

Windrush Day



St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Trinidad and Tobago

twinkl



twinkl
Quality Standard
Approved

Aims

- To understand what Windrush Day is and why it is celebrated.
- To find out how Windrush Day is celebrated around the country.
- To learn more about the Windrush generation.
- To recognise that Britain is a multicultural society.



Have you experienced changes in your life?

Throughout our lives we face lots of changes and new beginnings. Can you think of any big changes that have happened in your life?

starting a new school



being part of a new family



moving house



going to live in a new country



In our assembly today, we will learn about some people who faced very big changes when they left their home behind to start a new life in a different country.

starting a new class



Why might people go to live in a new country?

Can you think of reasons why people may leave one country and travel to a new place to live?

Why did people move to Britain after the Second World War?

After the Second World War ended in 1945, Britain was faced with a shortage of workers. They needed people to help rebuild the economy and the country. An invitation was sent out to people in the British Commonwealth encouraging them to come to Britain to live and work. The British Commonwealth included countries that had once been part of the British Empire.

In the past, Britain had an empire made up of countries known as colonies. A colony is a country or area under the political control of another country that is often a great distance away.

Nowadays, Britain has an equal relationship with some distant countries. These are now referred to as British Overseas Territories. The people living in them have governments of their own to make decisions.

Who were the Windrush generation?

The Caribbean is a group of tropical islands off the coast of Central America. Nowadays, many people travel to the Caribbean to go on luxury holidays.

As part of the British Commonwealth, children in these countries learnt English and were taught British history.

People living on islands, such as Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago were offered the opportunity to start a new life in the United Kingdom.



What journey did they make?

1027 passengers made the long journey across the Atlantic Ocean on the Empire Windrush.

People boarded the ship at ports in Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Mexico, Cuba and Bermuda before crossing the Atlantic Ocean and arriving in Essex, UK.

It took about 22 days to make the 8,000 mile journey.



When did they arrive in Britain?

On 22nd June 1948, the first 492 Caribbean people arrived at Tilbury Docks in Essex. They had left their homes behind and were embarking on a new life in a country thousands of miles away.

The passengers had many skills to offer. There were carpenters, mechanics, cleaners, nurses and steel workers. They soon found work in factories, on the railroads, driving buses and working in the newly formed NHS. Many of the passengers settled in the Brixton area of London, creating large Caribbean communities.



What was life like for settlers from the Caribbean?

The Caribbean people who sailed on the Empire Windrush, and those who followed, were told that they were welcome to come to Britain, the 'mother country'.

Sadly, the reality of arriving in post-war Britain was very different for many immigrants.

Many of the Caribbean people were treated badly because of the colour of their skin or because they had been born in a different country. Some were refused work and could not find places to live. In some cases, shopkeepers refused to serve them. Many Caribbean people, including children, were called names in the street.

Discrimination and racism left many of the first Caribbean workers feeling afraid, angry, isolated and rejected.



Did migration continue after the arrival of the Empire Windrush?

The arrival of the Empire Windrush in 1948 was only the beginning of the migration of Caribbean people to Britain. It continued for many years before slowing down in the early 1960s. By this time, hundreds of thousands of Caribbean people had moved to the UK.



How did the arrival of the Windrush generation change Britain?

Without these essential workers from overseas, it is unlikely that Britain would have been able to recover as quickly as it did from the effects of the Second World War. They made an enormous contribution to getting Britain up and running again after the war.

The migration of Caribbean workers helped to make Britain a multicultural and a multiracial society. New languages, fashions, foods and ideas were introduced.

Since 1966, the Notting Hill Carnival has been held in Notting Hill, London, to celebrate Caribbean culture. For three days the streets are filled with music, dancing, food, incredible costumes and carnival floats, as the whole community comes together.



How did the arrival of the Windrush generation change Britain?

Although discrimination and racism sadly still affect some members of the Caribbean community today, their arrival in 1948 was an important step in making Britain a more tolerant and diverse society.



officially
the first
ved to mark
the

When is Windrush Day?

In recent times, there has been a
move to recognise the importance
that the Caribbean community
has played in the development of
modern day Britain.

In 1998, to mark the 50th
anniversary of the arrival of the
Empire Windrush, the area outside
the Tate Library in Brixton was
renamed 'Windrush Square'.



What Is the National Windrush Monument?



"Windrush Memorial" by Matt Brown is licenced under [CC BY 2.0](#) (cropped from original)

On Windrush Day 2022, the National Windrush Monument created by Jamaican sculptor Basil Watson was unveiled at London Waterloo Station.

Members of the Windrush generation, including the Benjamin, joined HRH Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to witness the unveiling of the bridge to women and children who travelled to the UK to make a difference to society. The sculpture shows a man, woman and child dressed in their 'Sunday best' on top of a pile of suitcases.

How is Windrush Day celebrated?

The government provides £500,000 funding each year for different projects to mark Windrush Day. Community groups, councils, charities and schools can all apply for funding if they have a project to celebrate Windrush.

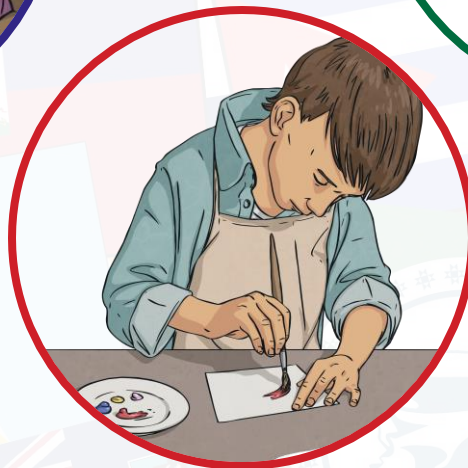
There are lots of different activities which take place around the country to mark Windrush Day. In previous years, these have included:

- storytelling events
- poetry workshops
- art exhibitions and competitions
- dance and theatre groups
- recording the memories of Windrush settlers
- festivals



How could you celebrate Windrush Day?

Windrush Day is a great opportunity to celebrate difference and promote diversity. What could you do on this theme?





St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Trinidad and Tobago