

Learie Constantine

Text Book

Sir Learie Constantine - Text

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Widgit Software

Tel: 01926 333680

Email: info@widgit.com

Web: www.widgit.com

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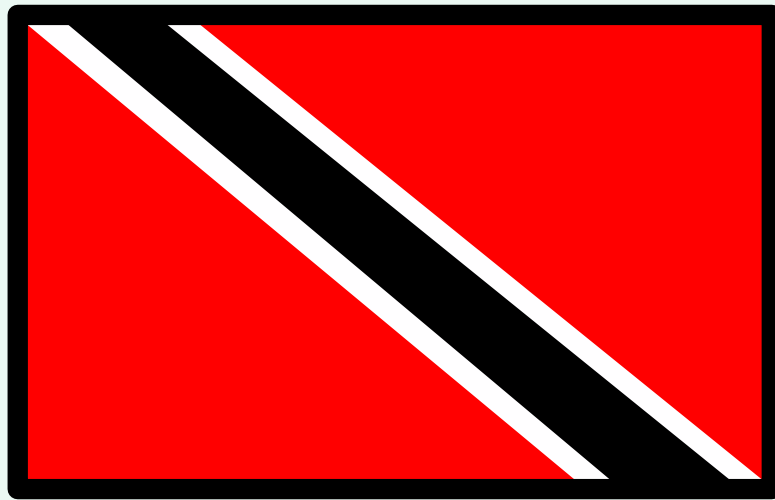


Sir Learie Constantine was born in Trinidad in 1901.

His father was the grandson of slaves.

His mother was the daughter of slaves.

Learie enjoyed playing cricket growing up.

