

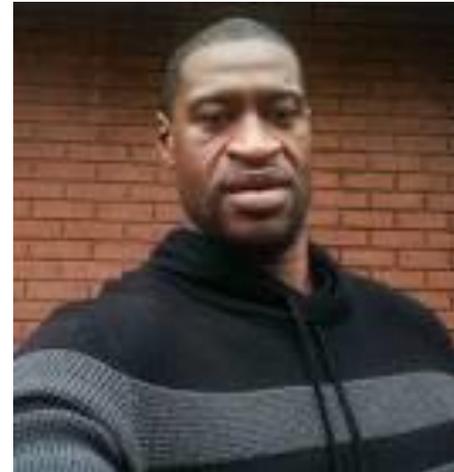


Why are there riots in the  
USA?



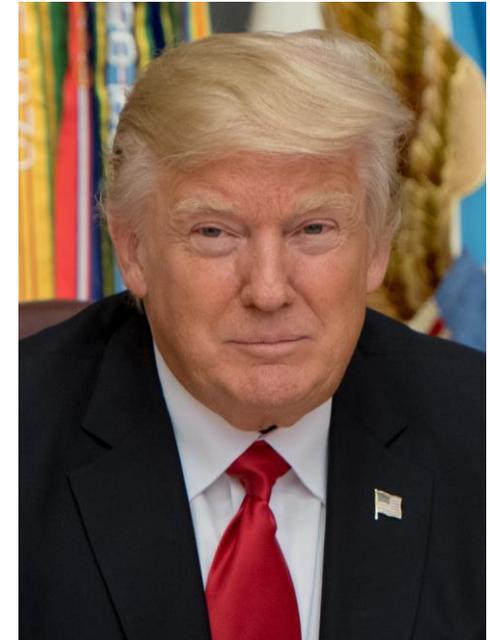
# What happened?

- ▶ On May 25, an African-American man called **George Floyd** was killed by a police officer in Minneapolis, the state capital of Minnesota. George was arrested for a minor reason and died after a white police officer called Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for nearly 9 minutes. During this ordeal, George repeatedly said to the officer "I can't breathe".
- ▶ The day after George's death, protests against racism and brutality by the police began in Minneapolis and quickly spread to over 200 cities in the United States. Solidarity rallies have been held around the world, including in London. Some of the protests have turned into riots.



# Why has this caused riots?

- ▶ In the USA, hundreds of black people die every year in police custody- the very people who are supposed to protect them.
- ▶ Long standing issues with racism affect the USA, stemming from slavery and have lasted 400 years. Black people are paid less, arrested more, put in prison at higher rates and there are big problems with racism in America.
- ▶ The people have had enough and the death of George Floyd was the last straw. Many, many white people are joining in the protests too. There is unfortunately, some violence and some looting has happened, but the vast amount of the protests are peaceful and legal. There are lots of criticisms against the way the US government has responded, using rubber bullets and tear gas against peaceful protesters.



# Why does this affect the UK?

- ▶ Racism is also an issue in the UK and many peaceful protests are taking place in the UK in solidarity. You may have taken part in #BlackOutTuesday where people placed a black square on their social media to raise awareness.
- ▶ In the UK, there are still huge differences in wealth, income, criminal justice, employment, housing, health care, political power, and education
- ▶ For example- BAME groups have to send out 60% more CV's to get an interview than white people, as often companies see a 'non- white name' and do not send for interview.
- ▶ There is a huge pay gap between white and BAME people- over 20%!
- ▶ Black people and BAME groups are 4 times more likely to be assaulted physically by the police
- ▶ The criminal justice system has been proven to give BAME people harsher sentences
- ▶ Inequalities in healthcare- BAME groups are 2-3 times more likely to die from coronavirus- black males 4 x!

# What is #BlackLivesMatter ?

- ▶ #BlackLivesMatter is a peaceful movement, to raise awareness about the inequalities that exist and to try to help this to change.
- ▶ Lots of people argue it should be '#Alllivesmatter', here is an explanation of why it is not-
- ▶ *Bob's house is on fire. All the houses in the street are equally important, we know they all matter. However, it is Bob's house that is on fire. So, right now, we need attention for Bob's house, because it's on fire. So, Bob's house matters. That's why right now, #BlackLivesMatter as they are the ones in need of help. We already know that all lives matter.*



- ▶ Please follow this link for more information and on ideas of what you can do to help-
- ▶ [https://mailchi.mp/successatschool/george-floyd-students?utm\\_source=Success+at+School+-+Newsletter+Signups&utm\\_campaign=0a83b6e40d-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_06\\_02\\_12\\_36&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_65c6d67e71-0a83b6e40d-212023033&goal=0\\_65c6d67e71-0a83b6e40d-212023033&mc\\_cid=0a83b6e40d&mc\\_eid=aaba4c74b5](https://mailchi.mp/successatschool/george-floyd-students?utm_source=Success+at+School+-+Newsletter+Signups&utm_campaign=0a83b6e40d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_06_02_12_36&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_65c6d67e71-0a83b6e40d-212023033&goal=0_65c6d67e71-0a83b6e40d-212023033&mc_cid=0a83b6e40d&mc_eid=aaba4c74b5)
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