



Pablo Fanque



Pupils will learn

About a significant historical person from their own locality.

Important facts

- Victorian era from 1837-1901
- William Darby was born in 1810 in the fine city of Norwich.
- When William joined the circus, he changed his name to Pablo Fanque.
- Fanque was the first black man to own a circus in the 'Golden Age' of circus performances.
- Pablo was a skilled equestrian.
- His family joined him in the circus.
- The Beatles sang about Pablo Fanque in the song "Being for the Benefit of Mr. Kite!"
- Pablo Fanqu died in 1871
- There is a blue plaque dedicated to Pablo Fanque outside John Lewis.
- The Pablo Fanque student buildings are named after him.

Home Learning Ideas

- Learn to juggle
- Find out about other significant people from the Victorian era.
- Find out about circus during the Victorian Era

Books to read at home

- *Son of the Circus - A Victorian Story* by E. L. Norry
- *The Secret Diary of Jane Pinny, Victorian House Maid* by Philip Ardagh & Jamie Littler
- *Queen Victoria* by V&A
- *The Bluest of Blues* by Fiona Robinson

Inquiry Questions

- When was the Victorian era?
- What was life like during the Victorian era?
- Who was Pablo Fanque?
 - Where was he from?
 - What did he do?

Further Information

<https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/victorians/index.html>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcjxhyc/resources/1>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/true-stories-grace-darling/z4y7pg8>



Key Vocabulary

circus	A travelling company of clowns and entertainers.	era	A long and distinct period of time.
slavery	Working without pay or freedom.	Victorian	People who lived during the reign of Queen Victoria.
workhouse	A place where people could go for food and a home in return for work.	apprentice	A person who is learning a trade or art by experience.
Equestrian	A rider or performer on horseback.	acrobatics	Gymnastic movements, sometimes difficult and dangerous.
racism	When people think one colour or race is better than another.	Ringmaster	A person who directs the circus performance.
poverty	Being very poor.	trapeze	A swing like bar high up in a circus to swing from.
local	Area close to where you live.	national	The whole country.
calendar	Pages showing days and months of a year.	international	The whole world.

* Words in grey are Tier 2 (non-topic specific) vocabulary