

How has activism shaped Our World?

"How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." -

Anne Frank


"We realize the importance of our voices only when we are silenced." - Malala Yousafzai

"Dripping water hollows out stone, not through force but through persistence." - Ovid (Roman poet)

Overview
History is peppered with events brought about by activism, which have had a lasting impact on how our world works today. To complement this term's focus school value, 'Pupil Voice', we will be examining the concept of activism and reflecting on the impacts of various activist movements. The activism of Thomas Paine, who spent some of his most formative years in Lewes, will be one of our case studies. We will reflect on how Thomas Paine used his voice and the written word to influence thinking and bring about change. In order to compare and contrast the causes of historical activists, we will also be reflecting on current events that have provoked responses by activists such as racism, climate change and extinction, and examining the actions of movements such as Extinction Rebellion and also people who have acted in support of the Black Lives Matter slogan and hashtag. We will also revisit some of our earlier learning about Greta Thunberg, as well as learning about other young activists such as Malala Yousafzi. We will consider how we can use peaceful means to raise awareness about causes we care about, and reflect on the ethics of activism where there is a risk that peace will be disturbed.

Key questions to ask yourself
Why was Thomas Paine so influential? What was the impact of Thomas Paine's words? What factors create activists? How is art used by activists? How is the spoken word used by activists? How is writing used by activists? When could activism be considered dangerous? What do the activists of today have in common with activists in history? What are some of the ethical dilemmas of current activism movements?

Key Vocabulary	
Activist	A person who campaigns to bring about political or social change.
Extinction Rebellion	An international climate change activism group created in 2018.
Black Lives Matter	Black Lives Matter is a phrase, and notably a hashtag, used to highlight racism, discrimination and inequality experienced by black people. Its use originated in the US, but it has also been used in the UK and elsewhere.
Malala Yousafzi	Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani activist for female education and a Nobel Peace Prize winner. She is known for human rights campaigning, especially the education of women and children in her native area of northwest Pakistan, where the Pakistani Taliban Pakistan had at times banned girls from attending school.
Greta Thunberg	A young Swedish environmental activist who works to address the problem of climate change. She has become world famous, and is a highly influential figure.

Who was Thomas Paine?	
	Thomas Paine, (1737-1809), was an English-American writer and political activist whose works were an important influence on the American Revolution and which also defended the French Revolution and republican principles. Admired and quoted by figures such as Lincoln, Roosevelt and Obama, his words have left a powerful legacy, encouraging people to fight for equality and to condemn injustice. In his 2009 inauguration speech, Obama finished with this quote from Paine's <i>American Crisis</i> publication: 'Let it be told to the future world...that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive...that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet it.'

Key Terms and Facts Associated with Thomas Paine	
Headstrong Club	A group that Thomas Paine joined, upon moving to Lewes in 1768, who met for weekly topical debates in the White Hart Inn.
Pennsylvania Magazine	A magazine that Thomas Paine starting editing in 1775, when he moved to America. In it, he spoke out about the injustices of slavery. This helped inspire the formation of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society – the first anti-slavery society in America.
Common Sense	A highly influential pamphlet Thomas Paine published in 1776, urging American colonists to cut ties with the British government and to become an independent nation governed by the people. Approximately 100,000 copies were circulated throughout America.
The Rights of Man	Written by Thomas Paine in 1792 in support of the French Revolution. In it, Paine advocated for natural rights and equality for everyone. It 'fanned the flames' of rebellion and became an international bestseller.
Benjamin Franklin	One of the most influential Founding Fathers of America, Franklin helped draft the Declaration of Independence and was one of its signers. He met Paine on a visit to England and, impressed by him, gave him a letter of recommendation that helped him migrate to America.
Language of a Historian	
Primary Source	Primary sources are the raw materials of history — original documents and objects that were created at the time. Examples include diaries, journals, speeches, interviews, letters, memos, photographs and videos. Newspapers written at the time of an event are also a useful primary source.
Secondary Source	A secondary source is a document or recording that discusses a primary source. Examples include textbooks, dictionaries and encyclopaedias. Newspaper and journal articles that look back at a historical event and analyse and comment on it are also secondary sources. If you researched and wrote a report on an historical event, such as the moon landing, your work would be a secondary source.

Thomas Paine Timeline

29 th January 1737 Born in Thetford, England. The son of a corset maker, who and apprenticed into this trade, but yearns to travel and become educated, so goes to sea and then to university.	1768 Moves to Lewes to work as an excise officer, after being widowed in 1759 and holding a string of unsuccessful jobs until 1767. Joins the Headstrong Club and writes a pamphlet speaking out against the poor pay of excise officers.	1774 Thomas is fired from his job as an excise officer and moves to Philadelphia, USA. In 1775, he becomes editor of The <i>Pennsylvania Magazine</i> .	1776 Publishes <i>Common Sense</i> pamphlet, urging colonists to throw off British rule and become independent.	1787 Moves to Europe.	1791-1792 Writes <i>Rights of Man</i> , in defence of the French Revolution.	1793 Jailed in France for ten months as a political prisoner.	1793-1795 Writes <i>The Age of Reason</i> , attacking organised religion.	1802 Returns to America after fifteen years in Europe.	8 th June 1809 Dies in New York, aged 72, and was buried on his farm in New Rochelle.
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