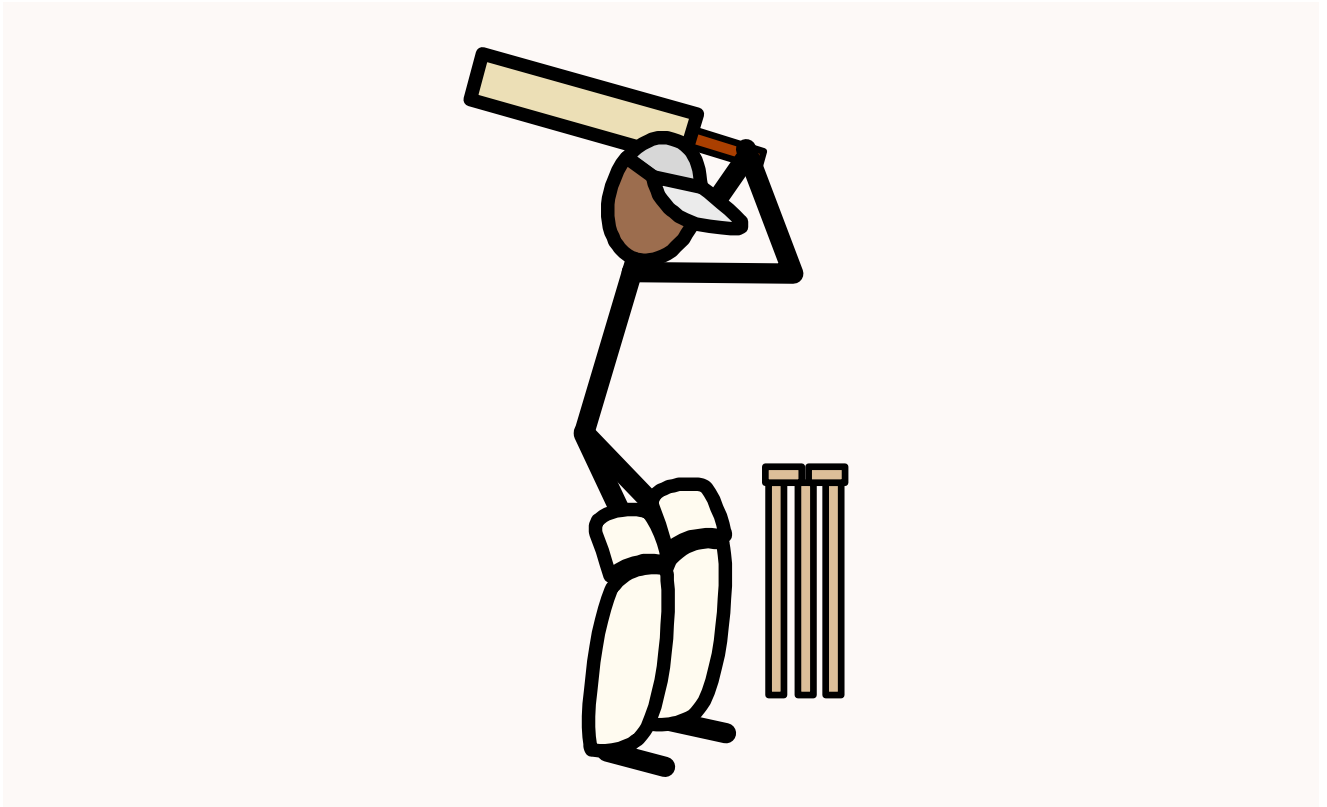


Learie first worked as a clerk for a law firm.

There was much racial discrimination at the time.

Very few black people could become solicitors.

In 1921 Learie was selected to play for Trinidad.

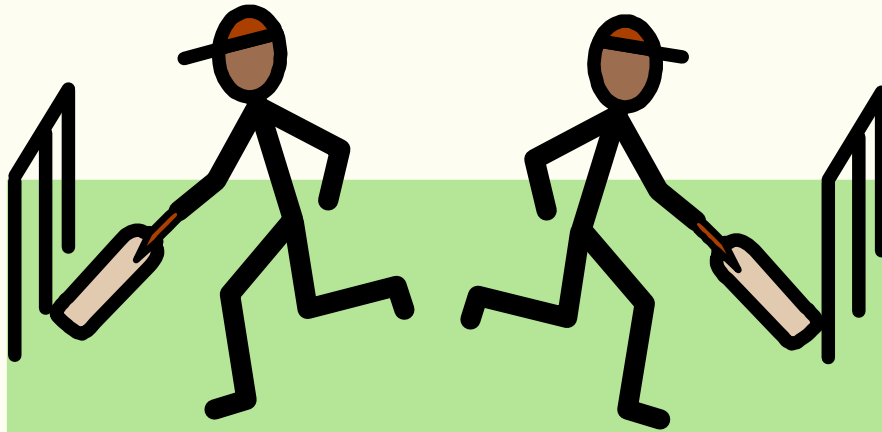


Learie was picked for the West Indies cricket team.

He came to England with them in 1923.

Learie was a powerful batsman and a fast bowler.

He was a great fielder and all-round player.

