheffield, Newcastle, Carlisle, Bristol, Dumfries, Derby, Chester, Wolverhampton, Middlesbrough, Lytham and Wrexham, among others. Most of the protests were peaceful but a small number of people became violent.

In London, crowds gathered at the US embassy to support protesters in America. It was a peaceful gathering of mainly young demonstrators from all ethnic backgrounds.

Daniel Oderinde, 23, said he had never seen protests like these in the UK before, where "white people and black come together in support of the struggles that we've been going through. If I can share that message and we can come together as one, then I can be part of something monumental."

An anti-racism protest was also held in Parliament Square in Westminster, where the statue of WW2 prime minister Winston Churchill was covered in graffiti.

Thousands on the streets of Manchester knelt in protest, and were joined by former footballer Rio Ferdinand, his wife Kate and their three children.

People gathered at Nottingham Forest's football ground, chanting: "Enough is enough."

Many more people took part in virtual protests. The #BlackLivesMatter movement said 22,000 people from across the world had joined an online protest to show their support. Apollo Sankara of BLM London said of the protests: "This isn't just a moment, this is a movement."



An image of the Peterborough artist Nathan Murdoch's work has been shared globally

## First News Questions

### *These questions are about First News 1*

1. Whose death sparked the protests against police brutality in America?
2. Why does the article suggest that 'calls for change in America may be too loud to ignore this time'?
3. What was the Metropolitan Police Commissioner concerned about?
4. Who did Lewis Hamilton praise?
5. What did Anthony Joshua compare racism to?

### *These questions are about First News 2*

6. Were the protests in the UK mainly peaceful or mainly violent?
7. Who did Daniel Oderinde say had come together to protest?
8. Who joined the protests in Manchester?
9. How many people joined protests online?
10. Why do you think that Nathan Murdoch's artwork has been so popular?

### *This question is about The Week Junior*

11. Why do you think the news report highlights the fact that the Bristol Mayor is of Jamaican origin, and yet, does not make any mention of the fact that Boris Johnson is white?

## Question Ideas

*Write your interview questions and why you would ask them.*



**Richie Driss**



**Mwaka Mudenda**



**Lindsey Russell**

## First News Questions – Possible Answers

*These questions are about **First News 1***

1. Whose death sparked the protests against police brutality in America?

*It was the death of George Floyd that sparked the protests.*

2. Why does the article suggest that ‘calls for change in America may be too loud to ignore this time’?

*It suggests this because of the way that the protests has spread around the world.*

3. What was the Metropolitan Police Commissioner concerned about?

*Cressida Dick was concerned about violence and the injury to police officers.*

4. Who did Lewis Hamilton praise?

*Lewis Hamilton praised the protestors who pulled down the Colston statue.*

5. What did Anthony Joshua compare racism to?

*Anthony Joshua said that racism is like a virus.*

*These questions are about **First News 2***

6. Were the protests in the UK mainly peaceful or mainly violent?

*The protests in the UK were mainly peaceful.*

7. Who did Daniel Oderinde say had come together to protest?

*He said that white people and black people had come together in support of the issue.*

8. Who joined the protests in Manchester?

*Rio and Kate Ferdinand and their family joined the protests.*

9. How many people joined protests online?

*Twenty-thousand people joined the protests online.*

10. Why do you think that Nathan Murdoch’s artwork has been so popular?

*Give reasons for your answers.*

*These questions are about **The Week Junior***

11. Why do you think the news report highlights the fact that the Bristol Mayor is of Jamaican origin, and yet, does not make any mention of the fact that Boris Johnson is white?

*Perhaps the reporter feels that it is necessary to point out the fact that the Mayor of Bristol is Black since most city mayors are white. However, the effect of this statement is to suggest that the major is likely to be sympathetic to the removal of the slave trader’s statue. Thus, it could be argued to be biased reporting. Also, the article seems to assume that people know the Prime Minister of the UK is white, and so makes no comment on Boris Johnson’s ethnic background.*