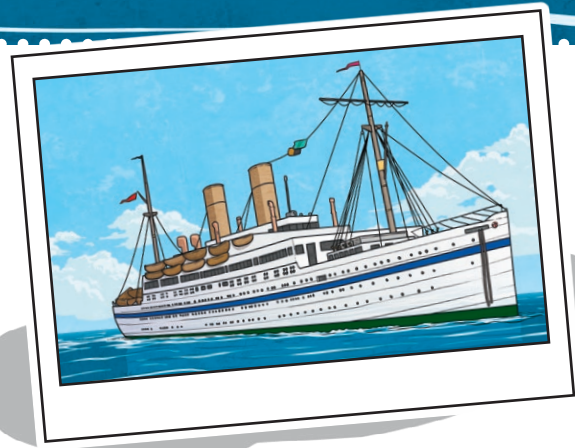


# The Windrush

## What Was the Empire Windrush?

HMT Empire Windrush was a ship that first began sailing in 1930. It used to be called MV Monte Rosa. During the Second World War, it was used as a troopship to transport German soldiers from country to country. At the end of the war, it was seized by the United Kingdom as a 'prize of war' and was used to transport British troops instead. It was then renamed and became the Empire Windrush.



## What Was Life like for the Windrush Generation?

Many of the Windrush generation faced challenges and a mixed response from society. While some British people were welcoming, many Black immigrants suffered discrimination and struggled to find housing because of their race. Some felt excluded from society because of this. There were instances of violence and riots broke out in some major cities.

The Windrush generation played an important part in helping rebuild Britain's economy. Many of them worked in industries, such as transport, manufacturing and the National Health Service.

Additionally, the Windrush generation played a vital role in shaping British society. In 1959, an indoor Caribbean carnival was created in London; in 1966, this became an outdoor festival known as the Notting Hill Carnival. It was created as a celebration of cultures and is now an annual event in London, helping to bring people from different communities together. It is famous for its vibrant colours, dancing and lively atmosphere.

## Who Were the Windrush Generation?

In 1948, the United Kingdom was recovering from the effects of the Second World War; the country was struggling financially and there was a shortage of workers. The British government tried to encourage members of the Commonwealth of Nations to emigrate by offering cheap travel to anyone who wanted to work in the UK. This attracted many people from Caribbean countries.

