

HACKNEY

WINDRUSH

ART
COMMISSION

EARLY YEARS
RESOURCES

INSPIRED BY
VERONICA RYAN'S
WINDRUSH SCULPTURES



Passenger Opportunity
To United Kingdom
Ship "EMPIRE WINDRUSH" sailing
at 23rd MAY.
Cabin Class £43
Troopdeck £28
Mail Limit

**CUSTARD
APPLE**
(ANNONACEAE)

BREADFRUIT
(MORACEAE)

SOURSOP
(ANNONACEAE)



WRITTEN BY LAURA HENRY-ALLAIN MBE



NOTES FOR ADULTS



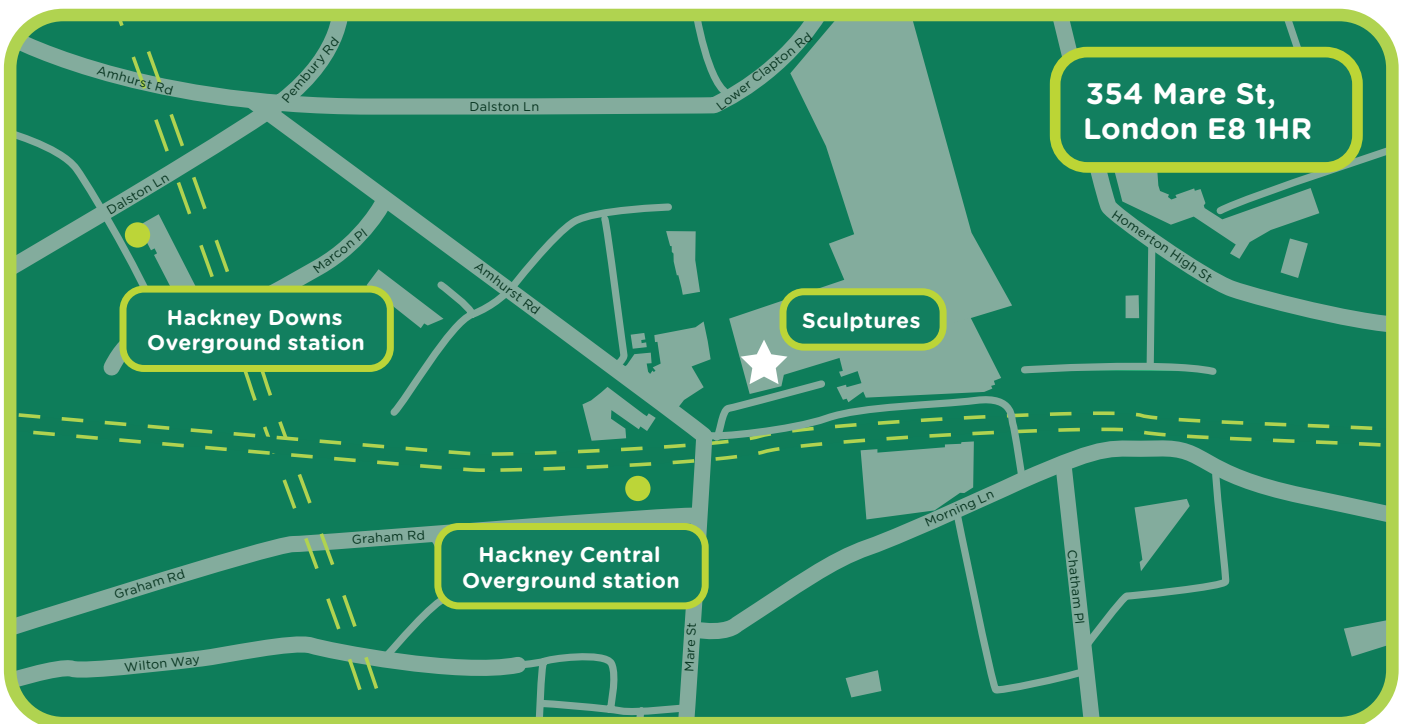
Windrush Sculptures by Veronica Ryan OBE

Welcome to the educational resources to support Veronice Ryan's Windrush sculptures. These resources have been created for children to enjoy either in an early years setting/at school or at home with parents/carers. You don't need to complete all of the activities, which have been designed for you to dip in and out of.

We encourage you and your child to visit the site to experience Veronica Ryan's groundbreaking sculptures first-hand.

Please note:

Throughout these resources, we have used the term 'your child' to indicate any children or young people in your care.



The sculptures have been created by artist Veronica Ryan OBE and were commissioned by the London Borough of Hackney.

Veronica and her family travelled to England independently from Montserrat in the Caribbean.

Veronica and her family initially lived in North London, and Veronica has very clear memories of her childhood trips to Ridley Road Market. She specifically remembers the shapes and colours in the market.



NOTES FOR ADULTS



Windrush Sculptures by Veronica Ryan OBE

Veronica has created three sculptures of Caribbean fruits (soursop, breadfruit, and custard apple). Made of marble and bronze, the sculptures are installed in Narrow Way Square on Mare Street in Hackney.

