

WINDRUSH - YEAR 6

Timeline

1833	1931	1939 to 1945	1945	21 June 1948	2018
Abolishment of slavery in Britain.	Creation of the Commonwealth.	World War 2	End of the Second World War, servicemen and women return to the Caribbean. Some stay.	The Empire Windrush docks at Tilbury, Essex carrying 1,027 passengers (and 2 stowaways).	A British political scandal concerning the "Windrush generation" that challenged the right for these migrants and their families to reside in the UK despite being promised the right to remain.

Key Vocabulary

Empire Windrush	A ship used to carry immigrants from the Caribbean to the UK.
Colony	A country that is or was controlled by another country.
Immigrant	Someone who has come to a country from another.
Migrant	A person who has chosen to live in a country where they were not born.
Discrimination	Wrongly judging another person according to their race, religion, lifestyle choices, colour or gender.
Citizenship	Being a legal member of a country and having rights there because of it.
Nationality	A person's nationality indicates which country they were born in.
Opportunities	A chance.
Recruiting	Persuading someone to join a company, group or force.
Citizen	A legally recognized person of a country or commonwealth.
Commonwealth	Countries part of the British community worldwide. Queen Elizabeth II is its Head.
Racism	The belief that some races are better than others and the (racist) actions that can happen from those beliefs.
Deportation	To force someone to return to the country they came from usually because they have no legal right to be there or because they have broken the law.
Windrush Generation	Those that came to the UK from (mainly) the West Indies at the invitation of the British government to live and work. This includes their children who did not have their own passport but travelled on their parent's passports.

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Impact on us

In 1948, Britain was starting to recover from World War 2. Thousands of buildings had been bombed and lots of houses were destroyed - it all needed to be rebuilt.

Many Caribbean men and women had served in the British armed forces because at the time, many West Indian islands were still under British rule (empire) and not yet independent.

After the war, some of these people answered an advert to come to Britain where there were lots of different jobs to do. Other people just wanted to see Britain which they had heard a lot about.

Significant Figures

Arthur Curling - At 15 years of age, he enlisted in the Royal Air Force to fight against Germany.



Mona Baptiste - A Trinidad-born blues singer who entertained fellow passengers on Windrush. She then went on to become internationally famous.

Extra Information

- HMT Empire Windrush was originally called MV Monte Rosa and was a cruise ship and then a German navy ship in World War 2. The UK captured it during the war and renamed it 'Empire Windrush'.
- The Commonwealth now has 54 countries.
- Between 1948 and 1970, nearly half a million people left their homes in the West Indies to start a new life in the UK.

Did you know?

Despite living and working (and paying taxes) in the UK for years, many of the "Windrush Generation" have been told they faced deportation. This is because they have never completed official documents to prove their British citizenship. Changes in the Immigration Act of 1971 meant they needed to show these documents (such as Passports) to gain access to the NHS care or benefits. If they couldn't, then they could lose their homes and be sent back to the West Indies.



Empire Windrush's journey to Britain

