

Black History Month: The Windrush Generation

The Windrush Generation refers to the people who arrived in the United Kingdom from Caribbean countries between 1948 and 1971. At this time, the Caribbean was part of the British Commonwealth, so they were allowed to travel to and work in the UK as British subjects. The name comes from the ship **HMT Empire Windrush**, which brought one of the first large groups of West Indian immigrants to Britain in 1948. However, this was not the first ship arriving to the UK with people from the British Commonwealth. Many of these people had skills the UK needed and they were invited to help rebuild the country after World War II, as there was a shortage of workers.

The Windrush Generation played an important role in British society, contributing significantly to the economy and the development of public services, especially the National Health Service (NHS). At this time Caribbean countries were struggling financially, so jobs in the UK offered a fresh opportunity. However, despite their contributions and help, many faced racism and discrimination, both in the workplace and in everyday life.

In recent years, there has been a lot of discussion around the treatment of the Windrush Generation. The 1971 Immigration Act gave Commonwealth citizens living in the UK the permanent right to live and work in the UK, but in 2018 it was found that the UK Home Office had kept no records of those allowed to stay. Many of them arrived in the UK as children on their parents' passports, so there was no evidence of their arrival and to make it worse, the Home Office had destroyed the landing cards and paperwork of the original travellers. Those unable to prove when they arrived, were not given access to work, housing or healthcare, some were held in detention camps and risked being deported as illegal immigrants. This caused public anger and apologies from the Government.

Questions

1. Where did the name Windrush Generation come from?

2. Label the Caribbean on this map.



3. Why were people from the Caribbean invited to the UK after World War II?

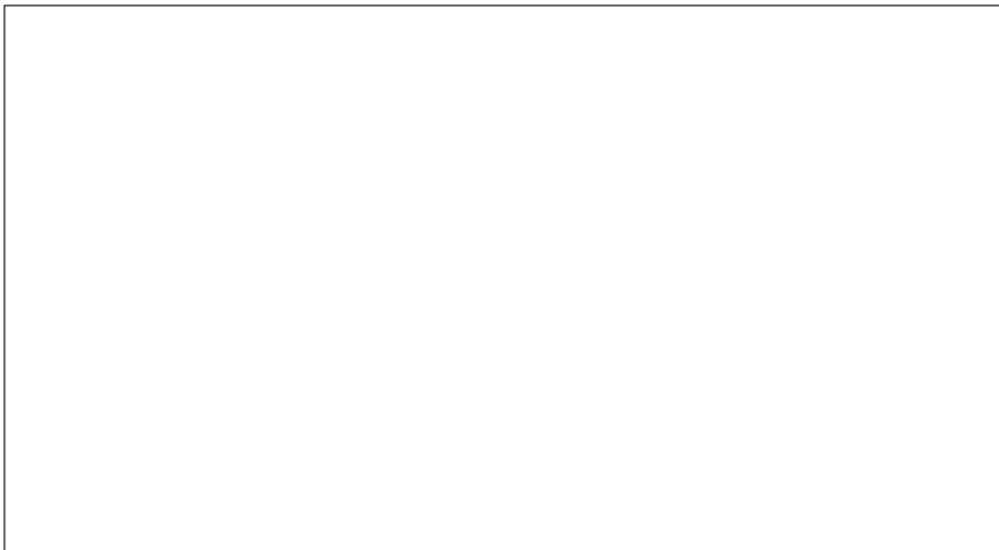
4. Why were they allowed to travel and stay in the UK?