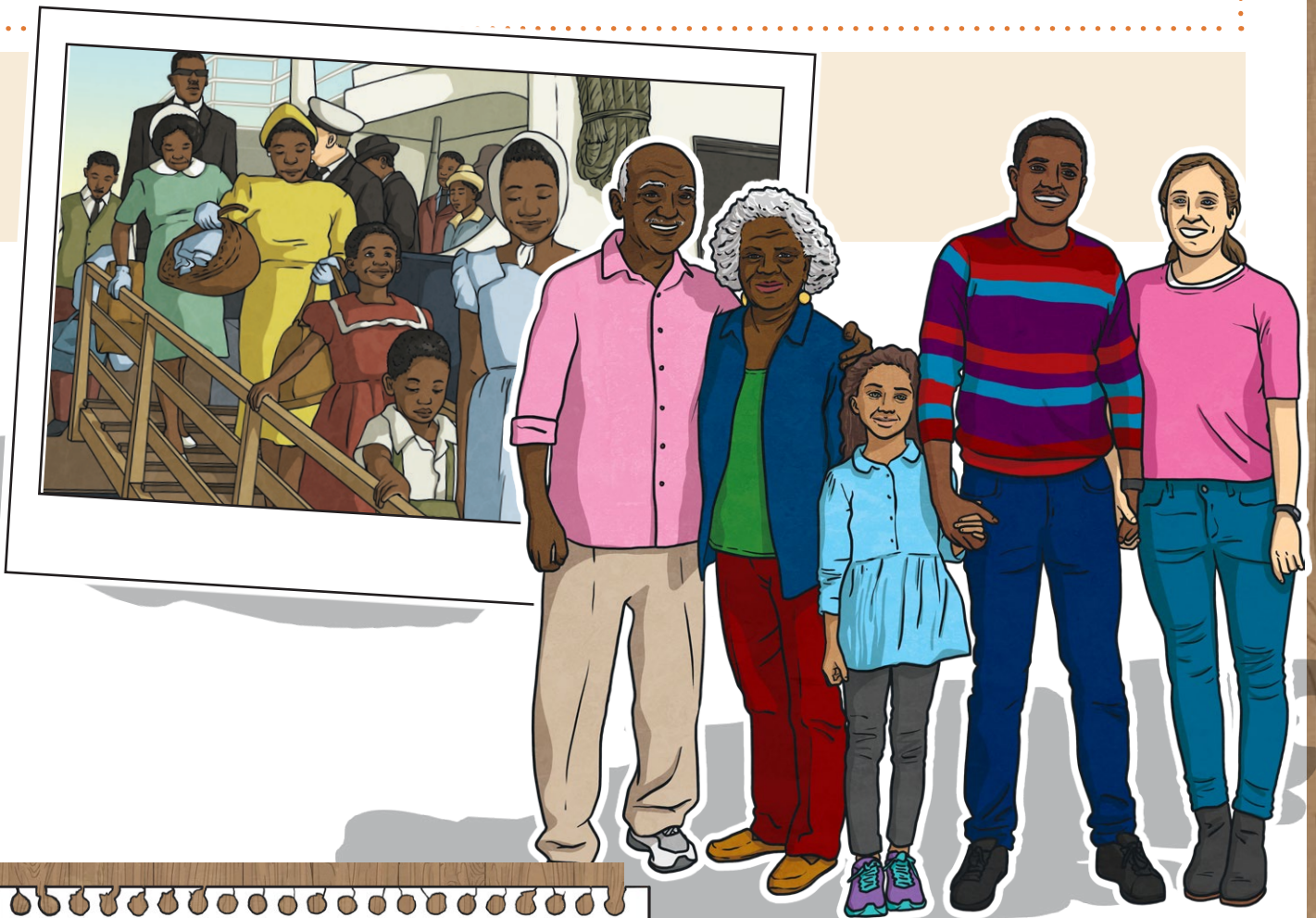
In May 1948, the Empire Windrush made one of its most famous voyages and transported 1027 passengers from Kingston in Jamaica to London; these people later became known as the Windrush generation. Although many people only planned to stay for a few years, the majority remained in the UK permanently.



## What Was the Windrush Scandal?

In 2018, some of the Windrush generation were threatened with **deportation** from the UK and arrested. This became known as the Windrush scandal. Although people had worked and lived in the UK for decades, some were told that they were living there illegally because they had no official paperwork. Some people lost their jobs while others were refused healthcare.

In April 2018, the British Prime Minister, Theresa May, apologised for the government's treatment of the Windrush generation and assured their right to remain in the UK. National Windrush Day was established on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018. It became an annual day of recognition to honour the contributions that the Windrush generation made to British society and culture.



## Glossary

**deportation:** To force somebody to leave a country.

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# Questions

1. When was an indoor Caribbean carnival first created? Tick one.

- ☐ 1948
- ☐ 1959
- ☐ 1966
- ☐ 1975

2. Draw **four** lines and match each sub-heading to the corresponding sentence from that section.

**What Was the Empire Windrush?**

The country was struggling financially and had a shortage of workers.

**Who Were the Windrush Generation?**

Many of the Windrush generation faced challenges and a mixed response from society.

**What Was Life like for the Windrush Generation?**

HMT Empire Windrush first began sailing in 1930.

**What Was the Windrush Scandal?**

National Windrush Day was established on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018.

3. Look at the sub-heading called **Who Were the Windrush Generation?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'not expensive'.

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4. Who apologised for the treatment of the Windrush generation in April 2018?

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5. Fill in the missing words.

This \_\_\_\_\_ many people from Caribbean  
\_\_\_\_\_.

6. Why do you think some people from the Caribbean may have wanted to move to the UK?

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7. Summarise what you learnt about the Empire Windrush in 30 words or fewer.

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8. **It is famous for its vibrant colours...**

What do you think the author was trying to suggest about Notting Hill Carnival by their use of the word 'vibrant'?

