

Telling our Stories, Finding our Roots: Exeter's Multi-Coloured History: Quiz

Teachers Notes

This quiz is appropriate for KS2 and Secondary, and also VI Form

Correct answers are in Bold

Further info is given after all the answers

1. In the 8th century, an Anglo-Saxon girl was killed with a scythe outside Exeter's old wall. What was her name?
 - a) Ethelfried
 - b) Sidwell**
 - c) Gertrud
 - d) Hildebrand
2. The first slave raids on West Africa were done by a Devon man in the 1560s. What was his name?
 - a) Francis Drake
 - b) John Hawkins**
 - c) Walter Raleigh
 - d) Will Shakespeare
3. Joseph Pitts was an Exeter man who was the first Englishman to go to Mecca on the Hajj. When was that?
 - a) 1680s**
 - b) 1730s
 - c) 1790s
 - d) 1900s
4. We asked 100 Exeter people from BME backgrounds what items they would choose to represent their country to British people. What do you think was the most common category of responses?
 - a) food**
 - b) clothing
 - c) statue
 - d) something musical
5. There is a beautiful statue of the Hindu God Ganesh in Exeter's Museum. What is Ganesh the God of?
 - a) War
 - b) Remover of Obstacles**
 - c) Harvest
 - d) Good Health
6. The first Chinese restaurant in Exeter was the Rice Bowl on North St. When was it opened?
 - a) 1958**
 - b) 1968
 - c) 1973
 - d) 1978
7. Exeter City were the first football team to play against Brazil. When?
 - a) 1875
 - b) 1899
 - c) 1914**
 - d) 1939
8. This painting is in Exeter Museum. Who is it?
 - a) Olaudah Equiano
 - b) Ignatius Sancho**
 - c) William Cuffay
 - d) Francis Williams



Question 1: St Sidwell

Little is known for sure about Sidwell, but her name and the image on the side of the building opposite the Co-op will be well known to most Exeter children.

The **legend** is that she was a Saxon girl living in Exeter in the 8th century. Her stepmother wanted her killed, and hired a reaper to do the job. He cut off her head with a scythe, and where it fell, water sprang up. This became the well of St Sidwell, a place of pilgrimage in Anglo-Saxon and Norman England. The well was located at the junction of York Rd and Well St, right in front of the school. In early medieval times, the water was channelled into the city through the earliest of the underground passages.

Other facts

She's also known as Sativola

Her saint's day is either 31st July, August 1st or 2nd

As well as in Exeter, there are churches in her name in Cornwall and Guyana

<http://celticsaints.org/2013/0801f.html>

Why have we included her in our project?

Some sources say she was Romano-British, others that she was Saxon. Whatever the truth about the girl, and about her origin, she lived in Exeter at a time of change. The period from the departure of the Romans (around 410) until the time of King Alfred (9th century) was a period of great upheaval in the South West, and throughout Britain, and written records are few. The legends of Arthur may well refer to somebody living in that period, quite possibly in Devon and Cornwall. The Vikings started their raids. And the Angles, Saxons and Jutes arrived from Germany and Denmark from the early 5th century, settling first in the south east.

The Saxons spread westward across Southern Britain, through Essex, Sussex, Middlesex and on into Wessex (get your students to guess the meanings of these names and plot the route on a map). They probably reached Exeter some time towards the end of the 7th century. So if the date for Sidwell of 740 is right, and if she was in fact Anglo-Saxon (ie English) then Sidwell was one of the earliest English settlers in Exeter, and one of the earliest speakers of a language that sounds like our modern English. If she was Romano-British, as others claim, then she spoke something more like Welsh or Latin, and was part of a retreating and shrinking culture, which would soon be confined to Cornwall, west of the river Tamar.

So this was a time of migrants, of battles and conquests, and of mixing of ethnic groups.

In 928, King Athelstan drove the Britons (ie Celts) out of the city. Until then they had been living in the northwest corner of the old city - hence the Celtic-named churches of St Petrock and St Kerian (which used to stand on North St). In fact, that area was known as 'Britayne' until 1637.

Interestingly, the Sidwell St area is now one of the most multi-cultural bits of the city, possibly due to the presence of Hira's since 1973 and the mosque since 1977. And St Sidwells school is the most mixed in the county, with over 50% BME students.

NB at this stage of history (before the Norman Conquest), it's worth remembering that the words *British* and *English* had quite different meanings. *British* means the original or Celtic inhabitants of the islands who were here before the Romans, and after them, related to Welsh and Breton. *English* means the Anglo-saxons, the incomers, the invaders, latterly also Christian, coming over here and taking our jobs (!)

Question 2: Hawkins Slave Raids

Hawkins (born in Plymouth) is sometimes credited with inventing the triangular slave trade, making a profit on each leg of the voyage. Astoundingly, he was so proud of his work trafficking humans, that he even had a slave added to his coat of arms.

Hawkins' 2nd cousin, Francis Drake, accompanied him on at least one voyage.

So these Devon men who were (and are) often regarded as heroes, salty seadogs who roamed the seven seas for Good Queen Boss, were also responsible for helping to create one of the worst aspects of the Imperial period.



