

DARPL – TEACHERS’ NOTES to accompany Power Point slides.
(Please tailor slides according to your needs / age of learner, as notes are a guide)

Cesar Picton

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Note – A selection of suggestions for teacher questions are posed in blue as below:

Slide 1	Introduction slide
Slide 2	DARPL guidance on how to use Power Point slides
Slide 3	What is the connection between? Wales Picton Castle, Haverfordwest A Parrot Coal?
Slide 4	Introduction to Cesar Picton (c.1755?-1836) – Cesar Picton was a native of Senegal, on the West coast of Africa. He was enslaved and brought to England around 1761. He initially resided in Picton Castle, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, Wales, and then London. It is thought that Cesar was born into a Muslim family in Senegal. He was brought to England by an army officer, who had ‘acquired’ him in Senegal when Cesar was about six years old. Apparently, he was ‘presented’ as a gift (along with a parakeet) to Sir John Philipps, who was a baronet and MP for Pembrokeshire. Philipps travelled back to his second home in London and wrote in his journal about ‘a Black Boy from Senegal given to me by a Captain Parr, he also received a paraquet and a foreign Duck’. Cesar was christened in London on Sunday 6 December 1761.
Slide 5	Picton Castle Haverfordwest - Cesar was taken in June 1762, to Picton Castle, in Haverfordwest. He was initially trained as a domestic servant in household work and surprisingly, received an education. This was not common for domestic servants at that time, and even more surprisingly for Black servants. Another interesting occurrence was that Cesar never actually became a servant within the household. This seemed to be because Sir John Philipps’s only surviving son already had a servant. It appears (from historical accounts) that Cesar was treated well by the family (however, this does not take into account that he had initially been stolen from his homeland, had his culture and African name eradicated). Cesar seems to have been accepted as one of their own. Lady Philipps died when Cesar was about 33 and left him the large

	sum of £100 in her will. He also received legacies from her daughters on their deaths. What would the equivalent of £100 in Cesar's time be in today's money?
Slide 6	Black servants in Britain in the 1700s - The difficulty with looking in the past, is that the information we have is only as good as the records that have been kept. Thus, the lives of Black people from history are highlighted through the lens of White people who lived at that time. The lines between the slavery and servitude of a Black servant are often blurred. Slavery was legal in Britain until about 1772 and the majority of Africans brought to the UK worked as domestic servants in wealthy homes. Some of them were 'well' treated and received inheritances. After 1772, Black people were treated as free, but their options were very still limited with regard to the work that they could do. The fact that Cesar was given inherited money meant that he had options that were denied to many. The statement above 'The difficulty with looking in the past, is that the information we have is only as good as the records that have been kept' - what does it mean to our study of history?
Slide 7	Pembrokeshire coal – We know that Cesar Picton, received a considerable amount of money from Lady Philipps. This meant he then had a great deal of independence. Thus, in his early 30s his life was to completely change. He was able to become an independent man of wealth. He knew that Pembrokeshire coal was well regarded and so he set himself up in business, as a coal merchant, moving to Kingston upon Thames, London, but keeping his ties to Wales by selling and transporting Welsh coal. He spent much of his capital on the outlay of the business, such as rent on his coal yard and £10 to the Kingston Corporation, to get his traders' licence. His business boomed as he had identified the need for coal, both for private homes and industry, especially in a large city such as London. He found it was a very profitable business and the use of Pembrokeshire coal, which was known for its high-quality anthracite coal, that burnt cleanly. Cesar was a canny businessman as he used his Picton family connections to establish the coal business, and in pitching it at the higher end of the market. He was also astute in deciding on Kingston upon Thames in the London area, which at the time, boasted up market households who demanded and could afford the more costly Pembrokeshire coal. What other industries was Wales famous for? How did other rich Welsh merchants make their fortunes in the 1700s?
Slide 8	Cesar Picton's house – where he lived in Kingston upon Thames, London.

	Cesar Picton was an anomaly in his time. He became a very successful and wealthy businessman. He became one of the first 'self-made' wealthy Black men in Britain. This was in contrast to the majority of Black people who lived in Britain at that time. Some did achieve status and prosperity. For example, the author and anti-slavery campaigner, Olaudah Equiano and Mayfair shopkeeper, writer and composer and abolitionist, Ignatius Sancho – who had his portrait painted by Gainsborough. There was also a growing Black middle class, especially in London, of publicans and lodging house keepers – which gives us some idea on the rise of Black upward social mobility. Can learners find out more about other Black Britons from History?
Slide 9	A simple plaque - Unfortunately, we don't have a physical image of Cesar Picton. We know that he left a portrait of himself in his will (along with several other paintings), but the whereabouts of the portrait is not known. Any images of him that are apparent (a mural supposedly depicting him in London, actually depicts either Equiano or Sancho). Cesar Picton, is not known to have married, and all bequests from his will were to friends. Although Picton lived through the main period of the British abolitionist movement, there are no records or evidence of his involvement. We can, however, see his physical 'footprints'. Picton House is situated on the High Street in Kingston upon Thames, London and still survives. We are also able to view records and documents of his life, which consist of business transactions, tax payments, and parish records. Cesar Picton died on 10 June 1836, aged 81. He died a wealthy and respected man and was buried in All Saint's Church in Kingston, London. The spot where he is buried in the church is marked with a plaque that simply says, 'CP 1836'.
Slide 10	End slide. Please note, materials have been co-created for DARPL and should not be used out of context.

Further Reading:

Benge, H. (2006) *Untold London*. Cesar Picton, A Black Merchant In 18th Century Kingston:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20070108154726/http://www.untoldlondon.org.uk/diversity/>

Centre for the Study of the legacies of British Slavery:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/>

Cesar Picton. Surrey County council. Useful information about his life:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/history-centre/marvels/cesar-picton>

Haringey Council. Black History timeline. Black Georgians:
<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/culture/black-history/timeline>

Ignatius Sancho:
<https://www.bl.uk/people/ignatius-sancho>

Liverpool Museums. The History of the British Slave Trade.
<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/history-of-slavery/transatlantic-slave-trade>

National Archives – Research guide on British Transatlantic Slave Trade:
<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/british-transatlantic-slave-trade-records/>

Olaudah Equiano, The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano:
<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/the-life-of-olaudah-equiano>

Picton Castle, Pembrokeshire, (which interestingly does not have any information on Cesar Picton):
<https://www.pictoncastle.co.uk/about/castle>

The Slave Trade and the British Empire. An Audit of Commemoration in Wales:
<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-12/the-slave-trade-and-the-british-empire-an-audit-of-commemoration-in-wales.pdf>