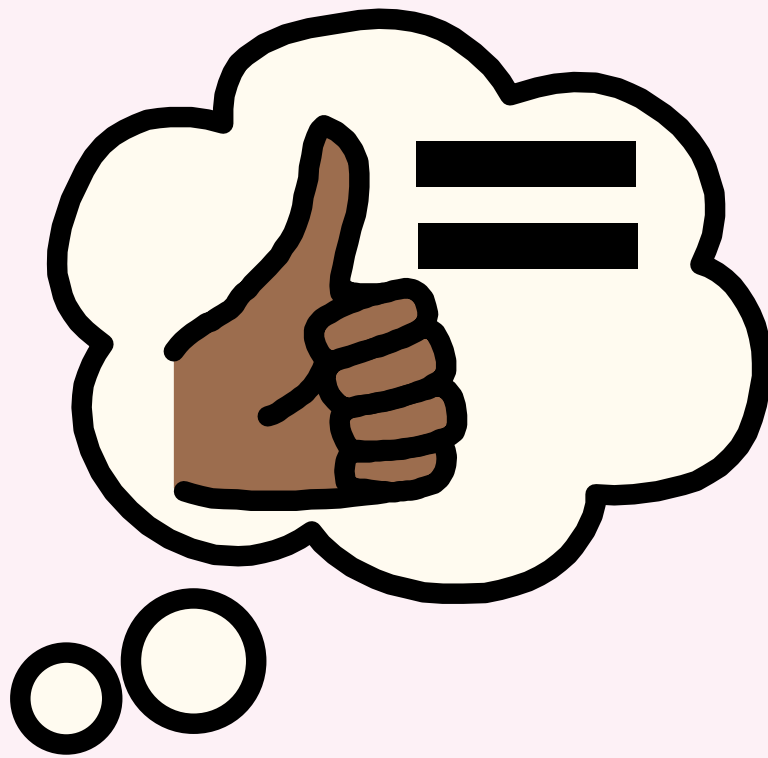


Learie toured England again in 1928.

He took 100 wickets and made 1000 runs.

He was offered a place in English professional cricket.

Learie joined Nelson in the Lancashire League.