(Photo: Andy Keate 2021)



Soursop

The soursop is eaten widely throughout the Caribbean. It has a creamy texture and a taste that has been described as like a strawberry, an apple, a mango or a pineapple! The soursop is used in a lot of desserts and sweet beverages. The green, prickly fruit grows to about 20cm long and the flesh can be eaten raw. The soursop is a member of the custard apple family.

Breadfruit

Breadfruit is common all over the Caribbean, but it didn't originally grow there. In the 18th century, this large, green fruit was brought from Tahiti in the South Pacific to the Caribbean island of Saint Vincent by the British commander Captain Bligh. It soon caught on and has become a staple food in the region. With a starchy taste and texture likened to bread or potatoes, breadfruit is very versatile and can be eaten raw or cooked in different ways including fried, steamed, mashed or turned into chips!

Custard apple/sugar apple

Custard apples grow throughout tropical parts of the world and there are lots of different varieties. The green, bumpy fruits are hard at first but soften as they ripen. The skin and seeds are inedible, but with their sweet flesh they provide lots of different options for desserts including cakes, fruit salads, ice creams and milkshakes.

Useful websites and books

Websites

www.hackneywindrush.com
www.createlondon.org
www.blackculturalarchives.org
www.bl.uk/teaching-resources/windrush-stories-primary-creative-writing

Books

Coming to England by Floella Benjamin and Diane Ewen
The Place for Me: Stories about the Windrush Generation, produced in partnership with Black Cultural Archives

Activities:

- The story of the three
- Sculpture rubbing
- Trip to Ridley Road Market
- Your origins
- Paper mache sculptures



THE STORY OF THE SOURSOP, THE BREADFRUIT AND THE CUSTARD APPLE



The Soursop, the Breadfruit and the Custard Apple lived in the Caribbean country of Montserrat.

They talked about travelling to England to work.
'Why not?' they said. 'Let's go to England!'

'How should we get there?' asked the Soursop.
'We could go on a plane', said the Breadfruit.
'I know, I know!' said the Custard Apple. 'We could go on a boat!'
They all thought that was a great idea.

They said goodbye to their families with tears in their eyes.
'Please write', said their families.

Off they went on a boat across the Atlantic Ocean.
The sea was calm on some days, and on others, it was rough!
They had fun on the boat and made new friends.

After many days they arrived in England.
'It is cold!' they said with excitement.
They had never experienced such cold before, as Montserrat is a hot place.

They travelled from the docks by the sea to Ridley Road Market in Hackney, London.

This was their new home.
They loved their new home.
They loved hearing new voices.
They loved eating new food.
They loved the snow.

But most of all, they loved making new friends. And guess what?
Some of them were from Montserrat!



Extension reflections/activities:

After reading the story, you could reflect with your child about the idea of going on a trip. Ask them to imagine that they are about to go on a journey like the Soursop, the Breadfruit and the Custard Apple:

- What would they pack? We might usually pack sunny-weather clothes for holidays, but the UK can be cold.
- Have they seen snow? What would they do in the snow?
- Have they been on a boat?
- What journeys have they been on?
- What new foods have they tried?
- Can they speak another language?

With some children, you might be able to go deeper and ask how they think it would feel to move to another country.



ORIGINS



Veronica was born in **Montserrat**, which is a Caribbean country.

Montserrat is **over 4,000 miles** from England.

Veronica travelled to England as a young child with her family.

They lived in Hackney, which is in London.

ACTIVITY ONE

Read the story with your child and encourage them to reflect on the journey from Montserrat to the UK. You could use the Internet to look at a map of Montserrat and see how far it is from the UK. Reflect on the differences between the two countries, in terms of weather, food and culture.

There should be a collection of Windrush-related books available at your local library. If not, ask the staff if they are able to order any relevant books for you to borrow.

Support your child to either write or draw what they find out about Montserrat.

Share with your child stories about their origins.

Can they find the countries and cities their ancestors lived in on a map?

What interesting information did they find out about their family's heritage?

Ask them to write or draw their findings.

ACTIVITY TWO

Where possible, have the resources available on a table for your child, or even on the floor.

As above, read the story again to your child, allowing for reflection and discussion. Invite your child to choose the resources to create a story or drawing about their own origins.





TRIP TO RIDLEY ROAD MARKET



If you are visiting Veronice Ryan's Windrush sculptures, why not visit Ridley Road Market? Log on to Transport for London's website for directions. You could either walk, cycle or travel by bus: www.tfl.gov.uk

There is a lot to see at Ridley Road, and it is a real sensory explosion; there is so much to take in.

Veronica has fond memories of Ridley Road Market as a child, and she particularly remembers the shapes and the colours at the market.

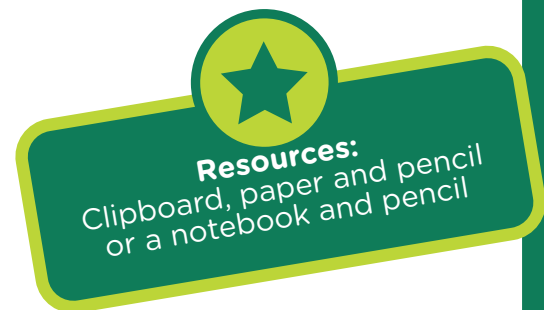
Once at Ridley Road, walk through the market with your child and encourage them to write and/or draw what they see.

