

## Enquiry: What impact did immigration have on Britain in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century?



Who emigrated to Britain after WW2 and why did they come?

Make a list of reason why people might want to emigrate to Britain



**You might have included:**

- The Romantic view of Britain (open fields, castles, kings and stately homes)
- Finding work
- Economic problems at home
- Violence and war at home
- Being part of the British Empire already
- To fight for Britain in the War
- **Other...?**

Complete a dual coding (images) diagram for these (or your own) reasons

## Who came to Britain and why?

Many people who came to live in Britain in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century were refugees fleeing persecution in their own countries. They came with hope of a new and safe life with lots of opportunities. There were 3 waves of people coming to Britain...



World War Two and the events leading up to it



2. Post WW2, Britain urgently needed workers to rebuild the country, the economy and the industry



3. 1960s and 1970s from mainly from Asia (India and Pakistan)

What does the term 'Wave' suggest to you in relation to the arrival of people?



Stick your map in and annotate where people came from and when



What are your impressions of this exercise? What are the positives of this kind of immigration? What about negatives maybe?

Most of the immigrants in Britain in 1945 were prisoners of war, some in camps, Jews, 130,000 Poles and other Europeans who had fled the Nazi persecutions or the Soviet Union (14,000 Hungarians in 1956). There were also many Irish (c.1 million after the war), probably forming the biggest immigrant group throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Many Italian labourers came or stayed after the war.



Giuseppe 'Papa' Modica  
Italian Prisoner of War  
Captured and held in Scotland  
1944



A typical family of the 1950s, what do you notice about this family picture?



Mr M's mum, no immigration – no Mr M

As we know, Britain embarked on a massive rebuild after WW2 and needed skilled and unskilled workers. Houses, schools, factories, railways, the whole transport system and churches needed rebuilding. The new NHS needed workers desperately. This could only be done by encouraging immigration to Britain.

How might the British Government encourage immigrants to come to Britain?

### 1948: The British Nationality Act

This act offered immigrants who came British citizenship and therefore British passports to those who lived in any of the British colonies (eg Hong Kong) or former colonies of the Empire (eg India). This gave people the right to come to Britain for as long as they liked; many stayed forever. The Government stated that Immigrants of 'Good Stock' would be 'welcomed without reserve' as a result, employers looked to the Caribbean for these new workers not just Europe.

Answer in full sentences: How might you qualify for British Citizenship and who was eligible?





Case Study of wave 2:  
**WINDRUSH GENERATION**  
1940s / 1950s

What do you know already? There has been lots of talk of this Windrush generation in recent years in the news...



The steamship Empire Windrush brought the first large group of migrant workers from the Caribbean in 1948. This represents a huge step towards the multicultural Britain we have today.

We're going to look at some key sources and eyewitness accounts to try and put together a strong understanding of the experiences of the Windrush wave of 1948 when arriving in Britain...

As you read through your sources complete the following table:

Source	Pull Factor	Push Factor	Questions to ask or key info
2 – Jamaican Advert in newspaper			
3 – Arthur Curling			
4 – Clinton Edwards			
5 – Lucile Harris			
6 – Sam King			

**Passenger Opportunity To United Kingdom**  
Troopship "EMPIRE WINDRUSH" sailing about 23rd MAY  
Fares — Cabin Class ..... £48  
Troopdeck ..... £28  
Royal Mail Lines, Limited—8 Port Royal St.

This advertisement appeared in The Daily Gleaner, a Jamaican newspaper, on 13 April 1948.

The Empire Windrush was not part of any recruitment plan by the British government. Transport was offered simply because the ship was travelling to Britain with a half-full load and the enterprising captain wanted to fill those empty spaces. He knew there were young Jamaicans who were keen to travel to Britain to find work. When the SS Empire Windrush left Jamaica on 24 May 1948, it had 300 passengers below decks and 192 above. They mostly came from the British colonies of Jamaica and Trinidad.

**SOURCE 3**  
I came to England first in 1946 in the air sea. I went back to Jamaica in 1946, but after sending two years there, it was too small for me. In a matter of fact, I had a reasonably good job in Jamaica and things were looking up. It was just a matter of the island being too small. You don't realise how small until after you've travelled. The Empire Windrush came in 1948 and I returned to England and to more freedom.  
Arthur Curling explains why he decided to come to Britain on SS Empire Windrush.

