



What will I be learning?

We will be learning about the Windrush Generation, which was the period of time between 1948 and 1971, when migrants from the Caribbean came to England, predominately to support the country after World War II. On 24 May 1948 the Empire Windrush left Kingston harbour in Jamaica.

The population of the West Indies responded to an advertisement from the British government, who at that time ruled many places in the world including the West Indies. Many of the population believed that there would be lots of new opportunities for them in Britain. Others wanted to go to experience an adventure.

In order for people to travel on Empire Windrush, they sold things they owned, or borrowed money, to buy a ticket as it was an expensive journey.

Most passengers were young men, as there were more jobs for men than women at the time. A few families travelled, but this was rare. The passengers had hopes and dreams, they were looking for a range of jobs, such as builders, mechanics and accountants.

After one-month Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury Docks. The people aboard Windrush were housed in an old underground air-raid shelter in London. The majority of the people found jobs straight away as they had the skills Britain desperately needed in 1948.

During the period during the 1950's and beyond, many skilled workers were left disappointed to discover the only work they could get in Britain was doing unskilled jobs. Many faced discrimination at work and some companies decided not to hire Black workers. This was known as the 'colour bar'. The black migrants experienced racism and felt deeply hurt by their experience in Britain.

Throughout this period of time a number of acts were introduced – 1962 Commonwealth Immigration Act, this restricted the number of Black people that could work in Britain. The 1965 Act Race Relations Act was set up to investigate the cases of racial discrimination.

Key Vocabulary

Windrush Generation	People arriving in the UK between 1948 and 1971 from the Caribbean countries.
Migration	Moving from one place to another with intentions of settling, permanently or temporarily, at a new location.
Recruitment	The process of actively seeking out, finding and hiring candidates for a specific position or job.
Racism	Where someone is treated differently because of their race, ethnicity, nationality or colour.

Useful web pages:

<https://www.bl.uk/windrush/articles/windrush-stories-creative-writing-activities-primary-students>

<https://planbee.com/blogs/news/windrush-facts-for-ks2-children>.

Books:

The Empire Windrush by Clive Gifford

Coming to England by Floella Benjamin

Try it at home...

- Make a model of Empire Windrush.
- Make a food dish that represents a country from the West Indies.
- Design a poster to abolish racism.