Who was Thomas Sankara? Watch and Discuss

"We think that debt has to be seen from the standpoint of its origins. Debt's origins come from colonialism's origins. Those who lend us money are those who had colonized us before. They are those who used to manage our states and economies."
Thomas Sankara, Call of Freedom Speech, 1987.

Thomas Sankara was a revolutionary and was the President of Burkina Faso from 1983 until 1987. This is a speech he made at the Organisation of African Unity, in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, in 1987. Watch the videos and then discuss the questions. For more background information on Sankara, visit the *How The World Works* resource page on our website.

Video links: Type 'Thomas Sankara, Call of Freedom, Addis Ababa' into Youtube. There are 2 videos; Part 1 and Part 2. Watching Part 1 is adequate.

Questions

1. What is Thomas Sankara's argument?
2. What is his point of view?
3. Sankara was assassinated a number of weeks after this speech was made. Why do you think this was?
4. Do you have any other observations about the video?
5. What are the links between what Sankara is talking about in the video, and the issues that arose from the Debt timeline activity?
6. Are there any links between what happened in Burkina Faso and what has happened in Ireland?