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| **Topic:**  **Decolonising the British Empire Exhibition of 1938: Should the Tower of Empire be re-built?** | | | |
| **Relevant CFE outcomes and experiences:**  **SOC 2-01a:** I can use primary and secondary sources selectively to research events in the past.  **LIT 2-02a:** When I engage with others, I can respond in ways appropriate to my role, show that I value others’ contributions and use these to build on thinking.  **LIT 2-08a:** To help me develop an informed view, I can distinguish fact from opinion, and I am learning to recognise when my sources try to influence me and how useful these are. | | | |
| **Learning Intentions**  *By the end of the lesson, pupils will be able to:*   * Explore different perspectives on the legacy of Tait’s Tower and the Empire Exhibition * Understand why rebuilding the tower is controversial for some people * Express and justify their own opinion on the issue. | | **Success criteria**  *Pupils will be successful if they are able to:*   * Explain at least one reason for and against rebuilding the tower * Reflect on how identity and personal experience influence opinion * Share a reasoned viewpoint, either in writing or through discussion | |
| **Teacher Notes**  Background Information  Tait’s Tower, or the Tower of Empire, was built for the 1938 Empire Exhibition in Glasgow. Designed by Thomas Tait, it was a huge Art Deco tower on a hill, intended to inspire pride in Scottish industry and the British Empire.  It was dismantled just one year later and now only the foundations remain. Some now call for its rebuilding. Others, especially people from minoritised communities, see it as a symbol of colonialism and exclusion.  The 2022 graffiti quote is from *The Wretched of the Earth* by Frantz Fanon, a key text in anti-colonial thought.  This lesson supports critical literacy and empathy by encouraging pupils to consider multiple perspectives before forming an opinion.  Resources  BBC video: *Scotland’s First Skyscraper:*  <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3j2WGVs5vtkhX2XD2LLNtBY/why-scotland-s-first-skyscraper-built-for-the-1938-empire-exhibition-was-unexpectedly-demolished-just-one-year-later> | | | |
| **Timing**  5 mins  5 mins  15 mins  10 mins  10 mins | **Lesson Plan**  Starter Discussion  Ask:   * “What’s the tallest building you’ve ever seen?” * “Have you ever seen a tower that made you stop and look?”   Show an image of Tait’s Tower. Say:   * “This was built in Glasgow in 1938 and only lasted a year.”   Context Input  Play the BBC video: *Scotland’s First Skyscraper*  Ask pupils to listen for two things:   * What did the tower look like? * Why was it built?   Recap together afterwards.  Introduce the enquiry:   * “Some people want to rebuild this tower. Others say it would be offensive. What do you think?”   Explain that today, pupils will explore real quotes and decide for themselves  Viewpoints Discussion  In pairs/groups, pupils read and discuss real quotes from politicians, artists, locals, and researchers (from prompt booklet).  Include supportive and critical views. Show graffiti image and explain it quotes a book about colonialism. Prompt questions:   * Why do some people love the idea? * Why might others find it offensive? * Can a building mean different things to different people?   Pupils choose one or more questions to respond to in writing or drawing:   * What do you think about rebuilding the tower? * Why are some people offended? * Does your identity affect your opinion? * If the tower was rebuilt, what would you call it? What would it be for?   Discussion  Invite pupils to share responses. Discuss:   * What surprised you in the quotes? * Did anyone change their mind? * What can we learn by listening to different opinions?   Plenary  Summarise:   * “Today we explored how one building – Tait’s Tower – can mean different things to different people.”   Ask:   * “What does the tower tell us about Glasgow’s past?” * “What might it tell us about today?”   Final task: Pupils imagine they are on a decision-making team. Ask them to write/say one sentence explaining what should happen next (rebuild, don’t rebuild, change it, etc.) and one reason why. Invite a few to share. | | **Resources**  Photo of Tait’s Tower  BBC video: *Scotland’s First Skyscraper* (see Teacher’s notes)  Quote card, graffiti photo  Paper and pencils (or whiteboards)  Paper and pencils (or whiteboards) |