

This pack has been designed to support the teaching of Art & Design and PSHE as part of the Tower of London's Superbloom project. Students will explore the use of symbolism in portraiture as a form of coded language between subject and viewer to promote a specific public image, focussing on how portraits from the Tudor period used symbolism from the natural world. Students will also explore their personal sense of self, their strengths, skills and hopes, to develop deeper understanding of their identity and self-worth.

HOW TO USE THIS PACK

This pack contains two lesson plans on the same theme: one for Primary and one for Secondary. It also provides resources to support each lesson plan.

THE PRIMARY LESSON PLAN and resources are targeted at KS2 but can be adapted for younger or older students.

THE SECONDARY LESSON PLAN and resources are targeted at KS3 but can be adapted to support teaching for GCSE Art & Design (Fine art/Graphic communication/Textile design/Critical and contextual studies).

The lesson plan and resources can be used to demonstrate similarities and differences between the intentions of the sitters (and artists) of other periods and today's celebrities who seek to promote a specific image of themselves through visual media.

The lesson could form part of the school's health education, Primary to Secondary transition or Transition into Adulthood programmes, to support young people as they explore their personal sense of self, develop awareness of the difference between image and identity in public and private life and understand how these relate to mental and emotional health.

Both lesson plans can be used for one 2-hour lesson, or the activities can be spread across more than one lesson, depending on how much time you wish to spend on each element.

The **Ideas for additional activities** section provides suggestions for differentiated activities that could be used to replace any in the pack, or as standalone extension tasks.

THE PACK INCLUDES:

Activity Cards

These are designed for teachers and provide instructions for each activity. Some include prompts to stimulate discussion.

Activity Resources (AR)

These are designed for students to complete independently, while working with a partner or group. They need to be photocopied or printed out.

Supporting Materials (SM)

These are designed to support the lesson and individual activities. They need to be photocopied or printed out and could be laminated.

OVERVIEW OF LESSON PLANS

The theme of both the primary and secondary lesson plans is the difference between image and identity. Students will learn how symbolism can be used in portraits (including photographs of celebrities) to project a particular image of the subject (public image/propaganda), which may or may not be a true representation of who that person is in reality (*Identity*).

The structured activities enable students to interpret the use of symbolism in Tudor-era portraits in order to understand how a statement (*Image*) is being projected about the subject of the portrait. Students will create their own secret code of nature-based symbols, which they'll use for a self-portrait that represents their desired public image and/or their real self (*Identity*).

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Teachers may choose to use examples of contemporary celebrity images, both official (*Image*) and unofficial (*Identity*) for analysis and discussion by the class. One example might be to compare the portrait 'Barack Hussein Obama' by Kehinde Wiley (2018) with informal photographs of Obama with his family.

Teachers may want to introduce the topic through PSHE lessons.

- The PSHE Association website has free mental health and wellbeing lesson plans for Key Stages 1-4:

<https://pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/resources/mental-health-and-emotional-wellbeing-lesson-plans>

- The free Every Mind Matters teaching resources from Public Health England support Year 6 primary school teachers and secondary school teachers to promote health, wellbeing and resilience among young people aged 10 to 16:

<https://pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/resources/every-mind-matters-teaching-resources>