

LKS2 History Knowledge Organiser: The Windrush - Who are the Windrush Generation?

3 BIG IDEAS

Chronology

I can plot key events in the history of immigration from the West Indies to Britain on a timeline after World War II.

I can identify key dates affecting the Windrush generation, including the Windrush Scandal.

Equality

I can identify reasons for immigration to Britain after World War II.

I can describe the experiences of the Windrush generation when they came to Britain.

Change

I can identify changes in Britain after the Second World War that led to immigration from the Commonwealth.

I can identify the contribution of the Windrush generation to life in Britain today.

-During the Second World War, black people from across the **Commonwealth** fought for Britain. Some were soldiers, whilst others came to support work on the Home Front such as factory production and nursing. After the war, Britain needed to be re-built and to recover.

-By 1948, the **Nationality Act** was passed; allowing people from British colonies the right to live and work in Britain.

-In **June 1948**, a ship called '**Empire Windrush**' arrived at **Tilbury** dock in Essex, Britain. There were over 1,000 people on board. Most gave their last address as being in the Caribbean.

-There were men, women and children on board.

-It cost £28 (£1000 today) for travel and the journey took about 22 days.

-This was not the first time that people from the Caribbean had **migrated** to Britain. However, it has become the most famous ship that sailed from the Caribbean after the Second World War.



-People filled jobs in the transport system, postal service and health service.

-People who came to live and work in Britain from the Caribbean countries between 1948 and 1971 became known as the **Windrush generation**, named after the 'Empire Windrush' ship (nearly half a million people left their homes in the Caribbean to live in Britain).



-Unfortunately, some Caribbean arrivals were made to feel unwelcome and treated unfairly and differently because of **racism**. Life was difficult for many people after the war. Rationing and shortages continued, people still queued for food. People therefore arriving from the Caribbean would have experienced this as well as leaving friends and family behind. The climate was also colder and wetter. Finding jobs and somewhere to live was difficult due to discrimination. Many were forced to accept employment with low wages or poor housing.

- Some of the people who arrived in the UK as children were later told that they were living here illegally. In 2012 there was a change to immigration law and people were told they needed official documents to prove they could get things like free hospital treatment or benefits in this country. This led to some people being sent to immigration detention centres and facing deportation - this was known as the **Windrush Scandal**.

-People from the Windrush generation contributed enormously to the recovery of Britain and have had a long-lasting impact on so many parts of British life, including food, art, dance, music, writing and sport.

Vocabulary:

Immigration - The process of moving to a new country, with plans to live there permanently.

Commonwealth - The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 53 countries that support each other and work together in the common interests of their citizens for development, democracy and peace.

Post-War - Having to do with the period of time after a war.

Generation - A group of people born and living during the same time.

Caribbean - The region of the world that consists of the Caribbean Sea and the islands located in it.

Diverse - A diverse group is made up of people or things that are different from each other.

Multicultural - A society where many different cultures live together.

Tilbury Docks - A port in Essex, England.

Passenger - A person riding in or on a vehicle.