



Ball of Wool Activity

This activity aims to visually demonstrate to students the importance of Carlo Gatti's ice trade business. By importing and storing hundreds of tonnes of ice, it meant that a lot of people could benefit from it.

KEY



Wealthy people



Working class people



Carlo Gatti

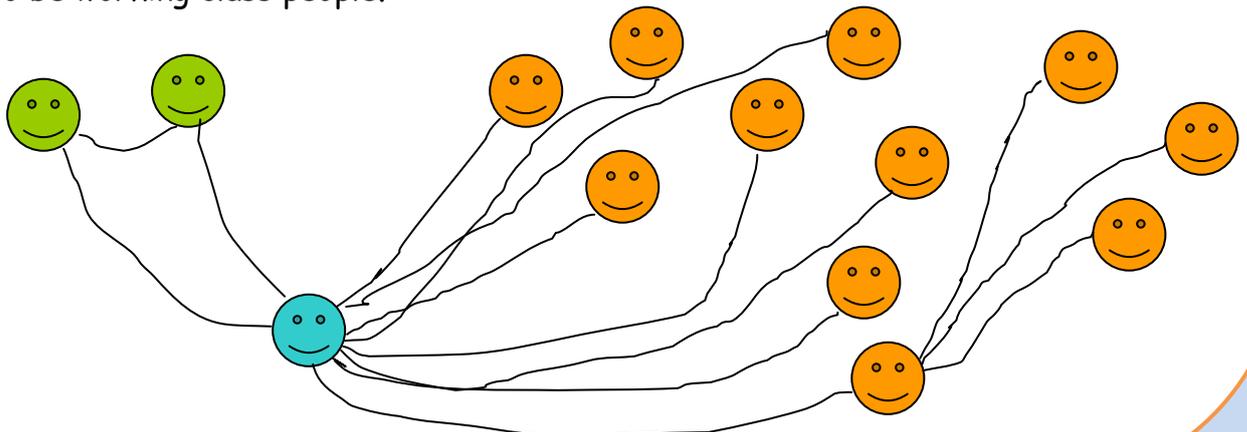


Wool - ice available

- 1. Pre-Gatti Era** - Use a length of wool about a meter long. Choose two people to represent the wealthy (who had their own ice houses and had the resources to cut ice from frozen lakes and rivers) and get them to pass the wool between themselves holding an end each. Talk about how this reflects the fact that, by not being any electricity at the time, it was hard to stock up on ice, it was expensive and only available to some people.



- 2. Gatti Era** - Choose a 'Carlo Gatti' to stand at the front of the class with a ball of wool.
- 3.** Now choose a restaurant owner, two wealthy people, and the rest of the class to be working class people.



The person who represents Carlo Gatti must keep hold of one end of the wool throughout the activity. S/he must throw the ball of wool to the restaurant owner (as he is connected to the restaurant owner by a fleet of ice delivery carts). In turn, the restaurant owner keeps hold of the piece of wool but passes the ball on to each wealthy person, who then passes the wool back to him. The ball must be thrown back to Gatti who still has some left over ice. At this point, you could mention the fact that he was able to store 400 tonnes of ice in the ice house. He then sold the ice to ice cream vendors who in turn will sell their ice cream for a penny to the working class people - pass the ball of wool to the working class people and get them to pass it around the whole group. This shows how he was able to make ice cream 'commercially' available - why was this possible?

Blue Plaque Activity

Blue Plaques commemorate the link between notable figures of the past and the buildings in which they lived and worked. Carlo Gatti hasn't got one yet. Ask students to create a plaque for him, including a few sentences on what they think were the most important facts about Carlo Gatti.