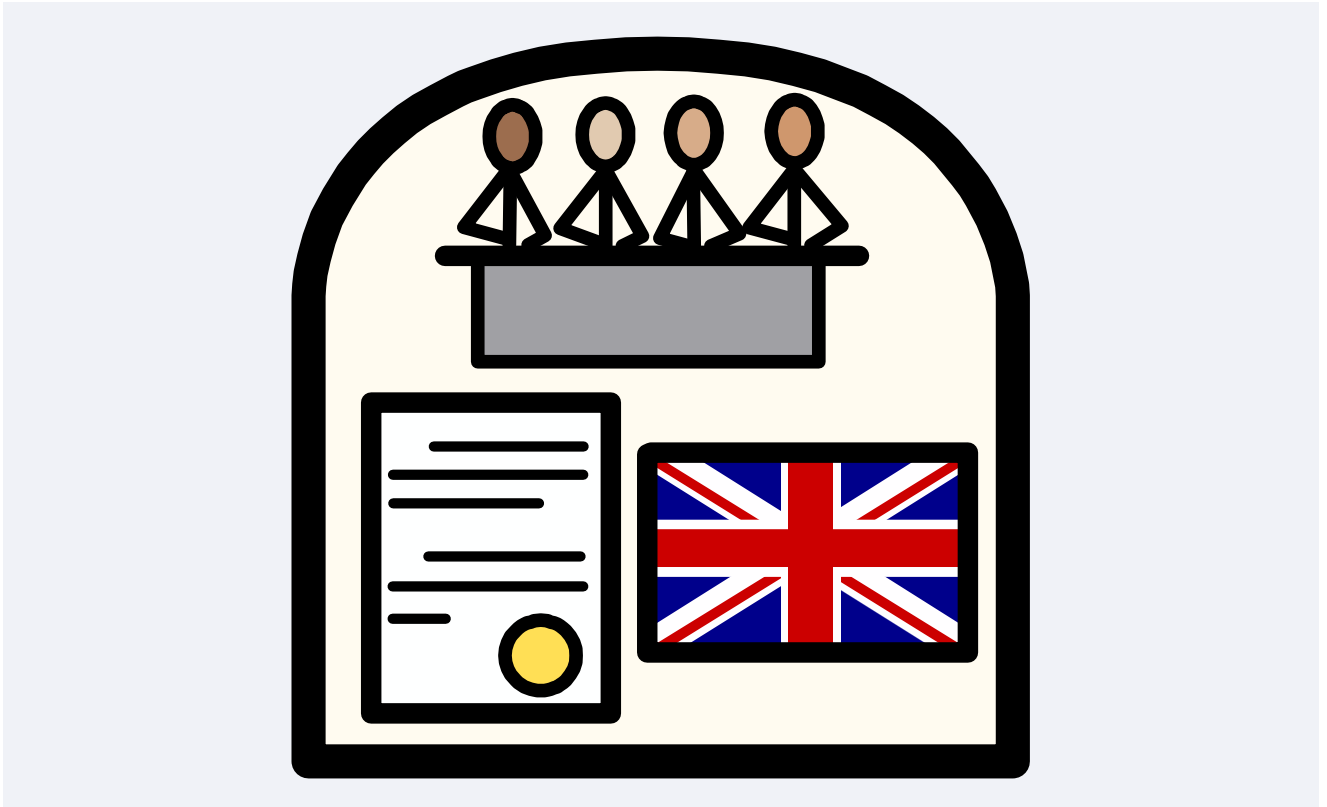


Learie moved to Lancashire with his family.

Black people were rare in the area at the time.

Learie experienced both curiosity and hostility.

He earned the respect of the local people.

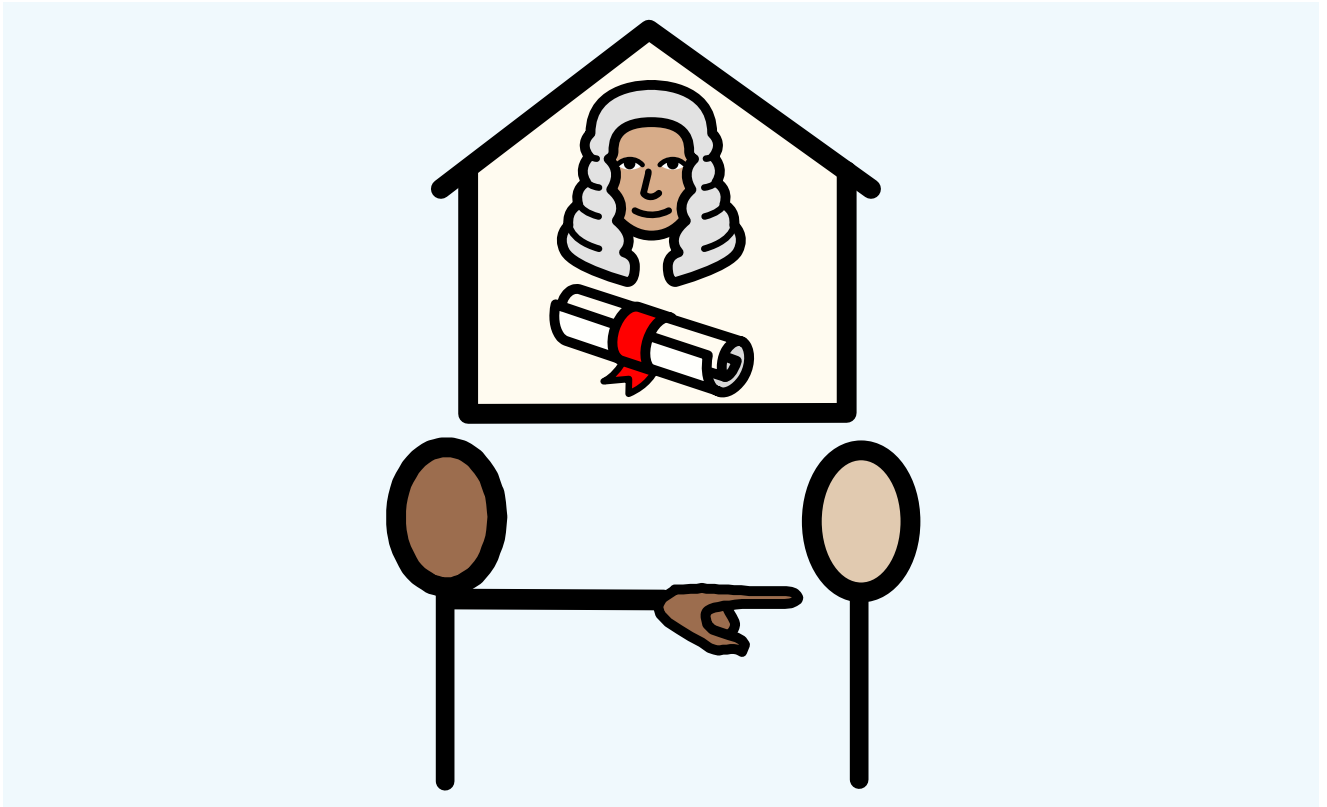


During the war Learie worked for the government.