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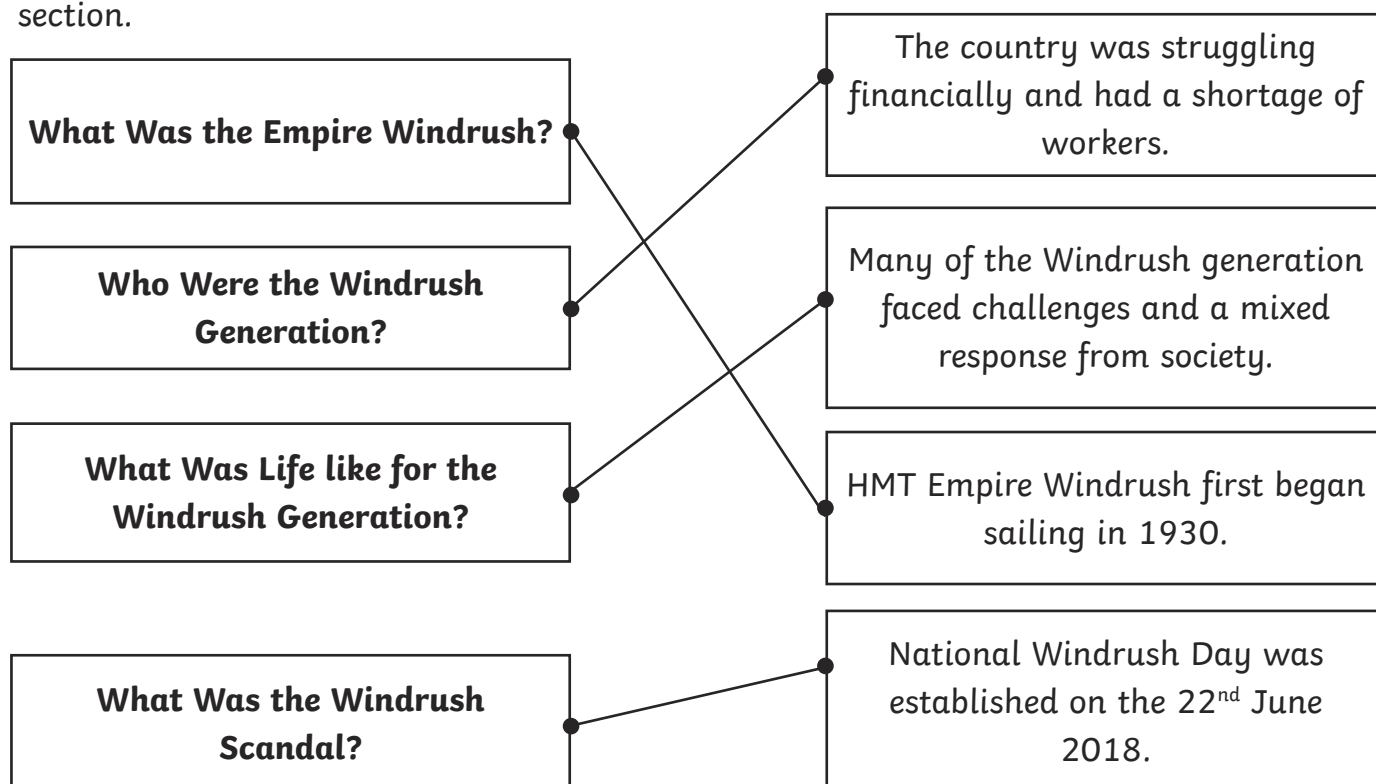


# Answers

1. When was an indoor Caribbean carnival first created? Tick one.

- ☐ 1948
- ☒ **1959**
- ☐ 1966
- ☐ 1975

2. Draw **four** lines and match each sub-heading to the corresponding sentence from that section.



3. Look at the sub-heading called **Who Were the Windrush Generation?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'not expensive'.

**cheap**

4. Who apologised for the treatment of the Windrush generation in April 2018?

**Theresa May apologised for the treatment of the Windrush generation in April 2018.**

5. Fill in the missing words.

This **attracted** many people from Caribbean **countries**.

6. Why do you think some people from the Caribbean may have wanted to move to the UK?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that some people from the Caribbean may have wanted to move to the UK because it may have seemed like an exciting opportunity and an adventure.**

7. Summarise what you learnt about the Empire Windrush in 30 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The Empire Windrush was first called MV Monte Rosa. It transported German soldiers during the Second World War. It was seized by the UK and used to transport British troops.**

8. **It is famous for its vibrant colours...**

What do you think the author was trying to suggest about Notting Hill Carnival by their use of the word 'vibrant'?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author was trying to suggest that Notting Hill Carnival is very bright and colourful by their use of the word 'vibrant'.**

# The Windrush

## What Was the Empire Windrush?

HMT Empire Windrush first began sailing in 1930 and was formerly called MV Monte Rosa. It was originally used as a cruise ship; however, during the Second World War, it was used as a troopship to transport German soldiers from country to country. At the end of the war, it was seized by the United Kingdom as a 'prize of war' and was used to transport British troops instead. It was then that the ship was given the new name - Empire Windrush. It served as a British vessel until March 1954 when, while sailing off the coast of Algeria, a fire broke out. The Empire Windrush could not be rescued and eventually sank in the Mediterranean Sea.



