



ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

These discussion questions, based on the film, can be used to explore the ideas of arts and culture as tools of resistance, and the contemporary relevance of historical struggles for rights and justice.

- What barriers do you have to overcome to achieve your goals?
- What do you believe is worth fighting for?
- What is one small way you can make a wider impact?

Encourage pupils to begin to consider how issues like the civil rights movement might have resonance today and relevance to their lives, and what role they might play, as individuals, and as members of society.

- What role can music, religion or sport play in racial justice? Pick one.
- Can you name a piece of music that inspires change?
- How do your religious (or other personal) beliefs apply to everyday life?
- How can you use your own passions, skills and experiences to stand up for what you believe in?
- What steps can everyone do in their lives to challenge racism?
- What celebrities do you look up to today who inspire similar support for social justice causes?

The type of songs Paul Robeson sang are referred to as 'spirituals': they are inspired by religious feelings and beliefs, and can inspire emotions in others. One of the songs he sang at the Cathedral is called 'We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder' (see the youtube video on the website) which originates from enslaved Africans in the Americas and its themes emphasise overcoming adversity.

With the growing rise of social, economic, and environmental justice causes, that seek to highlight the inequality that continues to exist in British society and the world, these themes may be personally relevant to pupils. The line of questioning above allows us to discuss how to defend the interests of the few against the rights of the majority population that live in this country, in a similar way to Paul Robeson.