He looked after the welfare of Caribbean workers.

Learie negotiated with employers and trade unions.

He fought discrimination to get black people accepted.

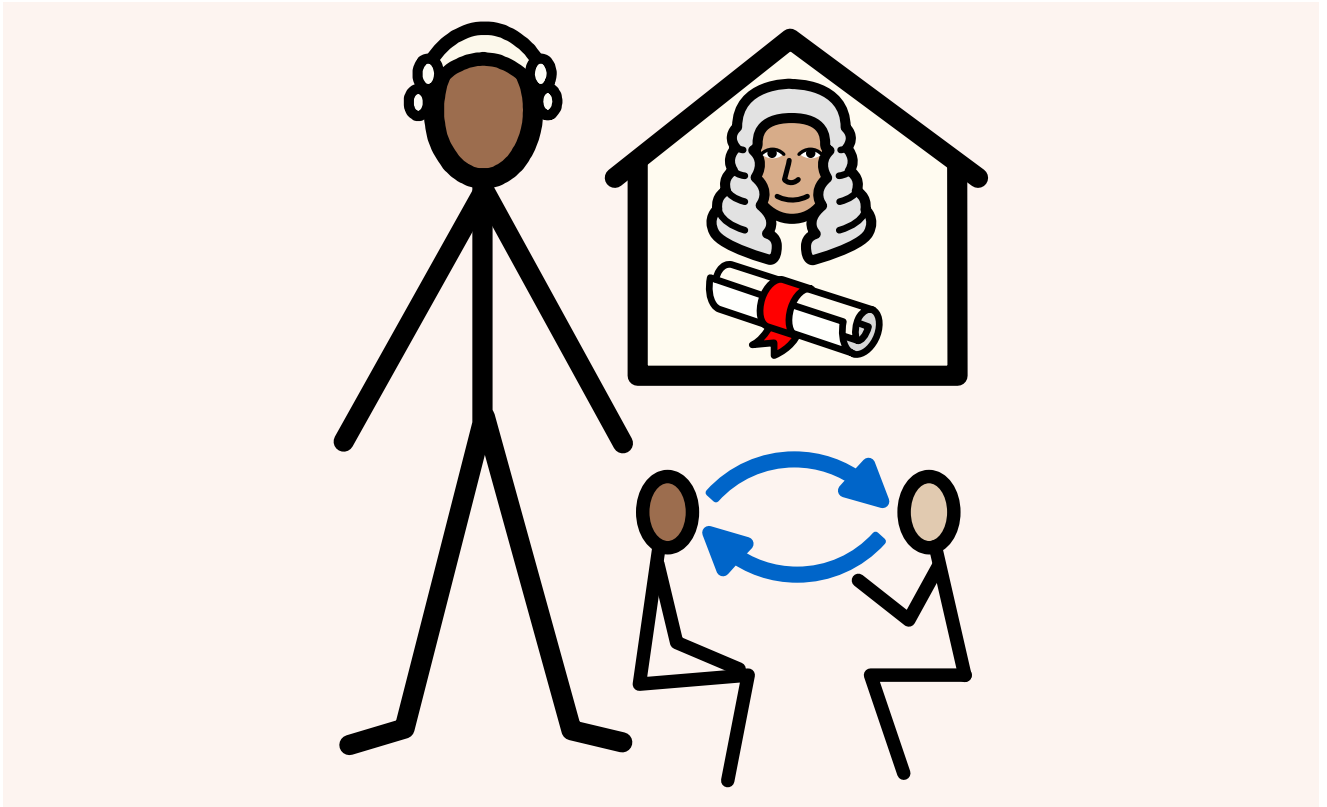


In 1943 Learie booked rooms at a London hotel.