## What Was Life like for the Windrush Generation?

The media celebrated the arrival of passengers of the Empire Windrush who had come to Britain to help rebuild the country's economy. However, many of the Windrush generation faced challenges and a mixed response from society. While some British people were welcoming, many Black immigrants suffered discrimination and struggled to find housing because of their race; some felt excluded from much of the social and economic life around them. There were instances of violence and riots broke out in some major cities.

Although they had hoped to find jobs in areas that they had worked in before emigrating from the Caribbean, many accepted positions that they were overqualified for. Many of the Windrush generation worked in key industries, such as transport, manufacturing and the National Health Service (NHS); they played an important part in rebuilding Britain's economy.

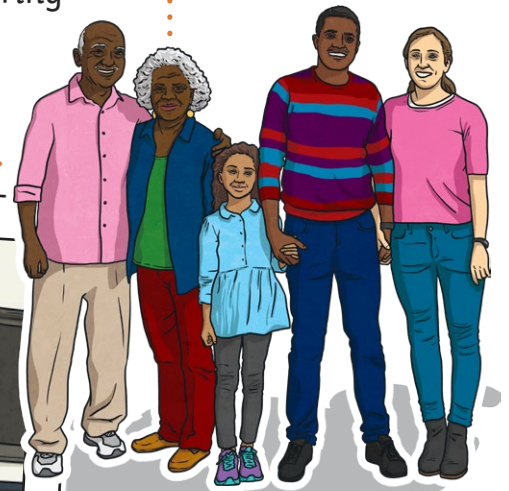
## Who Were the Windrush Generation?

In 1948, the United Kingdom was recovering from the devastating effects of the Second World War; the country was struggling financially and had a shortage of workers. The British government tried to encourage members of the Commonwealth of Nations to emigrate by offering affordable travel to anyone who wanted to work in the UK - this attracted many people from Caribbean countries.

In May 1948, the Empire Windrush made one of its most famous voyages and transported 1027 passengers from Kingston in Jamaica to London; these people later became known as the Windrush generation. Although many people only planned to stay for a few years, the majority remained in the UK permanently.



Despite facing prejudices, the Windrush generation played a vital role in shaping British society by introducing their culture, food and music. In 1959, an indoor Caribbean carnival was created in London; in 1966, this became an outdoor festival known as the Notting Hill Carnival. It was created as a celebration of cultural diversity and is now an annual event in London, helping to bring people from different communities together. It is famous for its vibrant colours, dancing and lively atmosphere.



### What Was the Windrush Scandal?

In 2018, some of the Windrush generation, who had lived in Britain for years, were threatened with deportation from the UK and arrested. This became known as the Windrush scandal. Although people had worked and lived in the UK for decades, some were told that they were living in the UK illegally because they had no official paperwork. While some people lost their jobs, others were refused NHS care or benefits.

In April 2018, the British Prime Minister, Theresa May, apologised for the government's treatment of the Windrush generation and assured their right to remain in the UK. National Windrush Day was established on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018; it became an annual day of recognition in order to honour the contributions that the Windrush generation made to British society and culture.

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# Questions

1. When is National Windrush Day? Tick one.

- ☐ 20<sup>th</sup> April  
☐ 21<sup>st</sup> May  
☐ 22<sup>nd</sup> June  
☐ 23<sup>rd</sup> July

2. Draw **four** lines and match each sub-heading to the corresponding sentence from that section.

**What Was the Empire Windrush?**

The British government tried to encourage members of the Commonwealth of Nations to emigrate.

**Who Were the Windrush Generation?**

The media celebrated the arrival of passengers of the Empire Windrush who had come to Britain to help rebuild the country's economy.

**What Was Life like for the Windrush Generation?**

Some people lost their jobs while others were refused NHS care or benefits.

