

**NOMBRE Y APELLIDOS**

**Read the text and answer the questions**

**WHAT IS ON THE FOURTH PLINTH?**



From 1841 until 1999 there was nothing on the Fourth Plinth in the north-west of Trafalgar Square, and it was sometimes referred to as the 'empty plinth'. It is now the location for contemporary art works, commissioned specially from leading artists, which are housed on the plinth for a year or two each. The choice of works is led by the Fourth Plinth Commissioning Group.

The next commission for the Fourth Plinth is Nelson's Ship in a Bottle, by leading Anglo-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare. This was unveiled in Trafalgar Square on Monday 24 May 2010.

The artwork is the first commission on the Fourth Plinth to reflect specifically on the historical symbolism of Trafalgar Square, which commemorates the Battle of Trafalgar, and will link directly with Nelson's column. It is also the first commission by a black British artist.

The ship's 37 large sails are made of exuberant and richly patterned textiles commonly associated with African dress and symbolic of African identity and independence. Tying together historical and global threads and traversing Oceans and Continents, the work considers the complexity of British expansion in trade and Empire, made possible through the freedom of the seas that Nelson's victory provided.



Yinka Shonibare says his piece will reflect the story of multiculturalism in London: 'For me its a celebration of London's immense ethnic wealth, giving expression to and honouring the many cultures and ethnicities that are still breathing precious wind into the sails of the United Kingdom. A ship in a bottle is an object of wonder. Adults and children are intrigued by its mystery. How can such towering masts and billowing sails fit inside such a commonplace object? With Nelson's Ship in a Bottle I want to take this childhood sense of wonder and amplify it to match the monumental scale of Trafalgar Square.'

## **QUESTIONS**

1. **Summarize in your own words the content of the text (1 point)**

2. **Answer the following questions in your own words using the information from the text. (1.5 points)**

a. **What is the fourth plinth?**

b. **What can we see on the fourth plinth at the moment?**

c. **What is the intention of the author with this piece?**

3. **Vocabulary. Find in the text a word that means (2.5 points)**

a. **Containing nothing, unoccupied (1)**

b. **Place (1)**

c. **Discovered, exposed, inaugurated (2)**

d. **Profuse; luxuriant; superabundant (4)**

e. **Richness (5)**

**4. Grammar (2 points):**

a) Complete the following sentence *"If I lived in London,...*

b) Put the following sentence into passive *"The author considers the complexity of the British empire"*

c) Join these sentences with a relative pronoun: *The work commemorates the Battle of Trafalgar. The work is the first commission by a black British artist.*

d) Fill in with the right prepositions.

*The last work ..... the fourth plinth consists ..... a ship ..... a bottle.*

**5. Express your opinion on contemporary art (3 points)**