The hotel refused him rooms because of his race.

Learie sued the hotel and won.

He was supported by the public and the government.

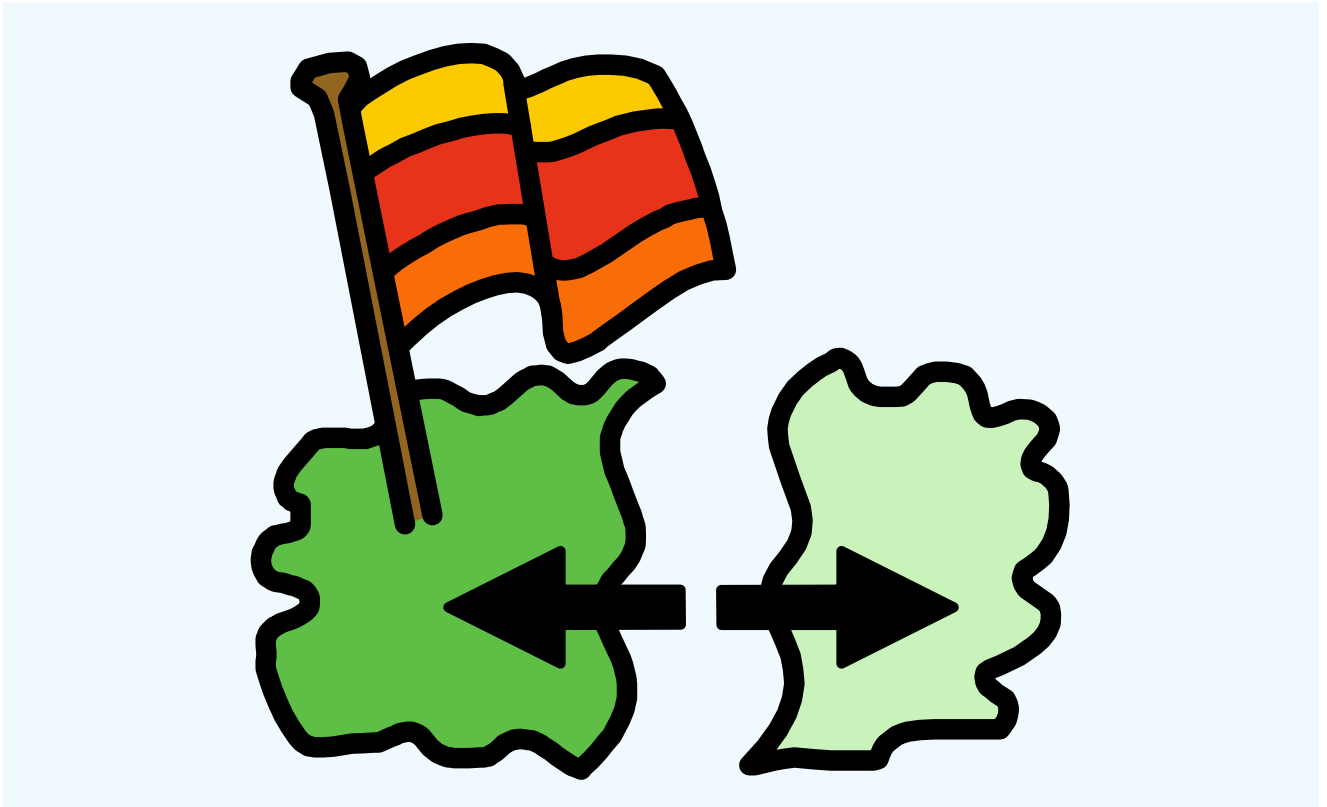


Learie studied hard and qualified as a barrister.

He became a respected sports commentator.

Learie wrote several books about cricket.

In "Colour Bar" he wrote about discrimination.

