

MURAL =
Artwork on a wall

VANDALISM =
When property is deliberately damaged

NEWS CYCLE

WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR?

Is the recent graffiti in Nottingham vandalism or art?



On Tuesday October 13th 2020, a graffiti mural of a girl hula-hooping with a bicycle tyre mysteriously appeared on a wall on the side of a beauty salon in Nottingham, England. Four days later – and after a lot of speculation – a street artist, Banksy, confirmed it was his by posting a photograph on his Instagram account.

Nobody knows Banksy's true identity but this has not stopped him from becoming famous. His style is very recognisable and many people in Nottingham immediately spotted his signature stencilling. Banksy's artwork is worth a lot of money – a similar piece was sold in 2019 for a six-figure sum – so even before he confirmed himself as the artist, the local council had fitted screens over the image to protect it.

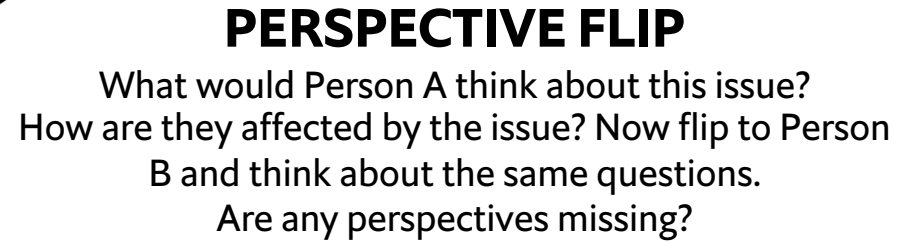
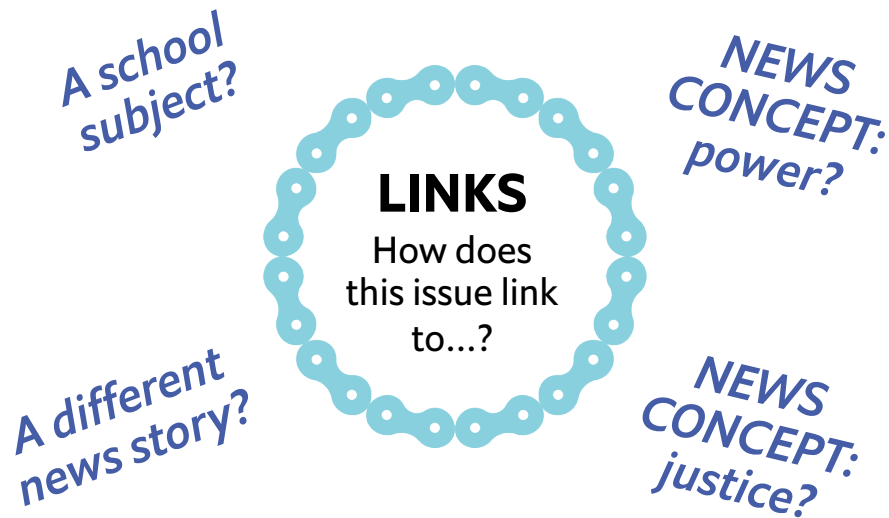
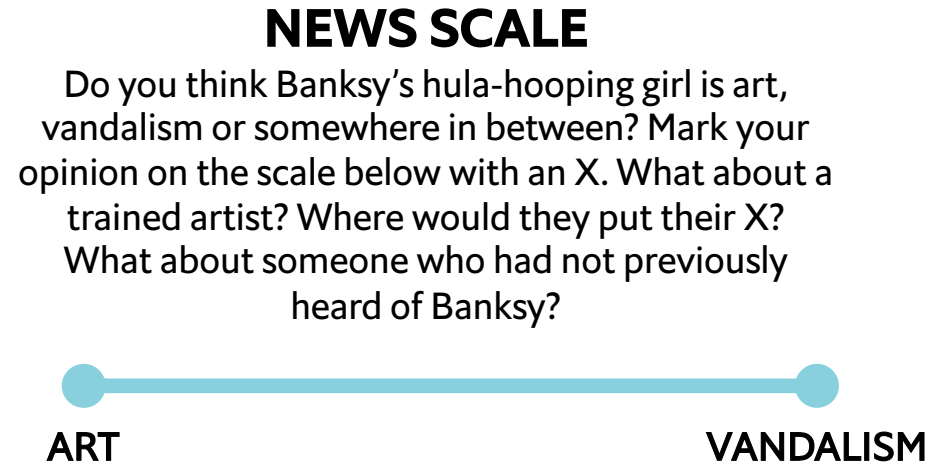
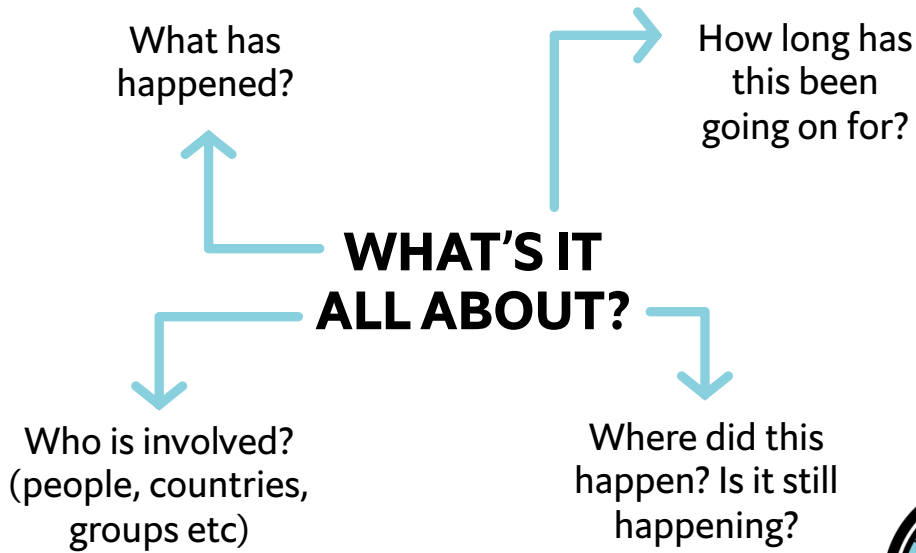
The owner of the beauty salon, Surinder Kaur, said that everyone was "very excited" at such "amazing art", while another local person described the graffiti as "a bit of positivity".

