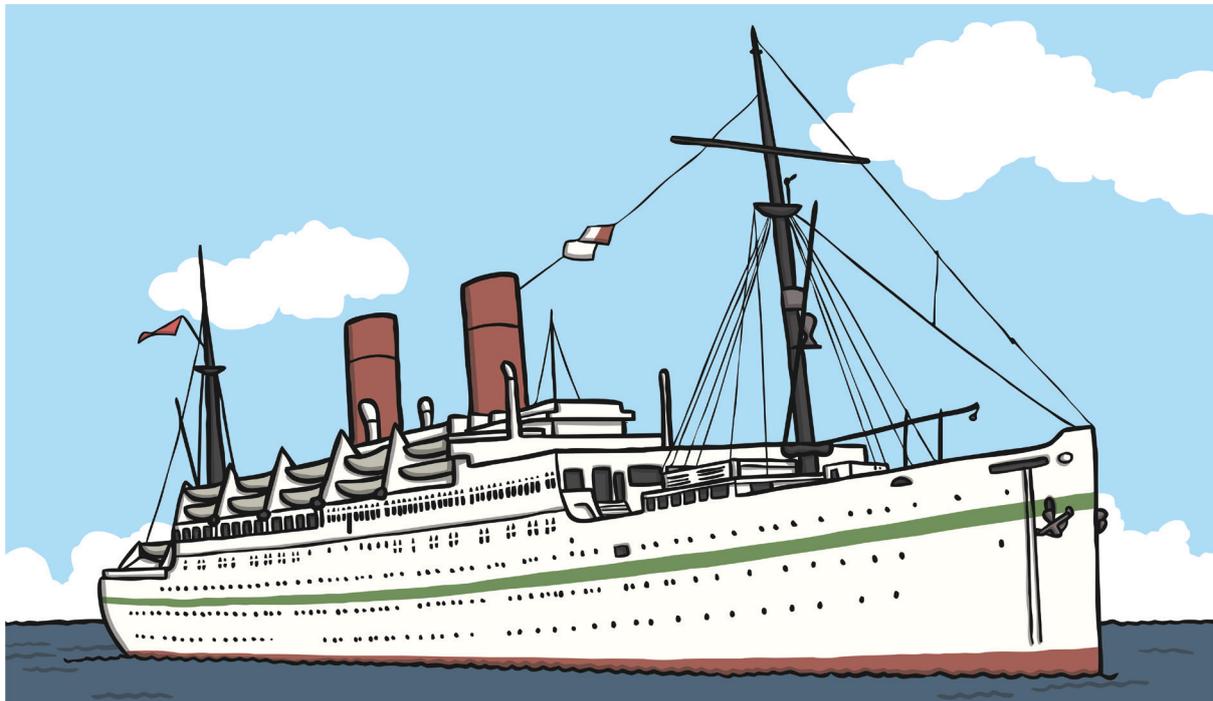


The Windrush

HMT Empire Windrush (whose first name was MV Monte Rosa) was originally used as a cruise ship and passenger liner and began sailing in 1930. During the Second World War, she was used as a German **troopship** but was then acquired by the United Kingdom and used to transport British troops instead. She was then renamed Empire Windrush. In March 1954, on her way back to the UK, a fire broke out killing four engine crew members. Fortunately, all 1276 passengers survived but the ship sadly sank in the Mediterranean Sea. The wreck still lies 2600 metres below the surface of the sea.



In 1948, after losing so many soldiers and young men in the war, Britain had a serious shortage of workers. The British Government tried to encourage members of the British Empire to come and work in the UK. As a result, Empire Windrush made one of its most famous **voyages** and brought 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 people remained in the UK permanently. Many of them worked in industries such as transport, rail and the National Health Service.

Sadly, it was not always an easy life for many of the Windrush generation. A lot of white people did not welcome them to Britain and treated them unfairly. They

sometimes struggled to find housing simply because of the colour of their skin. Clashes between white people and black people were so serious at times that riots broke out in some major cities. Despite these difficulties, the Windrush generation have played a vital role in changing British culture and by the start of the 1970s, West Indians had become a familiar and established part of the British population. In 1959, the Notting Hill Carnival was created as a celebration of diversity. It is now an annual event in London, helping to bring together people from different communities. It is famous for its colour, **exotic** dances and **vibrant** atmosphere.

Glossary

troopship	a ship designed for transporting troops
voyage	a long journey
exotic	from a distant, foreign country
vibrant	full of energy and life



Questions

1. What was the original name of the Empire Windrush?

2. How many passengers were rescued from the Windrush in 1954? Tick **one**.

- 492
- 2600
- 1276
- 600

3. How many passengers did the Empire Windrush transport to London from Jamaica? Tick **one**.

- 492
- 942
- 1276
- 1958

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

5. In which city does the Notting Hill Carnival take place every year? Tick **one**.

- Jamaica
- Manchester
- Berlin
- London

6. **Find** and **copy** a word that showed that immigrants found it **difficult** when they first arrived in the UK.

7. Fill in the missing words.

It is famous for its colour, _____ and vibrant atmosphere.

8. In which year did the Notting Hill Carnival begin? Tick **one**.

- 1948
- 1930
- 1970
- 1959

Answers

1. What was the original name of the Empire Windrush?

MV Monte Rosa

2. How many passengers were rescued from the Windrush in 1954? Tick **one**.

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3. How many passengers did the Empire Windrush transport to London from Jamaica? Tick **one**.

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

Pupil's own response, such as: The British Government encouraged people to come and work in the UK because there was a shortage of workers because lots of young men and women had been killed in the Second World War.

5. In which city does the Notting Hill Carnival take place every year? Tick **one**.

- Jamaica
- Manchester
- Berlin
- London**

6. **Find** and **copy** a word that showed that immigrants found it **difficult** when they first arrived in the UK.

struggled

7. Fill in the missing words.

It is famous for its colour, **exotic dances** and vibrant atmosphere.

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