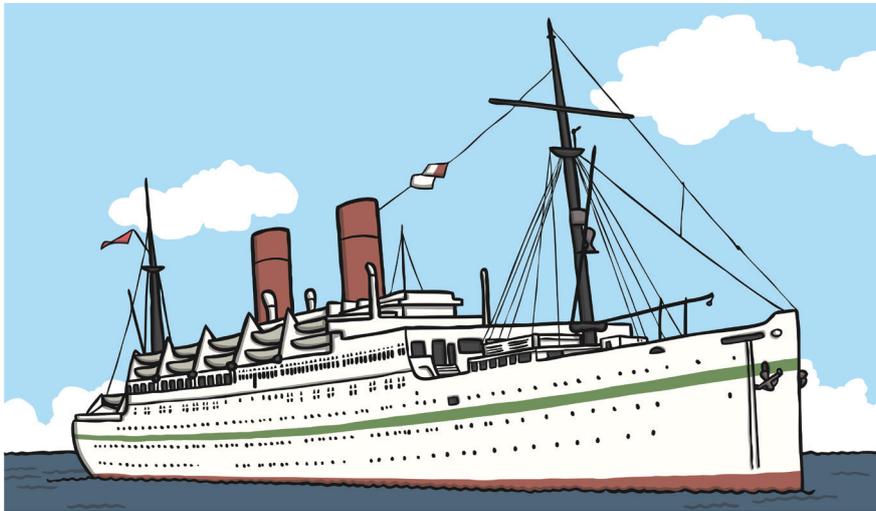


# The Windrush

HMT (Her Majesty's Treasure) Empire Windrush was originally used as a cruise ship and passenger liner and began sailing in 1930. Her first name was actually MV Monte Rosa. However, during the Second World War, she was used as a **troopship** to transport German soldiers from country to country. At the end of the war, she was seized by the United Kingdom as a 'prize of war' and was used to transport British troops instead. It was then that she was given the new name Empire Windrush. She served as a British vessel until March 1954 when, on her way back to the UK, a fire broke out killing four engine crew members. Fortunately, all 1276 passengers survived but she could not be rescued and eventually sank in the Mediterranean Sea. The wreck still lies 2600 metres below the sea.



In 1948, Britain was recovering from the ravages of war. After losing so many soldiers and young men, Britain had a serious shortage of labourers. The British Government tried to encourage immigration to members of the British Empire by offering cheap travel to anyone who wanted to come and work in the UK. This attracted many African-Caribbean people. As a result, the Empire Windrush made one of its most famous voyages and transported 492 passengers from Jamaica to London. These people later became known as the Windrush generation. Although many only planned to stay for a few years, the majority of these **immigrants** remained in the UK permanently. Many of them worked in industries such as transport, rail and the National Health Service and created a large proportion of British workers.

Sadly, it was not plain sailing for many of the Windrush generation. A lot of white people did not welcome them to Britain and treated them as inferior. Caribbean immigrants struggled to find housing simply because of the colour of their skin. They felt excluded from much of the social and economic life

around them and faced much racial discrimination. Clashes between white people and black people was so serious at times that riots broke out in some major cities. However, despite facing these prejudices, the Windrush generation have played a vital role in changing British culture and by the start of the 1970s, British West Indians had become a familiar and established part of the population. In 1959, the Notting Hill Carnival was created as a celebration of **diversity** and is now an annual event in London, helping to bring people from different communities together and to promote social **cohesion**. It is famous for its colour, exotic dances and vibrant atmosphere.

Glossary	
<b>troopship</b>	a ship designed for transporting troops
<b>immigrants</b>	people who come to live permanently in a country
<b>diversity</b>	having different things or different people
<b>cohesion</b>	the action of forming a united whole
<b>vibrant</b>	full of energy and life



# Questions

1. **Find** and **copy** a phrase which means a **reward** for winning the war.

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2. Where can the Empire Windrush be found today?

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3. When did the British Government look to the British colonies for labourers? Tick **one**.

1954

1948

1930

1959

4. How did the British Government encourage people to come and work in the UK?

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5. Fill in the missing words.

These Caribbean people later became known as \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Why has the author of this text decided to use the sentence:

'Sadly, it was not plain sailing for many of the Windrush generation.'

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7. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened.

The Notting Hill Carnival begins.

The Windrush sank.

The Monte Rosa was renamed.

2 The Empire Windrush transports 492 Jamaicans to London.

The Windrush Generation are established in British life.

# Questions

8. What would you expect to see at the Notting Hill Carnival? **Explain** your answer fully.

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# Answers

1. Find and copy a phrase which means a reward for winning the war.

**prize of war**

2. Where can the Empire Windrush be found today?

**The Empire Windrush can be found at the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea.**

3. When did the British Government look to the British colonies for labourers? Tick **one**.

1954

**1948**

1930

1959

4. How did the British Government encourage people to come and work in the UK?

**They offered them cheap travel to the UK.**

5. Fill in the missing words.

These Caribbean people later became known as **Windrush generation**.

6. Why has the author of this text decided to use the sentence:

'Sadly, it was not plain sailing for many of the Windrush generation.'

**Accept answers that explain that the text is about people who sailed to the UK so it suggests that their time in Britain was not smooth and easy just like a journey on a boat is not always smooth.**

7. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened.

The Notting Hill Carnival begins.

The Windrush sank.

The Monte Rosa was renamed.

The Empire Windrush transports 492 Jamaicans to London.

The Windrush Generation are established in British life.

8. What would you expect to see at the Notting Hill Carnival? **Explain** your answer fully.

**Accept answers that refer to at least two of the following:**

- **lots of colour**
- **people dancing in exotic and unusual ways**
- **people full of energy and life**
- **people from different cultures**