**SOURCE 4**  
I first came to England during the war, in the RAF. I was in the war for three years. When I went back home there was no work so I decided to come back. There was a boat coming back, by the name of Windrush, and it was only £28 so I paid my fare and came back. The opportunity for jobs in England was better than back home in Jamaica.  
Clinton Edwards explains why he returned to England after the war.

**SOURCE 5**  
I came here in 1948 because my husband sent for me. He and his brother came over a year before. They reached here on 22 June. It was a lovely day, beautiful, and they were at the dock waiting for me. I think it was Tilbury. I was very excited. I was going to meet my husband. I was very anxious to come and meet him because when he left we were just married. We got married and he left the following day. Jamaica in 1948 was all right to me. If my husband had not sent for me I would not have come at that point. Maybe later.  
Lucile Harris explains why she was a passenger on the Windrush.

**SOURCE 6**  
I was born in Jamaica in 1926. The 'mother country' was at war with Nazi Germany and as I did believe in the British Empire and as a young man I volunteered to contribute and fight Nazi Germany. A lot of people don't realize that Britain stood alone for nearly two years against Nazi Germany. We as part of the former British Empire volunteered and contributed and I am glad we did that. I have been here during the war fighting Nazi Germany and I came back to help build Britain.  
Sam King explains why he wanted to come to Britain on the Windrush.

On arrival, most migrants went to stay with friends or relatives who were already here. Of the 492 passengers on SS Empire Windrush in 1948, 236 had nowhere to live and were temporarily housed in a shelter in London, previously used for German and Italian prisoners of war. 202 of these Jamaicans found work straightaway; many in the new NHS but most with London Transport.

There was some debate in Parliament though, some disapproving of the new Nationality Act....

### For

“Many of the passengers helped us fight in the war – we owe them”

“They’ll likely only stay a year or so”

“The economy needs all the workers we can find!”



This debate raged on and to some extent still goes on today with some more upset due to the race of the immigrants, not the fact they have moved here. (Keep this in mind for later...)

### Against

“These Jamaicans have no right to live and work in Britain”

“They should be turned away as soon as they arrive”

“If we let them in, millions more will flood in”



## Case Study of wave 3:

### **ASIAN MIGRATION**

**1960s / 1970s**

Immigration to Britain changed by the 1960s, limits were put on commonwealth immigrants and unlike the 1950s where most immigrants were single men coming to work but not settle, the 60s saw an increase of women and children joining family members already in Britain; they intended to settle for good.

Secondly, the rise of immigrants from India and Pakistan now outpaced those from the Caribbean. 71,000 Asians living in Kenya and Uganda were given the choice after their independence in 1963 to remain British citizens or become Kenyan / Ugandan, so chose to come to Britain. Those that did stay faced extreme violence (theft, threats at gunpoint and attack) from black Kenyans and were forced to flee in 1967 when the Kenyan government declared them no longer Kenyan but foreigners. This increased immigration of Asians to Britain.



THE WORLD OF KEITH WAITE



**DEPARTHEID**

'Departheid'. A cartoon by Keith Waite for the *Daily Mirror*, published 19 December 1972.

What do you think this source is showing?

When India gained independence from the British in 1948, the country was split: India and Pakistan. This led to extreme violence and many communities were badly affected. Some groups, especially Sikhs took the opportunity to leave and settle in Britain; mainly settling in the West Midlands (Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Coventry) and worked in engineering.

These immigrants were often lumped together by British people as “the Indians” but actually the Asian migrants were extremely varied from where they came (Gujarat, Punjab, Pakistan, Kenya, Uganda), religion (Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims) and cultures.

“For everyone in India life was a struggle to earn his daily bread. Even with work you would sweat to earn 200 rupees (approx. £1.50). With that they had to keep their families for a month.

I saw for myself those who had been to England come back wearing brand new suits and loaded with money... Oh how the daughters back home rushed to their doors!

Those who had been to England to work could send money home each month and still afford to buy land or build a fine house in India on their return. Surely if they could do all this, I could do the same”

Rampal and his family published in 1971



“In 1962 I left Pakistan and went to Nottingham. I knew I wasn’t going to get any better job than being a British Railway cleaner. I had seen qualified people from my country who had been teachers and barristers and none of them got proper work.

They were labourers, bus conductors and railway cleaners like me. Many times we could read and write much better than the people who were in charge of us. They knew I have been a Customs Inspector in Pakistan, but that didn’t matter”

Thinking about these two men's experiences, what are the main differences?

A Pakistani immigrant comments in the late 1980s about his experiences in the 60s coming to Britain

