Three African Kings Visit Brighton in 1895:
An Online Black History Education Resource

Fact reminder

The Kings were called Khama III, Bathoen and Sebele. They came from Bechuanaland in southern Africa. Bechuanaland was a protectorate of Britain but not yet a colony.
Charles Willoughby was the pastor of the Union Street Chapel, which is now **the Font** pub in Brighton. He took his family to Bechuanaland to do missionary work. He worked for Khama as a secretary. His son Howard spoke **Setswana**
In 1895 European countries agreed they should be able to take land in Africa. This is known as the **Scramble for Africa** and the rivalry is one of the reasons why the First World War happened. The European empires often took resources from Africa and kept control by making sure the people fought each other instead of fighting the Empire.
The Kings wanted to meet Queen Victoria but when the government said she was busy they decided to tour Britain. They were very popular wherever they went. Their favourite place was Brighton and they went to **Elm Grove School** to watch maypole dancing.
Charles Willoughby hated Cecil Rhodes who was a racist who believed that White people were superior to Black people. Cecil Rhodes created a country called Rhodesia. He made lots of money from mining African diamonds. He wanted Britain and white people to control land in Africa.

The Kings persuaded Queen Victoria and Bechuanaland remained a protectorate even though the kings lost some power over time. In 1966 Bechuanaland was very poor but became independent. It was called Botswana. In 1967 diamonds were discovered.
Botswana is still a democracy and had free healthcare and free education. The first president of Botswana was Seretse Khama who was the grandson of Khama III. He married a British white woman. Neighbouring South Africa had made interracial marriage illegal.
Brighton Museum has a strong connection with Serowe museum in Botswana because they have things that Charles Willoughby brought back from his stay.