

Behind the Artwork: Lesson 3 - Humanities, Geography, Art and Design

Behind the Artwork is inspired by artists from *Lives Less Ordinary* exhibition

This unit has been designed with Year 5 & 6 in mind but could easily be adapted for any Key Stage 2 year group.

Introduction to the scheme of work

In this unit of work, children will be introduced to five different working-class artists and their artwork shown during the Lives Less Ordinary: Working-Class Britain Re-seen exhibition in 2025. Their listening and comprehension skills will be tested, and they will finish the lesson by creating a poster of their chosen artist and their artwork.

About the artists:

All the needed information about the artists and their artwork is included in the pack.

The lesson plan is detailed and has a list of resources which makes it clear what has been included in this pack, and those which need to be sourced at school.



The Bulldog Trust

Behind the Artwork - Lives Less Ordinary - Lesson 3

LO: To practice listening skills and to create an art poster for selected artwork

Main Body	Activities	RESOURCES (Items in bold are included in this pack)
<p>Activity 1 - Teacher to hand out 1a – 1e Worksheets and to introduce the artists and their artwork</p> <p>Activity 2, Teacher to hand out Worksheet 2 Matching Artwork and to discuss the answers with students after</p> <p>Activity 3, Teacher to hand out Worksheet 3a Missing Words and to discuss the answers</p> <p>Activity 4, teacher to hand out 4 Artwork Advert - Poster Examples and to introduce posters as a form of advertisement.</p> <p>Posters are used to advertise and display events, sell products and provide information. They can be found everywhere, on buildings, in magazines, on buses.</p> <p>They are often eye catching, bright and have pictures on them. They use short snappy titles like - 'The best photo ever!' and different fonts and colours.</p> <p>The images from worksheets 1a – 1e can be cut out and used for the posters.</p>	<p>Activity 1 – To learn about five working-class artists and their artwork, to use the learned knowledge in the follow up activities</p> <p>Activity 2 - Students to match the artwork with the location it was made.</p> <p>Activity 3 - Students to fill in the missing words on the fact files (Worksheet 1c)</p> <p>Activity 4 – Artwork Advert, create a poster advertising their chosen artwork (including the location artwork was made in)</p> <p>SEN/EAL Support: Paired discussion. Using prompts to support their ideas.</p>	<p>1a - 1e Worksheets 1a - 1e Teacher Notes 2 Missing Words Worksheet 3a Matching Artwork Worksheet 3b Answers - Teacher Notes 4 Artwork Advert - Poster Examples</p> <p>For the poster: Pens Paper Card Newspaper Paint</p>
		<p>Plenary (Learning)</p> <p>Geography History Literacy Persuasive writing Art and Design</p>

1a Behind the Artwork: Neil Kenlock



1



2

Neil Kenlock
Archival prints
Neil Kenlock Archive
1963 - 1973



3



4

1b Behind the Artwork: Sandra George



1



2



3



4

Sandra George

1, 2, 3

Victoria Hostel, Edinburgh
1981, Digital prints
Craigmillar Now

4

Sandra and Tyler, Edinburgh
1989, Digital prints
Craigmillar Now

1c Behind the Artwork: Eric Tucker



1

Eric Tucker

People & Factories, date unknown
Oil on board



2

Eric Tucker

Red Head & Two Bottles of Beer, date unknown
Oil on board

1d Behind the Artwork: Corbin Shaw



Corbin Shaw

Soften Up Hard Lad, 2019

Textile

Courtesy of the artist

1e Behind the Artwork: Anne Ryan



Anne Ryan

Sawdust Caesars, 2021
Acrylic, oil and collage on aluminium
Courtesy of the artist

1a Teacher Notes: Neil Kenlock



1

Boy dressed in a smart suit proudly stands beside the telephone at home before attending a social gathering. *Brixton, 1970s*



2

Judith Vaughan on her 21st birthday, stands next to a cabinet in her mother's living room wearing a skirt she made. *Brixton Hill, 1973*



3

Young woman seated on the floor at home in front of her television set. *Brixton, 1972*



4

A man and a young woman holding a baby, celebrating the special occasion of the Christening Day. *London, 1970s*

About the artist

- Neil Kenlock is a British photographer who was born in Jamaica in 1950 and moved to London when he was a child.
- He is best known for taking powerful photos that tell the story of Black British life in the 1960s and 1970s.
- Neil was the official photographer for the British Black Panther movement—a group that stood up for the rights of Black people.
- His photos help us remember history and show how people worked together to make a better future.

