

Who has come to Britain?

LI: To investigate why individuals settled in Britain



Starter

1. What period in History do you think this is?
2. Who do you think these people are?



Britain Post WWII



After losing many soldiers during WWII, Britain had a shortage of workers and needed labourers to build up the country.

The British Government encouraged members from the British Empire, to come to Britain for work.

Britain Post WWII

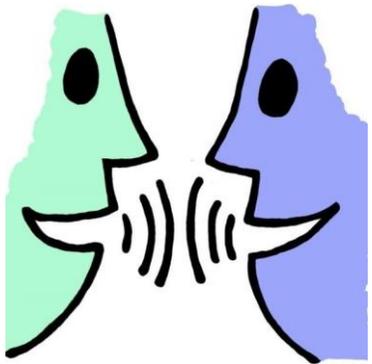
Passenger Opportunity
To United Kingdom

Troopship "EMPIRE WINDRUSH" sailing
about 23rd MAY.

Fares:— Cabin Class	£43
Troopdeck	£28

Royal Mail Lines, Limited—8 Port Royal St.

*Source 1:
Extract
found in a
local
newspaper
in Jamaica.*

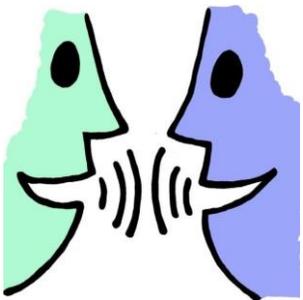


How do you think people felt when they saw the posters encouraging them to come to Britain?

Empire Windrush

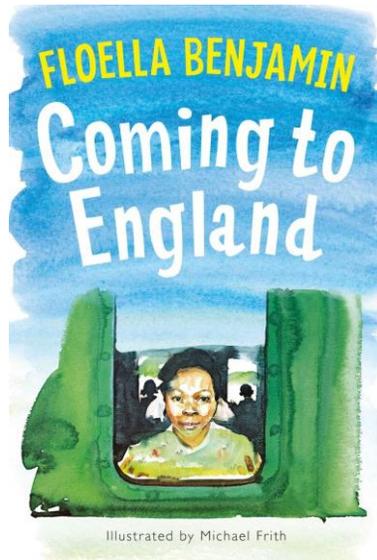


In 1948, Empire Windrush, set for sail to Britain. It carried passengers from the Caribbean, who were migrating to Britain for more work opportunities and some wanted to see the 'Mother Country'.
(See notes for video link)



Which dock did Empire Windrush stop at?
Name one country where most passengers came from.

Floella's experience



Chapter Seven The Last Goodbye



Out of the blue – actually it was fifteen months after Marmie had left – we got a letter telling us she had made arrangements for all four of us to join her in England. It was during the August school holidays and Sandra and I hugged and danced for joy. Our prayers had been answered. We were on our way to being one big happy family again.

The time leading up to our departure was a hive of activity. We had two weeks in which to pack and say goodbye to everyone. Auntie and Uncle started being really nice to us. I suppose they wanted us to tell our parents how good they had been to us. This wasn't true, of course, but I forgave them; I would forgive anyone anything because I was so happy. I couldn't sleep at night, I was too restless with excitement. At that moment in time I had no sad thoughts about leaving my country behind, even though I might not see it again for a very long time. Nothing occupied

I was standing next to the wall with the painted bull's-eye when some boys came up and spat strange words at me, words that I had never heard before but from their faces I knew they were not nice words. They were words which told me I was different from them and that they felt my kind shouldn't be in their country. I looked at them, confused and baffled like a trapped, helpless creature. What was 'my kind' and why shouldn't I be in the country I was brought up to love? The land of hope and glory, mother of the free. I began to feel angry and violent as I stood and watched their ugly faces jeering at me. But they might as well have been talking in a foreign language because I didn't understand the words they were shouting. I didn't let them make me cry though, I had learned how to be tough during the time Marmie had left us in Trinidad. When I got home and asked Marmie what the words meant, she looked sad and sat us all down and slowly explained that because of the colour of our skin some people were going to be cruel and nasty to us. But we must be strong, make something of ourselves and never let them get the better of us. That was the day I realized that in the eyes of some in this world I was not a person but a colour.

Key questions:

- How did Floella feel when she found out she was moving to England?
- How did her emotions change when she started school?
- What was Floella experiencing?

Activity

It's 1948 and you live in the Caribbean. Your parents tell you about wonderful England and about the opportunity to move there.

How are you feeling?
What are you expecting?



In groups you will role play different scenes detailing the journey of the Windrush Generation:

- One group will role play a scene in Jamaica where a family sees the poster
- One group will role play the journey on Empire Windrush
- One group will role play what life in Britain is like



Further Research

During WWII many young men and women from the Caribbean, had served in the British armed forces because at time, some Caribbean countries were still ruled by Britain and had not gained their independence.

After the war, some of these workers took on the advertisement to find work in the 'Mother Country' Britain. Others just wanted to see what life in Britain was like. Travel was arranged for people to travel to Britain and the ship set sail in 1948.

When teaching this topic, is important that children understand that the Windrush Generation were invited and encouraged to come and settle in Britain. This will help children to better understand the Windrush Scandal.