**What Was the Windrush Scandal?**

It served as a British vessel until March 1954.

3. Look at the sub-heading called **What Was the Windrush Scandal?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'against the law'.

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4. What was Empire Windrush first called?

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5. Fill in the missing words.

It became an \_\_\_\_\_ day of recognition in order to honour the contributions that the Windrush generation made to British \_\_\_\_\_ and culture.

6. Why do you think many of the Windrush generation decided to stay in the UK permanently?

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7. Name one way in which you think life may have been different for people moving from the Caribbean to the United Kingdom.

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8. Predict what you may see or hear at Notting Hill Carnival.

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9. ... it was seized by the United Kingdom as a 'prize of war'...

What do you think the author meant by the term 'prize of war'?

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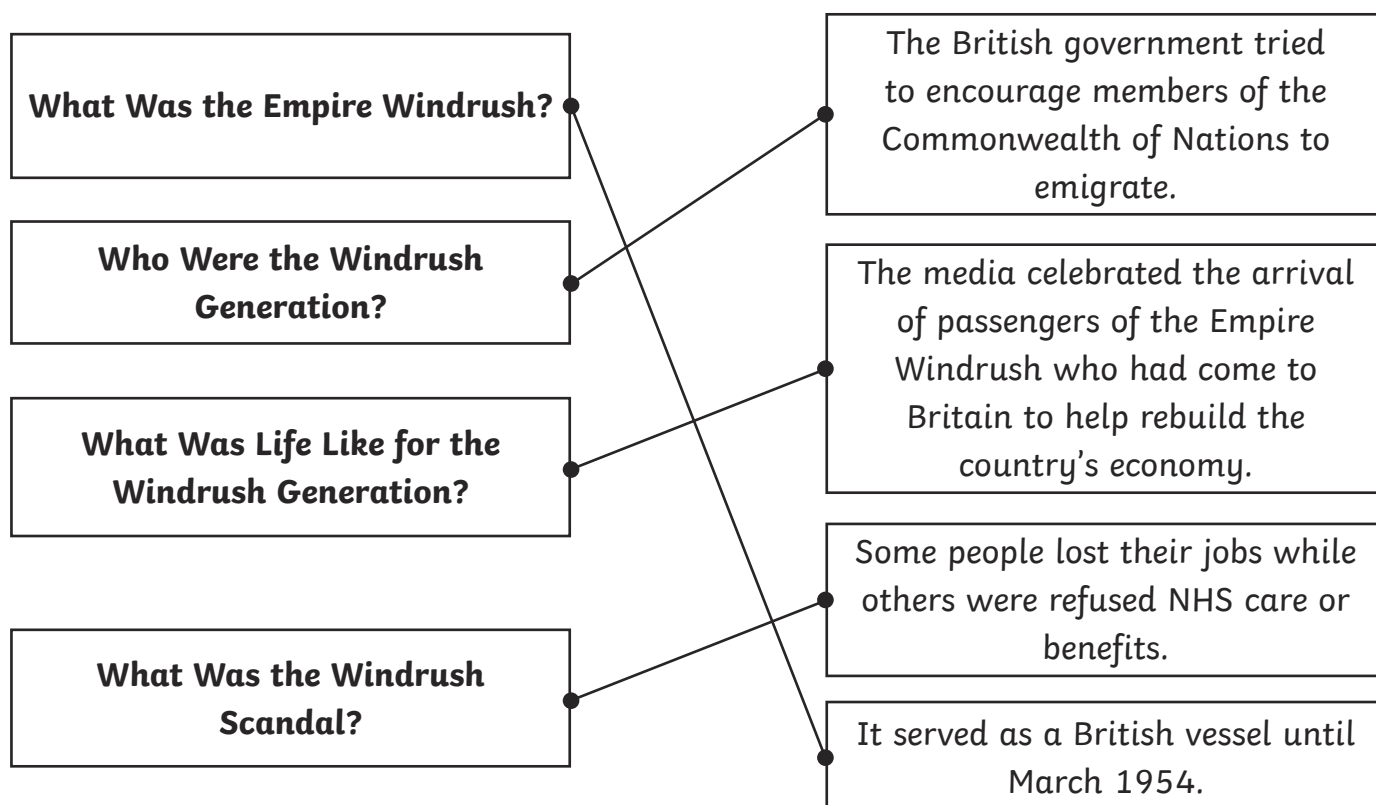
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# Answers

1. When is National Windrush Day? Tick one.

- ☐ 20<sup>th</sup> April  
☐ 21<sup>st</sup> May  
☒ **22<sup>nd</sup> June**  
☐ 23<sup>rd</sup> July

2. Draw **four** lines and match each sub-heading to the corresponding sentence from that section.



3. Look at the sub-heading called **What Was the Windrush Scandal?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'against the law'.