About the artwork

- Determined to document his community for posterity, these photos represent British Caribbean people at ease among modern furnishings and rich décor of their homes.
- For the sitters, such portraits were useful for sending to overseas relatives as evidence of their successful settlement in Britain. For Kenlock, they were a way of conveying a sense of Black working-class pride, self-determination, and belonging.

Neil Kenlock's photos matter because:

- They let us see the positive side of life that was often missing in the news.
- They help us understand what it felt like to be part of a Black British family at that time.
- They teach us about pride, culture, and community.
- They inspire us to listen, learn, and respect everyone's story.

1b Teacher Notes: Sandra George



1

About the artist

- Born in 1957 in Nottingham, England, she spent her early years in Jamaica, before moving to Birmingham, and later Edinburgh.
- She studied photography and art at university and believed strongly in using art to help others.
- Sandra worked with many groups in Edinburgh, like people learning Braille at the Blind School or musicians with disabilities, taking photos to share their stories.
- She wasn't just a photographer, Sandra was also a community worker, helping people learn skills and feel valued.
- Her black-and-white photos really show how she cared about fairness, kindness, and making sure everyone's voice could be heard, even if they were often overlooked.
- Although she took thousands of important photos, she didn't show them in big galleries until after she passed away. Now people are discovering how amazing her work was.



2



3

About the artwork

- In 1981, George immersed herself in the day-to-day life of the Victoria hostel, a women's refuge in Edinburgh. Her photographs show it as a place of warmth, where autonomous individuals made their homes and formed meaningful connections with one another.
- George often turned the camera onto herself in the homes she shared with her son, Tyler. Despite being prolific, her photography wasn't exhibited during her lifetime.

Victoria Hostel, Edinburgh, 1981
Digital prints
Craigmillar Now



4

Sandra George's photos matter because:

- They teach us about different people and communities.
- They help us understand that art can reflect important changes and everyday life.
- They inspire us to care about others and use our creativity for good.

Sandra and Tyler, Bread Street, Edinburgh, 1989
Digital prints
Craigmillar Now

1c Teacher Notes: Sandra George



1

People & Factories, unknown
Oil on board
Courtesy of the artists estate

About the artist

- Eric Tucker was a British painter who lived in Warrington, a town in the north of England. He was born in 1932 and grew up in a working-class family.
- He worked many jobs, on building sites and in factories, but in his spare time, he loved to paint.
- He didn't go to art school, and most people didn't know about his artwork until after he died in 2018. When his family looked in his house, they found hundreds of amazing paintings!
- Though his compulsion to celebrate his everyday environments and the characters that inhabited them was lifelong, his work only gained recognition following his death.

About the artwork

- His active social life provided endless inspiration for his vivid paintings, which primarily depicted lively pub scenes.
- Sketches made surreptitiously at bars were later translated into carefully considered compositions in the front room of the council house he shared with his mother.



2

Red Head & Two Bottles of Beer, unknown
Oil on board
Courtesy of the artists estate

Eric Tucker's paintings matter because:

- They show real life in working-class communities with warmth and honesty.
- He painted what he knew, making ordinary people look important and special.
- His art helps us understand the past and reminds us that great artists can come from anywhere.

1d Teacher Notes: Corbin Shaw



Soften Up Hard Lad, 2019

Textile

Courtesy of the artist

About the artist

- Corbin Shaw is a British artist from Sheffield (born 1998) now based in London.
- He makes art using textiles, special cloth banners and flags inspired by England's St George's Cross.
- His work mixes ideas from football, pubs, boxing gyms, and things he saw growing up, to ask big questions about being a boy or man.

