

## GREAT BRITAIN IN 10 PICTURES

### Glasgow

#### Task 1: INTRODUCTION

Talk to your partner and discuss the following questions:

1. Are there any statues in your city? Who/what of?
2. Do you think it is ever okay to vandalise a statue?
3. What kind of people are normally featured in statues?
4. Are there any types of people you think people should build statues to more often?



#### Task 2: READING

*Why does the person in this statue have a traffic cone on his head? Read and find out.*

The equestrian Wellington Statue is a statue of Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, located on Royal Exchange Square in Glasgow, Scotland. It is located outside the Gallery of Modern Art near the end of Ingram Street. The statue was sculpted by Italian artist Carlo Marochetti and erected in 1844. Capping the statue with a traffic cone has become a traditional practice in the city, claimed to represent the humour of the local population and believed to date back to the first half of the 1980s, if not before. The statue is a Category-A listed monument, and is one of Glasgow's most iconic landmarks. Due to minor damage and the potential for injury that the placing of cones involves, the practice had been discouraged by Glasgow City Council and Strathclyde Police. In 2011 the Lonely Planet guide included the statue in its list of the "top 10 most bizarre monuments on Earth."

In a bid to reduce the cost of removing traffic cones from the statue, alleged to be £10,000 a year, Glasgow City Council put forward plans in November 2013 to double the height of its plinth as part of a £65,000 restoration project. The plans were withdrawn after widespread public opposition, spearheaded by a Facebook campaign called "Keep the Cone" (that accumulated more than 72,000 likes within 24 hours) started by Scottish musician Raymond Hackland and Glaswegian photographer Steven Allan. An online petition defending the cone received over 10,000 signatures. As the council indicated that action against the practice could still be considered, National Collective organised a rally in defence of the cone. In 2015, Glasgow City Council tested hi-tech CCTV software worth £1.2m by checking to see whether it could automatically detect people putting cones on the statue, which it could.

***Now read the text again and decide if the following sentences are true or false***

1. The statue is near an art gallery.
2. People started putting the traffic cone on the statue in 2014.
3. The local council doesn't mind people putting the cone on the statue.
4. The cone is popular with the public.
5. The council is trying new ways to stop people replacing the cone.

### **Task 3: VOCABULARY**

***Find words in the text with the following meanings:***

| <b>DEFINITION</b>                               | <b>WORD</b> |
|---|-------------|
| Related to horses/featuring a horse             |             |
| Famous, particularly as an image                |             |
| To try to convince somebody not to do something |             |
| Strange, unusual                                |             |
| Found in lots of different places, common       |             |

***Write one sentence using each word. Say the sentence to your partner with the target word blanked out. Can they guess the missing word?***

### **Task 4: Research**

***Research a statue in another country and find the answers to these questions:***

Who/what does the statue show? How big is it? When was it built?

Has there been any controversy around the statue? What is the public opinion of the statue?

If you were to have a statue built in honour of somebody, who would it be?

## BRITAIN IN 10 PICTURES

### London

### Teachers' Notes

This activity has been designed for pre-intermediate, intermediate and upper-intermediate students to be used before the event as an introduction and a way of getting students interested in the subject.

You may follow up the exercises with a class debate or series of speeches/presentations followed by question and answer sessions or further research into the relevant topics.

Answers are as follows:

#### Task 2

1. true
2. false
3. false
4. true
5. true

#### Task 3

| DEFINITION                                      | WORD                 |
|---|----------------------|
| Related to horses/featuring a horse             | <b>Equestrian</b>    |
| Famous, particularly as an image                | <b>Iconic</b>        |
| To try to convince somebody not to do something | <b>To discourage</b> |
| Strange, unusual                                | <b>Bizarre</b>       |
| Found in lots of different places, common       | <b>Widespread</b>    |