**illegally**

4. What was Empire Windrush first called?

**Empire Windrush was first called MV Monte Rosa.**

5. Fill in the missing words.

It became an **annual** day of recognition in order to honour the contributions that the Windrush generation made to British **society** and culture.

6. Why do you think many of the Windrush generation decided to stay in the UK permanently?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that many of the Windrush generation decided to stay in the UK permanently because they may have settled down and started a family there.**

7. Name one way in which you think life may have been different for people moving from the Caribbean to the United Kingdom.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the weather may have been very different for people moving from the Caribbean to the United Kingdom. It would have been much colder in the United Kingdom.**

8. Predict what you may see or hear at Notting Hill Carnival.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I predict that I may see colourful outfits and parades at Notting Hill Carnival. I think that I would hear loud music and see crowds of people dancing to it.**

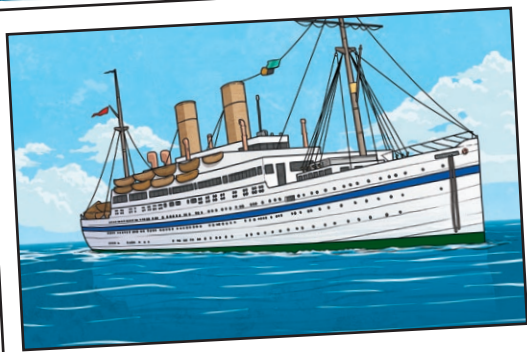
9. ... it was seized by the United Kingdom as a 'prize of war'...

What do you think the author meant by the term 'prize of war'?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author means that the ship was taken after the war by the United Kingdom to show their power.**



# The Windrush



## Who Were the Windrush Generation?

In 1948, the United Kingdom was recovering from the devastating effects of the Second World War; the country was struggling financially and had a serious shortage of labourers. The British government tried to encourage members of the Commonwealth of Nations to emigrate by offering affordable travel to anyone who wanted to relocate and work in the UK; this attracted many people from Caribbean countries.

As a result of this, in May 1948, the Empire Windrush made one of its most famous voyages and transported 1027 passengers from Kingston in Jamaica to London. The passengers included men, women and children and they later became known as the Windrush generation. Although many people only planned to stay for a few years, the majority remained in the UK permanently.

## What Was the Empire Windrush?

HMT Empire Windrush first began sailing in 1930 and was formerly called MV Monte Rosa. It was originally used as a cruise ship; however, during the Second World War, it was used as a troopship to transport German soldiers from country to country. At the end of the war, it was seized by the United Kingdom as a 'prize of war' and was used to transport British troops instead. It was then that the ship was given the new name - Empire Windrush. It served as a British vessel until March 1954 when, while sailing off the coast of Algeria, a fire broke out. The majority of people survived but the Empire Windrush could not be rescued and eventually sank in the Mediterranean Sea; the wreck still lies approximately 2800 metres below sea level.

## What Was Life like for the Windrush Generation?

The media celebrated the arrival of passengers of the Empire Windrush who had come to Britain to help rebuild the country's economy; however, many of the Windrush generation faced challenges and a mixed response from society. While some British people were welcoming, many Black immigrants suffered discrimination and struggled to find housing because of their race; they sometimes felt excluded from much of the social and economic life around them. There were instances of violence and riots broke out in some major cities.



Although they had hoped to find jobs in areas that they had worked in before emigrating from the Caribbean, many accepted positions that they were overqualified for. Many of the Windrush generation worked in key industries, such as transport, manufacturing and the National Health Service (NHS); they played an important part in rebuilding Britain's economy.



Despite facing prejudices, the Windrush generation played a vital role in changing and shaping British society by introducing their culture, food and music. In 1959, an indoor Caribbean carnival was created in London; in 1966, this became an outdoor festival known as the Notting Hill Carnival. It was created as a celebration of cultural diversity and is now an annual event in London, helping to bring people from different communities together and promote social cohesion. It is famous for its vibrant colours, dancing and lively atmosphere.