About the artwork

- Corbin Shaw uses the language of 'lad' culture, which shaped his adolescence in Sheffield, to confront deep-rooted stigmas surrounding men in Northern working-class communities.
- Reflecting on his relationship with his Dad, Shaw examines the narrow ways in which masculinity is expressed and perceived, and subverts these with evocations of tenderness and vulnerability. His textile flags pay homage to those who influenced his upbringing, defying their limited representation in history as merely 'cogs in a system'. He aims to provoke conversations around societal expectations tied to class and gender identities.

Corbin Shaw's art matters because:

- He shows that talking about feelings is brave, even in places we think are all about being tough, like football stadiums and gyms.
- Challenges old ideas about being "tough" and shows that real strength can be gentle, caring, and open.
- It helps start important conversations: teaching that it's okay for boys to be kind, loving, and talk about problems.
- Corbin uses familiar images (flags, pubs, football) to make powerful ideas feel welcoming to everyone.

1e Teacher Notes: Anne Ryan



Sawdust Caesars, 2021
Acrylic, oil and collage on aluminium
Courtesy of the artist

About the artist

- Anne Ryan is a British-Irish artist born in 1964 in Limerick, Ireland, now based in London. She studied art in Birmingham and Rome, and also taught at universities in the UK.
- Anne makes her art in a fun and unusual way: she paints on cardboard, then cuts out the shapes to create colourful, 3D scenes of people dancing, playing, and having fun.
- Her artworks often show figures in movement: dancing, partying, swimming, or even in a “mosh pit”, making the art feel alive and exciting.

About the artwork

- *'I'm really interested in British working-class culture; the tribes that form, the style, the creative energy', - Anne Ryan.*
- Anne Ryan's intuitively constructed and intensely coloured cutouts depict cavorting figures absorbed in the excitement and chaos of everyday life. Here, observations she made in the coastal town of Margate are brought to life; swimmers, pub-goers, people in their 'tribes' at the beach, and the general mayhem of a Bank Holiday weekend.

Anne Ryan's art matters because:

- Anne's work isn't flat, it can stand up or hang, inviting us to walk around and explore the shapes from different angles.
- Her big, colourful cut-outs show people being bold and free, feeling strong emotions like excitement, fun, or even a bit of wildness .
- She teaches us that art doesn't have to stay inside the lines or on a flat page. You can cut, fold, stick, and play with materials to make something totally different.

2 Missing Words Worksheet

1. The Festival Fringe is the world's largest performing arts festival held in in August. It includes everything from theatre, comedy, spoken word, to music, dance, circus and exhibitions and events.

2. The oldest football stadium in the world resides in
Sandygate in Bramall Lane, which is home to Hallam FC and Hallam CC, opened its doors in 1804 – gaining the title in the Guinness Book of Records as the 'Oldest Football Ground in the World'.

3. has its' own currency.
Known as the B Pound, this currency was first launched in September 2009.

4. One of the earliest 'performances' of Shakespeare's play Henry VIII may have occurred in on Sunday 6th May 1632.

5. was one of the first seaside resorts, the first to have donkey rides and the first to introduce deckchairs.

