



Ira Aldridge

Symbol Book

Ira Aldridge - Symbol

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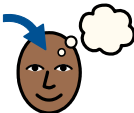




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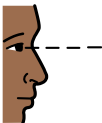

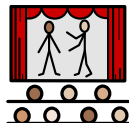

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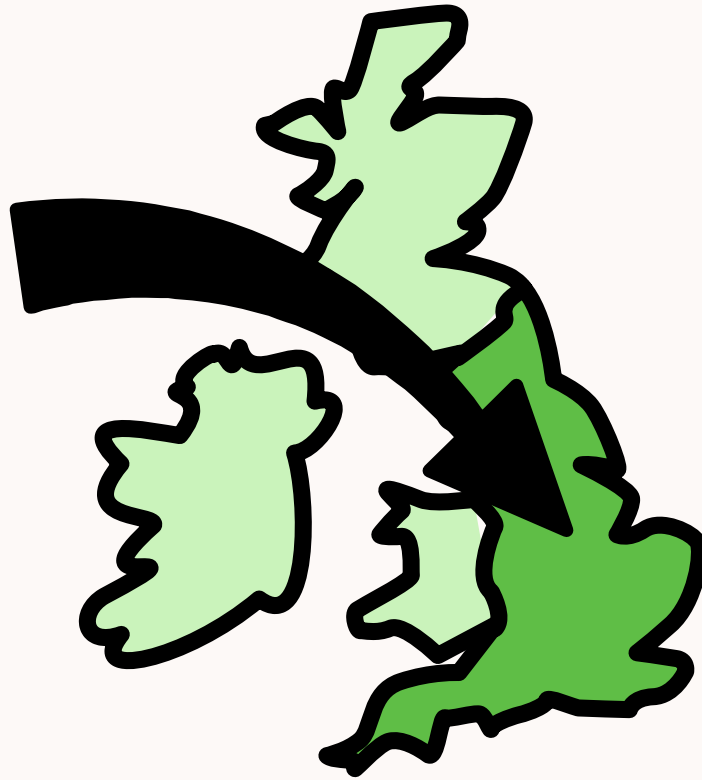


 was  born  in  New York in 1807.

At  age 13  Ira attended the  African Free School.

He  learnt  English,  maths,  geography and  astronomy.

He  saw  plays including  productions of  Shakespeare.



Ira

1st

first

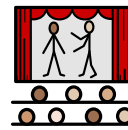


acted

with



the African

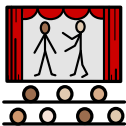


Company

in



New York.



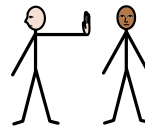
The company

was



attacked

by



racists

and



thugs.



In



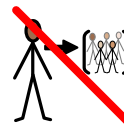
America



black actors



were



discriminated against.

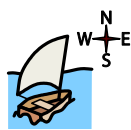
1824

In

1824



Ira



sailed



to England

for



better prospects.



Britain



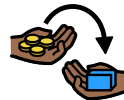
had

abolished

the



slave



trade

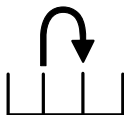
in

1807

1807.



Britain



next



wanted to



outlaw



slaves



in

its



colonies.



Ira



appeared



in



London

as



'Othello'

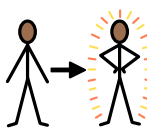
in

1825

1825.