5. In what year was the Immigration Act passed?

6. How did the Windrush Generation help improve British society?

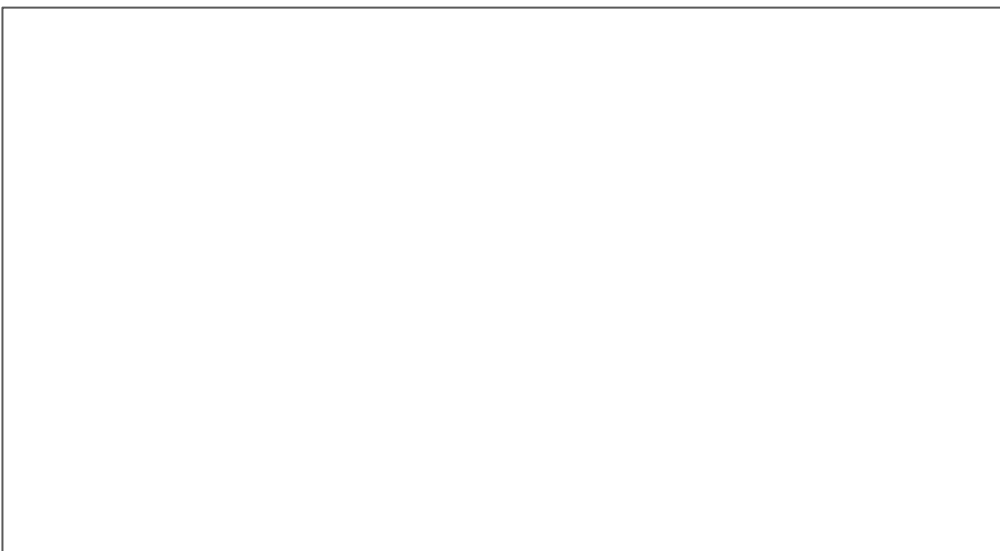
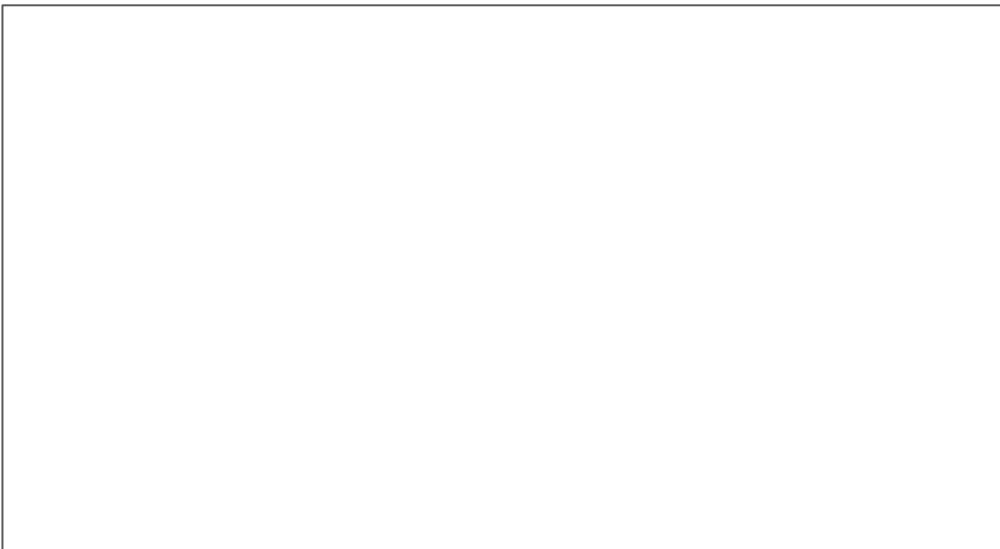
7. What happened to the Windrush Generation in 2018?

8. Use the  Add Media Tool, then  Google Image Search to find a photo of HMS Windrush



9. What feelings do you think the travellers were having on the ship? Think about the women, children and men onboard.

10. Use the  Add Media Tool, then  Google Image Search to find photos of the women, children and men as they arrived in the UK



11. What fashion trends did you notice in the photographs?

Men's Fashion

What did they wear?

How might this have been different to UK clothes at the time? (Style, patterns, colour, material, accessories)

Women's Fashion

What did they wear?

How might this have been different to UK clothes at the time? (Style, patterns, colour, material, accessories)

12. Why do you think it was so important for them to look well dressed?

13. Think about how life was different for the people who travelled to Britain.

Life in the UK

Weather

Housing

People

Food

Schools

The local area and landscape

Jobs available

Life in the Caribbean

Weather

Housing

People

Food

Schools

The local area and landscape

Jobs available