Depending on the season, can they identify any of the sculptures?

- Soursop
- Breadfruit
- Custard apple/sugar apple

Ask your child to write or draw these fruits if they can find them, or any other fruits or vegetables they like the look of. Take photographs or videos of your child at the market by the different stalls and shops.

If appropriate, why not purchase a few different types of fruit and vegetables to take away to eat or use in different recipes? Why not jazz up your normal recipes and swap in new vegetables and fruits that your child has never tried before? You could even do a fruit and vegetable tasting session and invite your child to draw or write about their experiences.





FRUITS AND VEGETABLES RUBBING



Veronica is keen for the sculptures to be a sensory experience for visitors and for them to be felt and touched. Buying a custard apple, breadfruit and soursop or any other fruits and vegetables of your choice, feel how these surfaces compare to the sculptures.

- Encourage your child to choose which fruit or vegetable they want to do their rubbing on. - it could be all of them!
- Allow them to feel the fruit or vegetable and to navigate their way around it.
- Ask and/or help your child to place the paper on the fruit or vegetable
- Hold the paper in place, you may have to do this for your child
- Use the width of the crayon to rub onto the paper and not the tip of the crayon, for best results
- Press hard onto the paper to get the best results

Resources:
Paper, crayons (ideally the same colours as the soursop, breadfruit and custard apple)

If applicable, take a photograph and/or video of your child doing the rubbing and afterwards with their masterpiece.

Once you have returned from visiting the sculptures and taking your rubbings of the fruits and vegetables, ask children to write and/or draw about their experiences. How did the real things compare to the sculptures? Support them with words such as: rough, smooth, bumpy.





PAPIER-MÂCHÉ SCULPTURES



This is a fun and cost-effective creative activity to do with children to recreate the soursop, breadfruit and custard apple. Make sure that the children have seen the soursop, breadfruit and custard apple sculptures, either online or in Hackney, or have hands-on experience of the fruits in a market or a shop.

Please note: Check that your child isn't allergic to any of the materials used in this activity.

YOU WILL NEED



1 mug of plain flour



1 mug of warm water



1 mug of tap water



Paper
(old newspapers/
magazines/comics)



2 large bowls
(one for storing your paper strips
and one for making your paste)



**Wooden spoon/
whisk for mixing**



Sieve



Paintbrush



A range of paints



**Images of the
sculptures**



**Protective covering for the
area you are working on**
(old newspapers will do!)



Protective clothing
(art apron/old shirt, etc.)



PAPIER-MÂCHÉ SCULPTURES



PREPARATION

Put on protective clothing & lay out your protective covering.


METHOD


- 1 Help your child to find an object that they could use to make their sculpture. (And describe what kind of object they should be looking for/using?)
- 2 Cut or tear up your paper into strips and put in a bowl (or perhaps an old cardboard box) ready for when you have made your paste.
- 3 Using your sieve, sift your flour into the mixing bowl and then add the warm water, mixing all the time so the flour and water make a sticky, thick paste and then slowly add in the tap water from the second mug until you have a smooth batter-like paste (you may not need all of the water to achieve this).
- 4 When you are happy with your flour paste, put your paper strips into the paste and leave to soak up the mixture.
- 5 Once they are saturated, wipe off any excess paste on the side of the bowl and stick the strips on to the bowl.
- 6 Use the paintbrush (you may want to leave your project 'bumpy' depending on which sculpture you are creating) to smooth down your paper and remove any air bubbles and excess paste (which you can scrape back into your paste bowl). If the paste starts to get thick and lumpy then add small amounts of tap water and mix again to get back to the right consistency.
- 7 Once a layer is dry, add another layer using the same method. Once you have covered your object with two or three layers, you can leave it out to dry overnight.

Once your sculpture is completely dry, you can remove the original item from the centre carefully and your object is ready to paint.

Please note: If you are using a balloon, make sure you keep a watchful eye on your child during this activity as it is a potential choking hazard, and latex is a potential allergen.


Alternatively, you can blow up a balloon to use for the base.


Why not take photographs of the process from start to finish and create a scrapbook with your child? Encourage them to write and draw what they have done.


Note:
Plain white paper is best to use for the final layer as it is easier to cover with paint, but make sure it is thin paper rather than printer paper or thick art paper.



WINDRUSH SCULPTURES



BY VERONICA RYAN OBE



Veronica Ryan OBE, 'Custard Apple (Annonaceae), Breadfruit (Moraceae), and Soursop (Annonaceae), 2021'. Courtesy the artist, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York and Alison Jacques, London. Photo: Andy Keate, 2021



The Hackney Windrush Art Commission public programme is produced and curated by Create London in partnership with Hackney Council, supported by the Freelands Foundation.