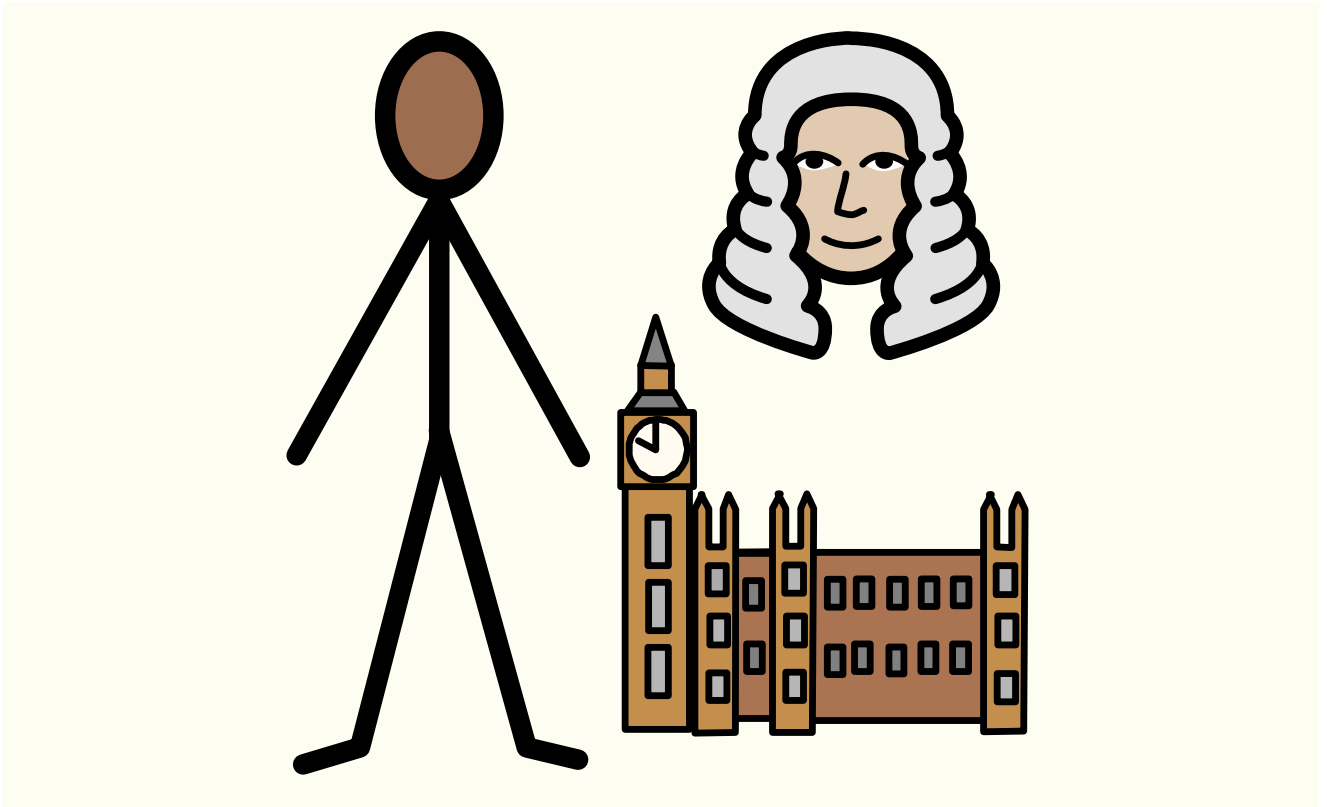


In 1954 Learie returned home to Trinidad.

He became a minister in the Trinidad government.

He became High Commissioner to London in 1961.

He helped secure Trinidad's independence in 1962.



In 1969 Learie was made a life peer in the Lords.

He was the first black person in the House of Lords.

Sir Learie Constantine died in London in 1971.