Ira



became



very

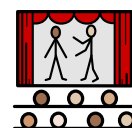


famous

in



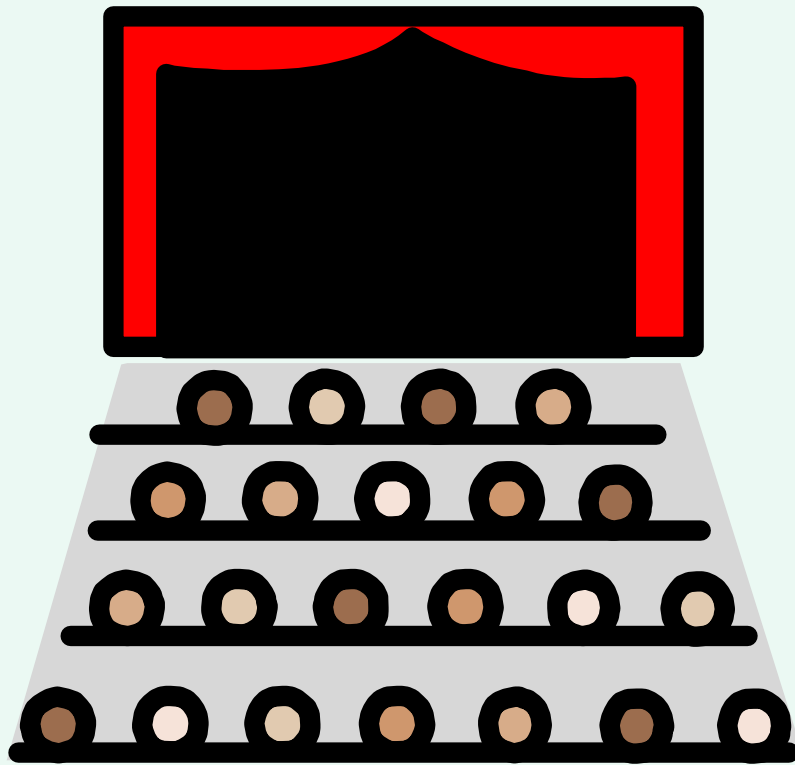
Europe



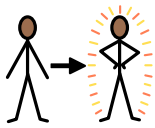
playing



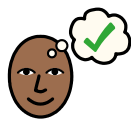
Othello.



Ira



became



known

as the



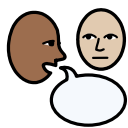
'African



Roscus'.



He



told



people



he

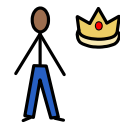
=

was

as an



African



prince.



He



acted

in



King Lear,



Othello

and



Macbeth.



Ira

was

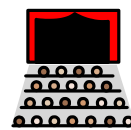


very



popular

with his



audiences.

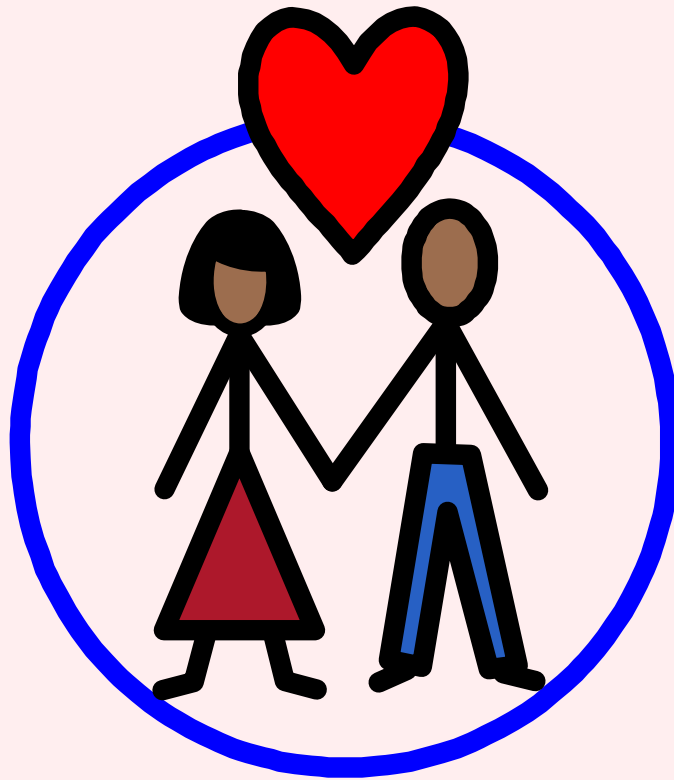


1828
 Ira became manager of Coventry Theatre in 1828.

He was the first black person to manage a theatre.

Ira's performances were hugely popular.

On closing night he would speak out against slavery.



In 1825 Ira married Margaret Gill.

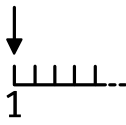
They were married for 40 years until her death.

Then Ira married Amanda von Brandt.

Ira and Amanda had four children.



Ira



first



toured



Europe

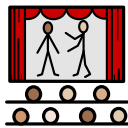
in

1852

1852.



