

Teaching notes

A starter activity for Year 8 students

Objective: students understand that a wide range of factors is important in the concept of Britishness.

Resources

Step 1: One large set of the triangles on pp.2-9 below, not cut out - ideally one A3 sheet per triangle. Each triangle contains a concept related to 'Britishness'. Before the lesson, place each sheet on a different table.

Step 2: One smaller set of the triangles (A5, as below), cut out, for each group of four or five students.

How it works

Step 1 Gathering ideas

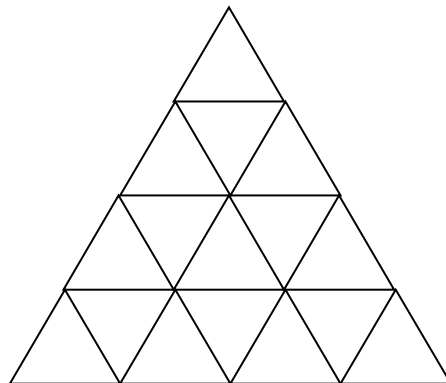
Tell students that, as a class, they are going to decide what 'being British' means; what do modern British people do, say, wear and think?

In small groups, students spend one minute at each table. During this one minute, they should write, in silence, as many ideas as they can about that concept onto the sheet. For example, in and around the triangle entitled 'the Royal Family' they might choose to add phrases such as 'funded by the taxpayer, 'good for tourism' or 'outdated institution'.

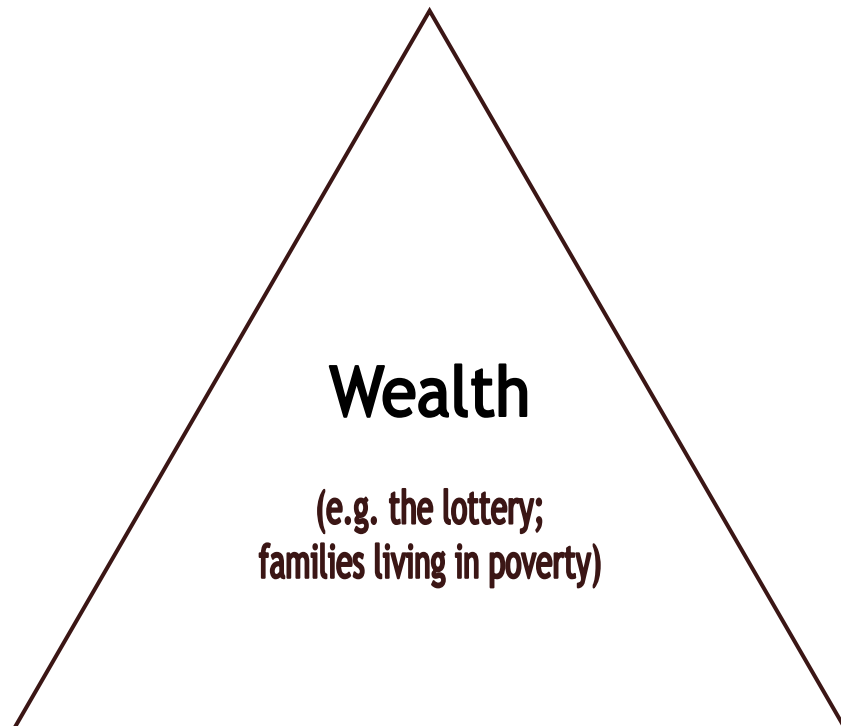
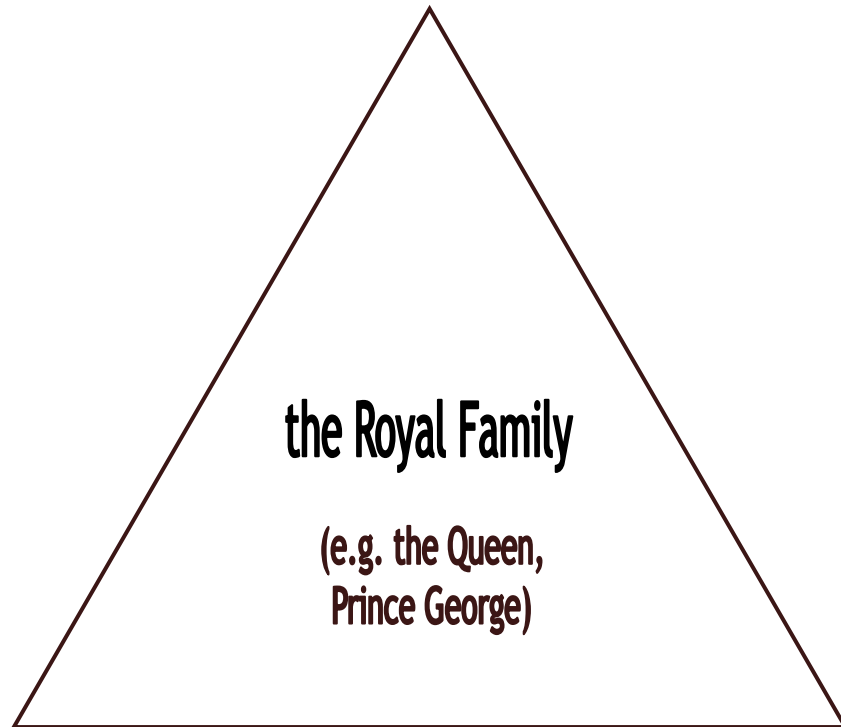
At the end of the activity, a spokesperson from each group reads out the ideas from their final table.

