



Who do we think we are?

Lesson 2: What is Britishness?

Key Ideas:

- a) To explore the idea of Britishness and what it means to different people
- b) To highlight the difficulties in defining Britishness.

Starter activity:

Students watch a short news clip which shows secondary school children being interviewed about whether they feel British. Working in pairs, they discuss what Britishness means to them and whether they consider themselves to be British. A selection of students can be chosen to share their ideas.

Main activity:

Students watch a PowerPoint of 'Images of Britishness'. The PowerPoint is intentionally stereotypical with 'traditional' images in order to provoke a reaction from the students. However, the final image is of a girl wearing a Hijab whose face is painted with the Union Jack. This image should really spark a debate about the definition of the term 'Britishness'. Following the presentation, students exchange their views as a class, discussing whether the presentation is an accurate representation of Britishness. They begin to form their own definition of the term.

Students then work in pairs to create their own PowerPoint presentation, focusing on the question, 'What is Britishness?' Their presentations should focus on their own ideas about what the term means, and should be no more than 8 slides to make them really think about the images they want to include. They can also attach music to the presentation, again to represent what Britishness means to them.

As an extension task, G&T students can then choose a single image which they feels answers the question most accurately, using text boxes to annotate and justify their choice.

Plenary:

Students create a Word Wall to answer the lesson's central question. They each have a Post-it note, on which they write one word which to them sums up the meaning of the term 'Britishness'. The Post-it notes can be stuck to the wall so that students can look at each other's words. Using the words on the Word Wall, the class as a whole then tries to define Britishness. If they are unable to decide on a term, a discussion can ensue about the complexity of the term. Students should be made aware of the changing nature of 'Britishness', the fact that it means different things to different people and that there is no formal definition of the term.