He



performed

in



Germany,



Hungary,



Serbia

and



Russia.

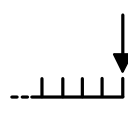


Ira



spent

his



final



years

in



Europe

and



Russia.

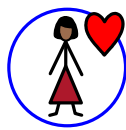


He



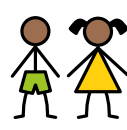
lived

with his

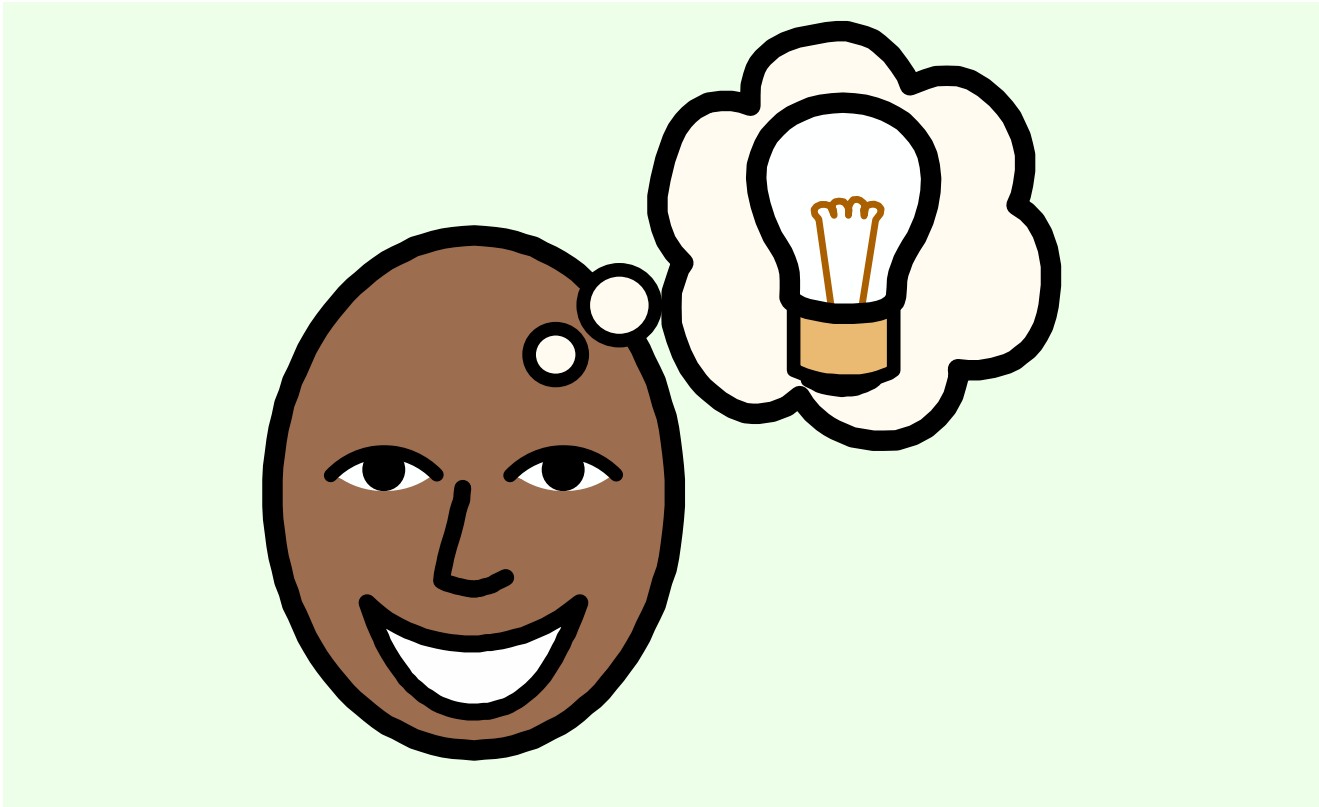








wife



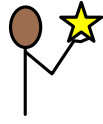

and




children.









 1867
 Ira Aldridge died whilst in Poland in 1867.





 He was honoured by important heads of state.





 Ira's successes inspired African-Americans.

