



Josephine Baker

KS2 Learning Resource

Curriculum links: History, Literacy, Art, Dance

Watch Here: <https://youtu.be/HnOAEhc9Wk>



Watch the dead famous come to life in this animated history show based on the popular "Corpse Talk" graphic novel series by Adam and Lisa Murphy.

In this episode, our guest is Josephine Baker, an iconic dancer, singer, and actor who shot to fame after moving to Paris and starring in France's first-ever all-Black musical. Not only did this glamorous superstar own a castle, she had 12 children and worked as a spy during WW2!



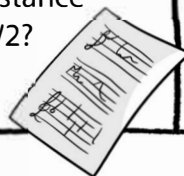
Dig up the Past

When you've watched the episode, can you answer these questions?

What was Josephine's first job?

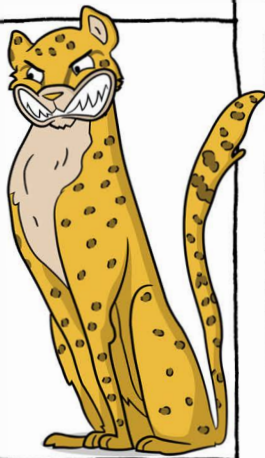
How did Josephine help the French Resistance during WW2?

Why did Josephine go back to America after the war?



Fun Fact

Josephine owned a pet cheetah called Chiquita who wore a diamond collar!



Dead Quick Challenge

Adam tells Josephine that she 'lived so bravely'. Do you agree? In what ways do you think Josephine lived bravely?



Deadly Dates

Josephine Baker was born in St Louis Missouri in 1906. She sailed to Paris when she was 19 and became one of the most popular entertainers in France.



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Draw a new headdress for Josephine

You are a costume designer living in Paris in the 1920s. Josephine Baker is about to debut her much anticipated new dance show and she's asked you to design a dazzling new headdress for her to wear on the night. You'd better get to work!

Think about colours and shapes that will reflect Josephine's lively personality and lavish sense of style.

Your design could include feathers, flowers, sequins, ribbons, or whatever materials you think will wow the audience.

Your glamorous new headdress will help make this a night to remember for Josephine and her adoring fans!



Make up your own dance!

It's time to channel your inner Josephine Baker and get dancing!

First, choose a piece of music to dance to.

(You might like to choose 'The Charleston', which is piece of music that was very popular in the 1920s.)

Now, have fun experimenting with different dance moves just as Josephine did.

Remember, Josephine used her whole body when she danced including her legs, arms, hands and face.

The secret is to let go and enjoy it as much as much as you can!
Can you create a short dance routine to share with your class?



Before You Go

Is there anything about Josephine and her life story that you find inspiring?
What might we learn from Josephine and the way she lived her life?

Watch Next:
Musical maestro, Mozart

