

Task 5: Causes of inequality and racism

<p>Protests take place in over 2,000 cities and towns in over 60 countries in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.</p>	<p>17-year-old Darnella Frazier releases the video of George Floyd that she has just taken on her phone on social media and it 'goes viral'.</p>	<p>The film shows George Floyd being killed by US police officers, one of whom is later charged with his murder.</p>
<p>90% of people in the US see racism and police violence as a problem (<i>Guardian 8/7/20</i>).</p>	<p>The officer charged with his murder is white and held racist attitudes towards black people.</p>	<p>The police officers did not respect his right to life and thought nobody would care, probably because of a legacy of disproportionate police violence against people of colour, which has gone unchecked in the past. (<i>U.S.News 3/6/20</i>)</p>
<p>To justify slavery, a belief was created that black people were less than human, and so could be bought and sold and experience extreme violence.</p>	<p>Black people were taken as slaves from Africa to work in plantations in the Caribbean and North and South America.</p>	<p>Plantations of cotton and other crops grown by slaves made lots of money for the owners. Ensuring that slaves were perceived and treated in inhumane ways was necessary for the continuation of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.</p>
<p>The plague and then constant warfare caused social chaos in medieval Europe. The rulers wanted to find new wealth and had sailing ships and weapons.</p>	<p>The first owners were invaders from Europe who sailed to and seized control of other lands to make use of their resources. They also brought germs that killed off many indigenous peoples.</p>	<p>Most of the owners were white settlers from Europe who could sell the goods to Europe for a large profit</p>
<p>The rulers of Europe learned knowledge, skills and technology from European, Asian and north African civilisations and traded with Persia, India and China (all connected by land and mostly north of the tropics).</p>	<p>Over thousands of years, peoples along with their ideas, crops and domesticated animals migrated from the 'fertile crescent' of the Middle East to the west and east along the same climatic belt.</p>	<p>The climate of the 'fertile crescent' in the Middle East got drier and the soils became exhausted from over-farming.</p>
<p>Around 60 thousand years ago, hunter gatherers migrated from Africa into the Middle East and Asia. Over time, seasonal variations made life increasingly hard for hunters in the Middle East.</p>	<p>People were unable to sustain a mobile form of life as hunter gatherers.</p>	<p>The peoples of the 'fertile crescent' in the Middle East developed farming. The populations grew larger, trees were cut down and cities were built.</p>