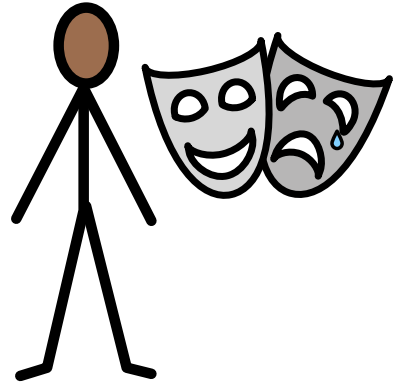




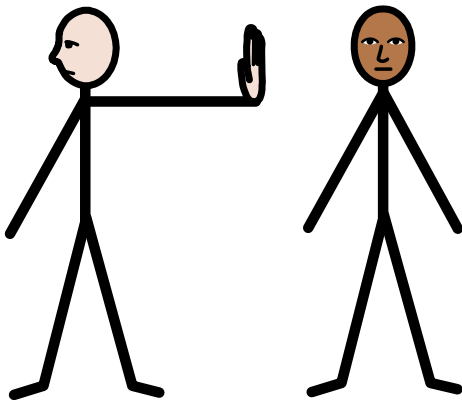

 Theatres and acting companies were named after him.



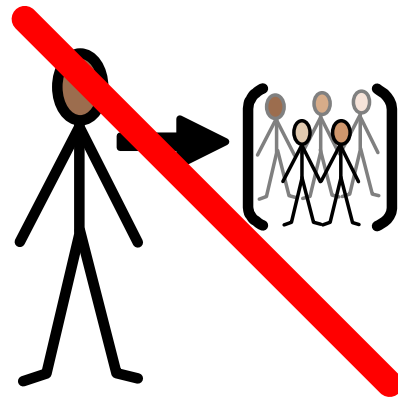
Ira Aldridge



actor



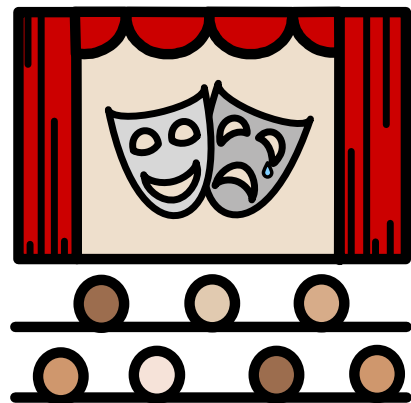
racist



discrimination



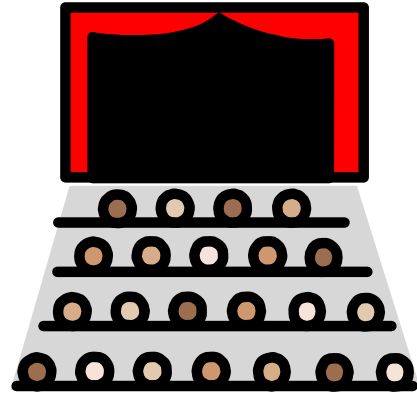
Shakespeare



plays



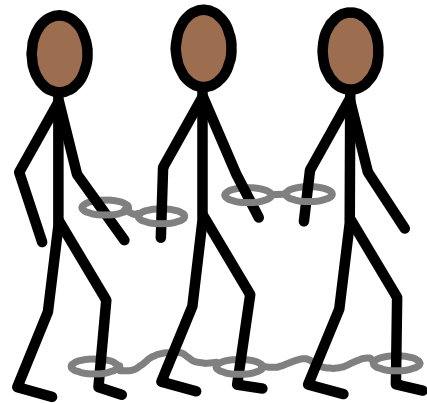
popular



audience



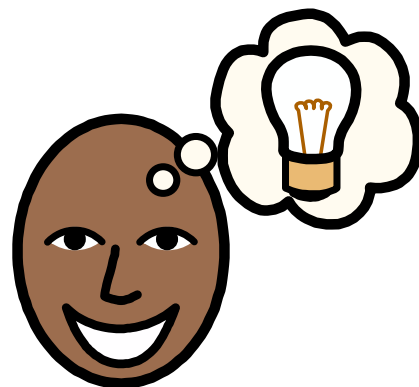
spoke out



slavery



success



inspire