### What Was the Windrush Scandal?

In 2018, some of the Windrush generation, who had lived in Britain for years, were threatened with deportation from the UK and arrested (even if they had been living there since they were a child). This became known as the Windrush scandal. Although people had worked and lived in the UK for decades, many were told that they were living in the UK illegally because they had no official paperwork. While some people lost their jobs, others were refused NHS care or benefits.

In April 2018, the British Prime Minister, Theresa May, apologised for the government's treatment of the Windrush generation and assured their right to remain in the UK. National Windrush Day was established on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018; it became an annual day of recognition in order to honour the contributions that the Windrush generation made to British society and culture.

Disclaimer: Sensitive and/or upsetting topics may emotionally impact your students due to past experiences. You should consider whether this content is appropriate and ensure adequate support is available for anyone affected.

# Questions

1. Where did the Empire Windrush sink? Tick one.

- ☐ Baltic Sea
- ☐ Caribbean Sea
- ☐ Caspian Sea
- ☐ Mediterranean Sea

2. Underline **one** word in the quotation below that suggests that the United Kingdom was finding the situation difficult.

*The country was struggling financially and had a serious shortage of labourers.*

3. Look at the sub-heading called **What Was the Empire Windrush?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'to take something with force'.

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4. Name one key industry that many of the Windrush generation worked in.

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5. Fill in the missing words.

The British government tried to \_\_\_\_\_ members of the Commonwealth of Nations to \_\_\_\_\_.

6. **It is famous for its vibrant colours, dancing and lively atmosphere.**

What do you think the author wanted to show about Notting Hill Carnival by the phrase 'lively atmosphere'?

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7. Summarise some of the challenges that the Windrush generation faced in 30 words or fewer.

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8. Why do you think some people accepted jobs that they were overqualified for?

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9. Predict the impact that National Windrush Day will have for future generations.

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10. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Empire Windrush was formerly called MV Monte Rosa.		
In 1948, the United Kingdom was recovering from the devastating effects of the First World War.		
Empire Windrush set sail in 1948 from Negril in Jamaica.		
In April 2018, Theresa May apologised for the government's treatment of the Windrush generation.		
In 1960, an indoor Caribbean carnival was created in London.		



# Answers

1. Where did the Empire Windrush sink? Tick one.

- ☐ Baltic Sea
- ☐ Caribbean Sea
- ☐ Caspian Sea
- ☒ **Mediterranean Sea**

2. Underline **one** word in the quotation below that suggests that the United Kingdom was finding the situation difficult.

*The country was struggling financially and had a serious shortage of labourers.*

**Award 1 mark for:**

- **struggling**

3. Look at the sub-heading called **What Was the Empire Windrush?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'to take something with force'.

**seized**

4. Name one key industry that many of the Windrush generation worked in.

**Accept any of the following: transport; manufacturing; the National Health Service.**

5. Fill in the missing words.

The British government tried to **encourage** members of the Commonwealth of Nations to **emigrate**.

6. **It is famous for its vibrant colours, dancing and lively atmosphere.**

What do you think the author wanted to show about Notting Hill Carnival by the phrase 'lively atmosphere'?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author wanted to show that Notting Hill Carnival is a fun, energetic and busy place to be by the phrase 'lively atmosphere'.**

7. Summarise some of the challenges that the Windrush generation faced in 30 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The Windrush generation faced racial discrimination from some people. Some Black people found it hard to find housing and there were riots in some cities.**

8. Why do you think some people accepted jobs that they were overqualified for?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that some people accepted jobs that they were overqualified for because they needed to earn money to live.**

9. Predict the impact that National Windrush Day will have for future generations.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I predict that National Windrush Day will help educate future generations about the importance of the Windrush generation and how they helped shape British society in terms of its economy and culture.**

10. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Empire Windrush was formerly called MV Monte Rosa.	✓	
In 1948, the United Kingdom was recovering from the devastating effects of the First World War.		✓
Empire Windrush set sail in 1948 from Negril in Jamaica.		✓
In April 2018, Theresa May apologised for the government's treatment of the Windrush generation.	✓	
In 1960, an indoor Caribbean carnival was created in London.		✓

**Award 2 marks for all five correct.**

**Award 1 mark for four correct.**