Banksy expert Professor Paul Gough, from Arts University Bournemouth, agrees. He suggested the artist's message might be: "We are in difficult times, let's try to make the most of it and get some fun out of something which is broken."

However, not everyone is happy. The protective screen has been vandalised several times already and there has been a police presence at the site. One vandal was overheard saying, "You think this is a joke. I've got mates in prison for this."

Nottinghamshire Police say they are not investigating Banksy's graffiti because they have received no complaints. Visitors and Banksy fans continue to flock to the scene.

Want to know more about this? Look here! [bbc.co.uk/newsround/46632542](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/46632542)



CHALLENGE: how is this issue developing in the news?

First, limber up by thinking about everything you learnt last week:

- What was the key information about this issue? (Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?)
- Why was this issue news? (How big was this piece of news? How many people does it affect? Is it global or local news?)
- What did you think about it? Did everyone you talked to have the same opinion?
- What have you seen about this in the news? How is this issue developing?

Then, take a ride through this week's activities.

WHAT'S THE FULL STORY?

UK LAW SAYS THAT GRAFFITI IS
A TYPE OF **CRIMINAL DAMAGE**
PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OR
EVEN A PRISON SENTENCE.



BANKSY OFTEN USES HIS
ARTWORK TO MAKE POLITICAL
STATEMENTS OR ENCOURAGE THE
PUBLIC TO THINK ABOUT OTHERS.
IN AUGUST 2020, HE DONATED
MONEY HE HAD RAISED FROM HIS
ARTWORK TO FUND A BOAT THAT
WOULD TRY TO RESCUE
REFUGEES.

In July 2020,
Banksy painted a piece
inside a tube carriage on
the London Underground.
However, before he had the
chance to reveal it was his
work, a cleaner wiped it away.
Transport for London said,
**"It was treated like
any other graffiti."**



People believe that the mural in
Rothesay Avenue, Nottingham,
might be worth more than the
building it is painted on.
The average house price for the
street is £214,000, but in 2019
a piece of Banksy's art sold for

£9.9 million.



A graffiti artist from Birmingham
called Itchers has claimed that the
hula-hooping girl is actually his work
and not Banksy's. Itchers' work has
been mistaken for Banksy's in the
past. Itchers has told journalists,

**"IT'S DEFINITELY MINE, I'M NOT SURE
WHAT HE IS DOING TO BE HONEST,
I'M FLABBERGASTED."**

TURN THE COGS

1. This issue is about more than a piece of graffiti in Nottingham. Can you explain the bigger picture?
2. Should Banksy be treated like an artist or a criminal? Why?
3. Look at the facts on the previous page.
 - Which ones support the idea that Banksy should reveal his identity?
 - Which ones support the idea that he should keep his identity a secret?

Support your answers with a fact and explain why.

SHOW OFF YOUR SKILLS



Is there anything that would change your mind about Banksy?



What are the most important points to communicate about this news story?



What other perspectives might help you to think differently about this?



How could Banksy stop people from wrongly saying his art is theirs?

PUSH YOURSELF

In September 2020, a greetings-card company used one of Banksy's most famous images without his permission. Banksy tried to stop this but lost his case against them. The only way he could copyright his images (exclusively own them) was by revealing his identity - but he refused.

This means that the card company will make money from Banksy's artwork.

- Is this fair? Why / why not? Try to argue for both sides.
- What might happen now that anyone can use Banksy's images?

TYRE CHANGE

Brakes on! Let's change the scenario.



Someone asks the police to investigate Banksy?



Banksy's work encourages more graffiti?



Banksy keeps all the money he earns for himself?

Challenge: can you spot this issue in the news? How has the issue developed since last week?