**Unit 1 : United Colors of LA**

Themes: Art and Power Diversity and inclusion

Territory and Memory

**Key Questions : How has the Great Wall of Los Angeles helped unite and empower California’s ethnic minorities ?**

Recap :

* Judy B. is a Chicana artist and activist
* Different historical events, dating from prehistoric times to the 1950s, can be seen on the GWLA
* The GWLA has received ar updated new sections are being painted
* The GWLA unifies the segregated neighborhoods
* The artist R.Mandoza said that the GWLA was a great for people to understand the history of minority groups (🡪 it’s a “CR”)

The Great Wall of Los Angeles (GWLA), a more than half-mile- long fresco along the L.A. River, reveals Californian history through paintings from prehistoric times to the 1950.

Judy Baca, a Chicana artist and activist, create this project in the 1970s to bring together, through art, the stories of the Los Angeles neighbourhoods, often separated by race and ethnicity.

 Recently, new sections have been painted at LACMA, which will allow the fresco to extend to over a full kilometre, making it one of the largest murals in the world.

Judy hopes the mural continues to be an educational tool that promotes the civil rights of all the under-represented communities of LA.

1. How often did he went to the gym? (daily routine)

How often does he go to the gym?

1. Did she apply for a promotion next month?

Will she apply for a promotion next month?

1. Does she drinks coffee every morning ?

Does she drink coffee every morning ?

1. What Mum bought in Rome?

What did mum buy in Rome

1. Why Molly doesn't want to see you?

Why doesn’t Molly want to see you ?

1. Since when you've been working

**Vocabulary:**

Despite = Malgré

Although = Même si / Bien que

In Spite of

This mural challenges the founding myths of Los Angeles by revealing the brutality of Spanish, Mexican, and U.S. colonialism. It highlights how these powers exploited and nearly destroyed indigenous communities, stating with the arrival of Spanish explorers in 1769. **Despite** this, indigenous people resisted and preserved their cultures. The mural also honors the city’s mixed African and indigenous founders and recognizes Black leaders like Biddy Mason, who fought against racial discrimination in a state that, while free, still perpetuated racial violence and inequality.

This mural section highlights the essential **yet** exploited role of indigenous and immigrant workers in California’s development. It depicts the harsh conditions faced by Chinese laborers building the transcontinental railroad and the tragic Chinese Massacre of 1871 in L.A. **Although** promises were made in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (after the Mexican American War), Mexicans lost their land in favour of US citizens.

The Mural also shows the environmental impact of rapid industrialization and honors the diverse immigrant workers who contributed to California’s growth and took part in World War I.

The 1930s shattered the illusions of prosperity following the "Roaring 20s," as the Great Depression hit, leading to widespread unemployment and poverty. Discrimination surged, with mass deportations of Mexican Americans, blockades against Dust Bowl migrants, and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

**In spite of** greater employment opportunities for women and African Americans after World War I, they still faced significant pay gaps and racial discrimination. Prohibition fueled the rise of gangsters, while Jazz thrived **despite** ongoing racial tensions.

The period also exposed the USA's broken promises to Native Americans leading to significant land theft.

After the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, the US entered World War II and communities of color played crucial roles, **even thought** they continued to face racism. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, made up of Japanese Americans from Americans followed the war in Europe, while women known as “Rosie the Riveters,” took on new jobs in wartime industries.

The mural also highlights racial injustices, such as the Zoot Suit Riots and discrimination against Dr. Charles Drew. Luisa Moreno, a labor organizer and the Bracero Program reflect the struggles of Latino workers. The mural critique US actions and racism during the war, including the treatment of Jewish refugees.

In the 1950s, amidst conservative backlash, music and art subcultures, early civil rights activists, and LGBTQ groups laid the groundwork for future civil rights movements. Despite facing McCarthyism and increased risks, these groups challenged norms. Gains for women from WWII were rolled back, and white families moved to suburbs, excluding communities of color. The new Los Angeles freeways displaced Mexican American families, eventually leading to the development of Dodger Stadium.

In short, the mural highlights the struggles of LGBTQ activists, Black musicians, and Asian American, and show Native American children being forced into assimilations, reflecting broader civil rights issues of the time.

Connectors of contrast :

* In spite of / despite
* Malgré
* Even thought / Although
* Même si