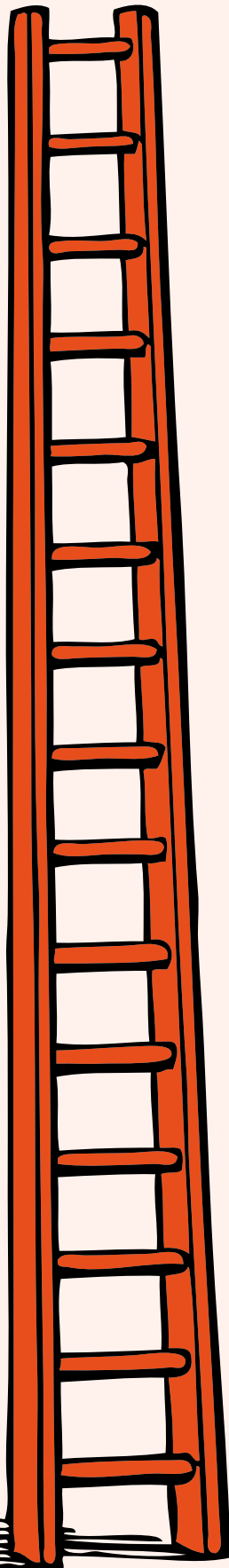




PABLO FANQUE



- 1967
— The Beatles recorded a song titled 'Being for the benefit of Mr Kite'. John Lennon had seen a poster for Pablo Fanque's circus performance in an antiques shop and was inspired to write the song!
- 1871
— Pablo dies on the 4th May in great poverty. He was living in one room with his wife and children in Stockport. His funeral was a spectacular occasion, around 10,000 people lined the streets of Leeds to pay their respects. He is buried in Leeds, next to his first wife.
- 1861
— Pablo and his circus made their way back into good favour and performed again!
- 1859
— Pablo attended a hearing at Leeds Court of Bankruptcy. He was accused of lying to people who lent him money to build his business.
- 1855
— Pablo's son, Edward Charles, is born. He goes on to perform in the circus as 'Ted Pablo'.
- 1848
— Pablo's wife, Susannah was killed in an accident at the circus in Leeds. Pablo bought a plot at Woodhouse Lane Cemetery, Leeds. Thousands of people lined the streets for her funeral. Later that year Pablo married his second wife Elizabeth Corker.
- 1843
— Pablo held a benefit performance for Mr Kite. This was a performance where all the money made would go to Mr William Kite, who had performed in Pablo's circus for several years. These types of events were not unusual as there were no benefits or financial help from the government so this was a way to help people who were struggling.
- 1838
— Pablo performed in Leeds as 'Pablo Fanque's Circus Royale' taking part in the re-enactment of Queen Victoria's Coronation Ceremony.
- 1830
— Pablo first appeared in his very own circus act, called 'Pablo Fanque's Pre-eminent Equestrian and Gymnastic Establishment'
- 1820
— Pablo became an apprentice at William Batty's Circus, Norwich where he began to learn his trade.
- 1810
— Pablo was born on the 30th March at St Andrew's Workhouse, Norwich. He was known then as William Derby.

By 1856, Pablo's circus was composed of acts from all over the world - Europe, Asia, Africa and America - this was something that he was very proud of. Why do you think this was so important to him? Do you think representing people from all nations is important today? Why?

In 1838 the Northern Star used the phrase 'African Gem' to refer to Young Pablo. How do you feel about the use of that phrase? At the time Pablo said 'It made me feel positive about the future of people of colour in Britain'. What do you think he meant by that? How do you think he would feel if he could see the world now?

Pablo is considered to have 'climbed the social ladder' and been a very successful man. What different types of success are there? Why do you think it was so unusual for Pablo to achieve the success he did?

Why do you think the circus re-enactment of the Coronation of Queen Victoria in 1838 was so popular and so important for people to see?

Pablo and his wife Susannah are referred to as the King and Queen of Circus. What do you think that means? What evidence is there to support this?