More info in Todd Gray's book, *Devon and the Slave Trade*

Or listen to this extract from the BBC website

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/john-hawkins-and-the-slave-trade/3644.html>

Question 3: Joseph Pitts

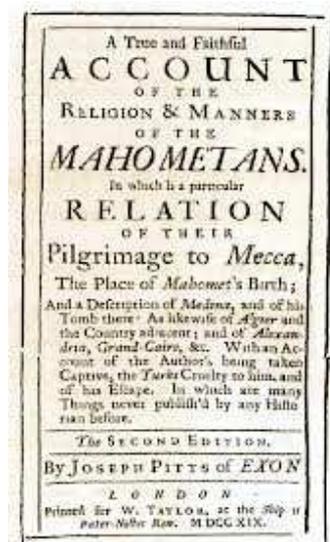
Joseph Pitts was born in Exeter just after the restoration of Charles II, in 1662. At the age of 15 he joined a fishing boat called the *Speedwell*, and sailed from Lymptone on Easter Tuesday 1678, aiming to fish the Grand Banks off Newfoundland. The boat was taken and sunk in the Bay of Biscay by Barbary Corsairs (pirates), and Pitts was taken to Algiers with the rest of the crew, and the crews of several other boats. The Corsairs sank all their boats, as the crew were more valuable to them than the boat itself.

In Algiers, Pitts was sold as a slave, as were thousands of other Christian Europeans in the period from the 16th to the 19th century. He was forced to become a Muslim, and accompanied his third master on Hajj (pilgrimage) to Mecca in the 1680s. He wrote to his father in Exeter, and received replies, which kept his spirits up.

After his voyage to Mecca, Pitts was freed and became a soldier, fighting against the Moroccans and the Spanish. Eventually, while in Turkey, he escaped, and walked across the Alps into Germany, where he nearly starved. He finally made it to Rotterdam and got a boat to Harwich, but was immediately taken by a press gang for service in the Navy. He managed to talk his way out, and eventually returned to Exeter in 1695.

In 1704 he published a book, "A Faithful Account of the Religion and Manners of the Mahometans", which combines biography and religious education. His account of Muslim practices and the Hajj are reckoned to be more accurate and less offensive than most others of the time.

Interesting extracts from his book can be seen here



http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Devonshire_Characters_and_Strange_Events/Joseph_Pitts

Question 4: Exeter Survey

Yuki Frank, one of the researchers on the *Telling our Stories Finding our Roots* project, surveyed over a hundred Exeter residents from other cultures. Inspired by our visits to the RAMM, she asked them what object or objects they would choose to represent their culture to Exeter people. The answers were many and varied, and can be seen in the *Stories* section of the website, entitled *Chosen by Ourselves*. The largest category was Food.

Question 5: Ganesh

For more information, see the film *Three Stories of Ganesh* on our website



Question 6: First Chinese restaurant

Our researchers Gordon Chan and Sasi Phongploenpis have done some great research into Exeter's Chinese community. They interviewed Mrs Sheila Wan Ping Yau, the daughter of Sam Fat Lau, the owner of the Rice Bowl. In 1966

“the business was running well enough to support nearly 20 staff, including 6 to 7 waiters, and 11 to 12 chefs or kitchen workers. It was estimated that about 200 sets of three course meal could be sold during a single lunchtime. With a price of less than £1 per meal... [dishes included] Fried rice, noodle, curry, sweet and sour, chop suey and even local roast dinner were on the menu. As a footnote, please be reminded that chop suey is not a traditional or common dish in China, and is widely believed to be invented by Chinese immigrants in America”

13 North St is now occupied by the Red Rose Indian takeaway. The photo shows Mr Lau's family standing outside the restaurant, with a view of St Davids area behind them. The Chinese characters say 'Rice Bowl'

The first Chinese takeaway store in Exeter could possibly be “The Orient” founded by one of our interviewees, Mr. Tung W. Pang, in 1968. According to Pang's autobiography, The Orient was located at Fore Street in Heavitree, and served both Chinese food, and British fish and chips. Whether it was a coincidence or not, the Pang family had also opened the first Chinese restaurants in Weston and Taunton respectively before.

It's still operating in 2013.

According to the 2011 census, Chinese or Chinese British people make up 1.7% of Exeter's population. 7.5% of the students at Exeter university are from mainland China.

We know that there are lots of Chinese students here now, but going back 100 hundred years, we find a Chinese student in Exeter in the 191 census – Khai Way Chan, aged 14, was studying at Park House school at 56 St Leonards Rd.

Question 7: Exeter vs Brazil

Exeter City FC was formed in 1904 by a merger of two clubs, Exeter United F.C. and St Sidwell's United.

In 1914 Exeter City toured in South America, playing 8 matches in Argentina & Brazil. On July 27th they played the Brasil national team, believed to be the team's first ever game. The game took place in Rio, at the Laranjeiras stadium (the name means Orange trees). Exeter lost 2-0.

In 2014 (World Cup year), Exeter City will return to the same stadium to play Fluminense.

The club is nicknamed The Grecians, but the origin of the name is unclear.

The current squad (2013) includes 2 Irishmen, 1 Pole, 2 Scots, 2 welshmen and 2 from Northern Ireland.

Famous international & BME players for Exeter City have included

- o Joe Cooke from Dominica 81-82
- o Dermot Curtis ROI 1932-2008, died in Exeter

In May 2004 there was a return match between Exeter City and Brazil veterans

<http://www.exetercityfc.co.uk/>

in Portuguese (with good photos)

http://www.campeoesdofutebol.com.br/brasil_sumula1_1914.html

Question 8: Portrait of an African

This wonderful portrait, in the RAMM since the 1940s, was long thought to be of Olaudah Equiano, whose book *The Interesting Narrative* was an important work in the struggle for the Abolition of Slavery. In January 1777, Equiano visited Exeter en route from Plymouth to London, and remarked that he stayed with 'some pious friends'.



Recent research by John Madin, curator at the RAMM, says the portrait is probably of Ignatius Sancho, who, among other things, was the first Black Briton to vote in an election (in 1780). It is not known if Sancho ever came to Exeter. A more famous picture of Sancho by Gainsborough hangs in the National Portrait gallery.

Article by John Madin:

<http://www.apollo-magazine.com/august-2006/70946/o-saviour-save-me-your-servant.shtml>