Step 2 (optional) Triangle ranking

Give each group a set of the small triangles and ask them to try to organise them into one larger triangle, with the most important idea at the top. They will need to place some of the triangles upside down.



When they have tried for around 10 minutes, point out that there is no 'right' answer and that all of the factors are important in the concept of Britishness. Indeed, any of the three points of the triangle could be the top!





Food and eating out

(e.g. celebrity chefs;
curry)



Public transport

(e.g. trains; the London
Underground)



Sense of humour

(e.g. sarcasm;
self-deprecation)



Habits and customs

(e.g. April fool tricks;
queuing)



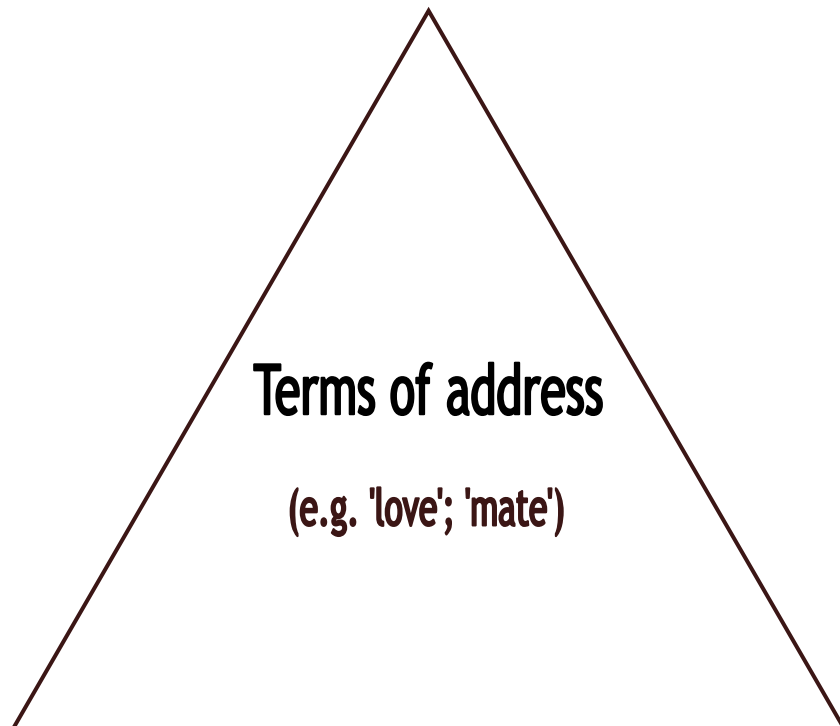
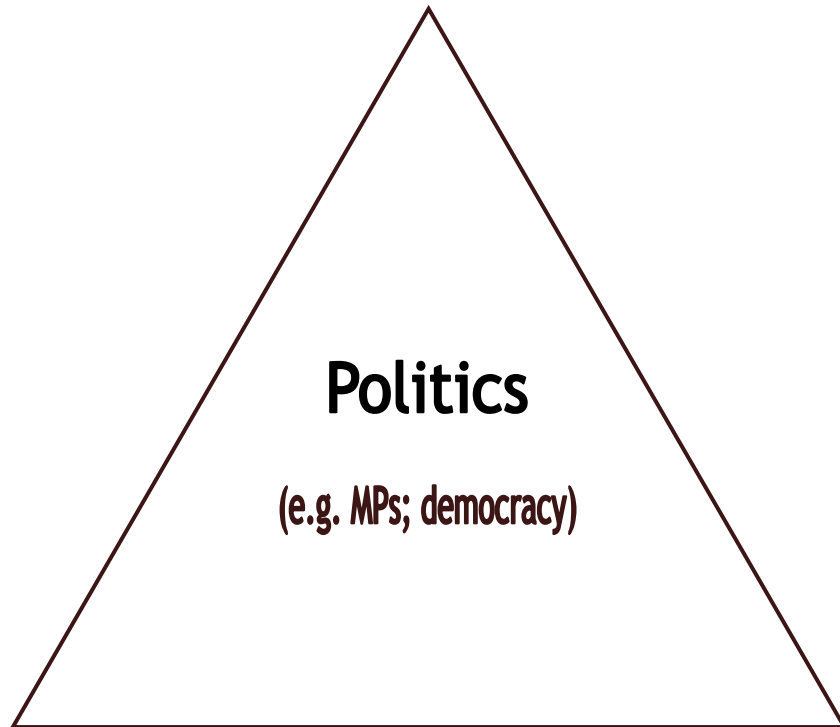
Beliefs

(e.g. atheism;
Sikhism)



Alcohol

(e.g. binge-drinking;
Pimm's)





Homes and gardens

(e.g. trampolines; DIY)



Sport

(e.g. cricket; rugby)



Polite expressions

(e.g. 'thank you'; 'sorry')



the Welfare State

(e.g. the NHS;
benefit scroungers)