3a Matching Artwork Worksheet

United Kingdom



London



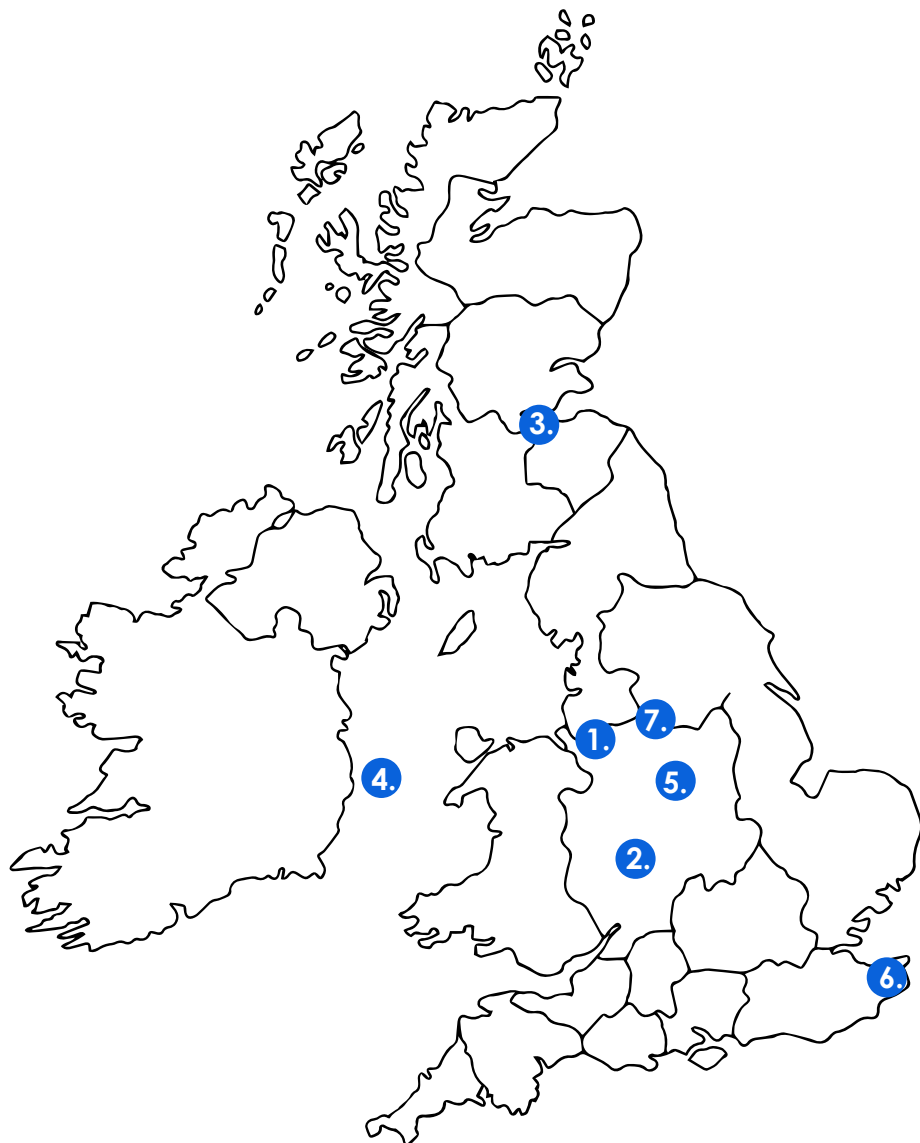
• Brixton

- Warrington, Cheshire
- Birmingham
- Edinburgh, (Scotland)
- Limerick, (Ireland)
- Nottingham, Nottinghamshire
- Margate
- Sheffield

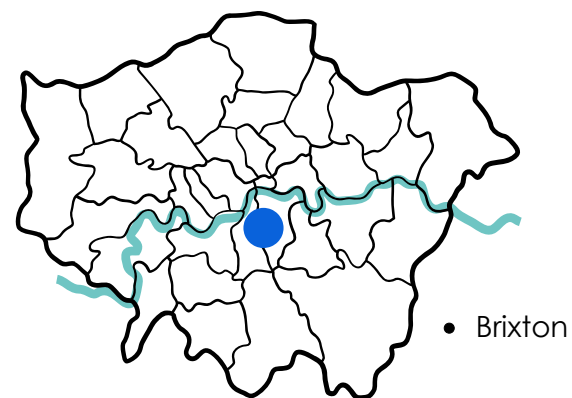
3b Answers - Teacher Notes

2. Missing Words answers

1. Edinburgh
2. Sheffield
3. Brixton
4. Warrington
5. Margate



3a Matching Artwork answers



1. Warrington, Cheshire
2. Birmingham
3. Edinburgh, (Scotland)
4. Limerick, (Ireland)
5. Nottingham, Nottinghamshire
6. Margate
7. Sheffield

4 Artwork Advert - Poster Examples