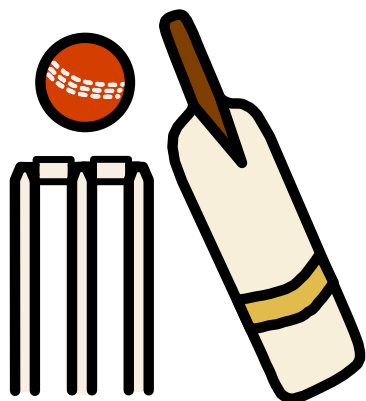
He was given a state funeral in Trinidad.



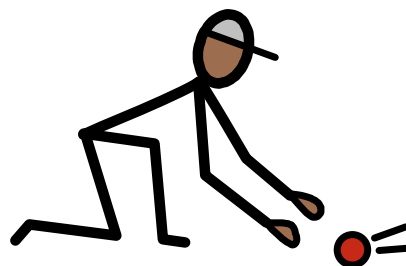
Learie
Constantine



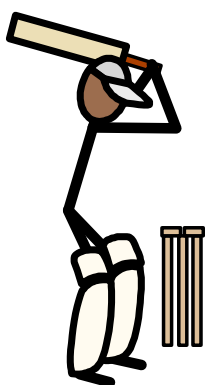
Trinidad



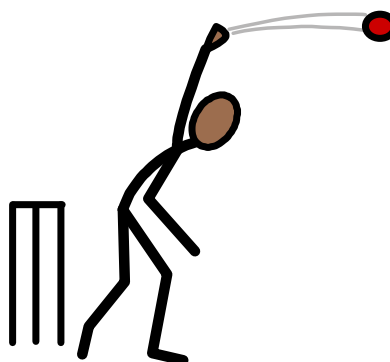
cricket



fielder



batsman



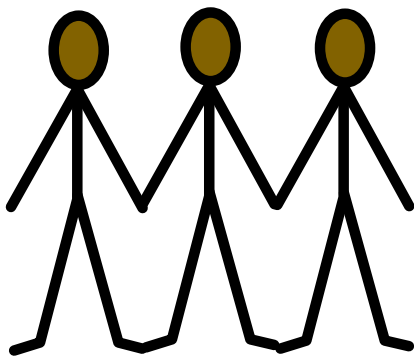
bowler



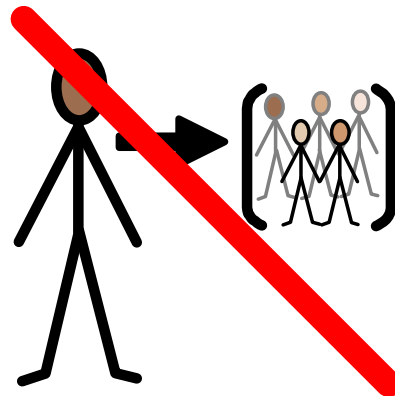
West Indies



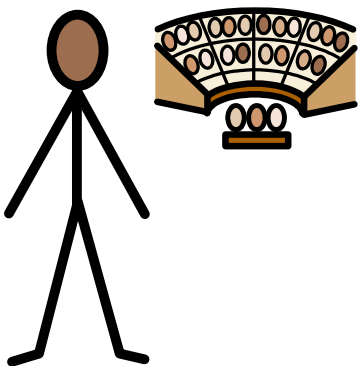
Lancashire



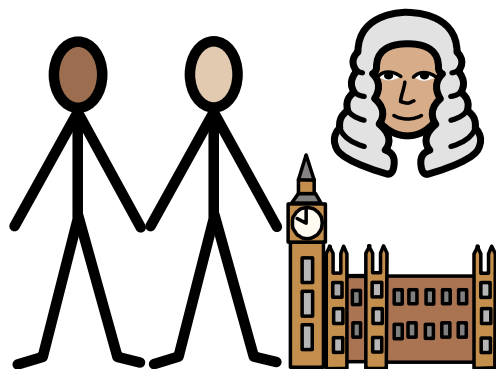
black people



discrimination



High
Commissioner



House of Lords