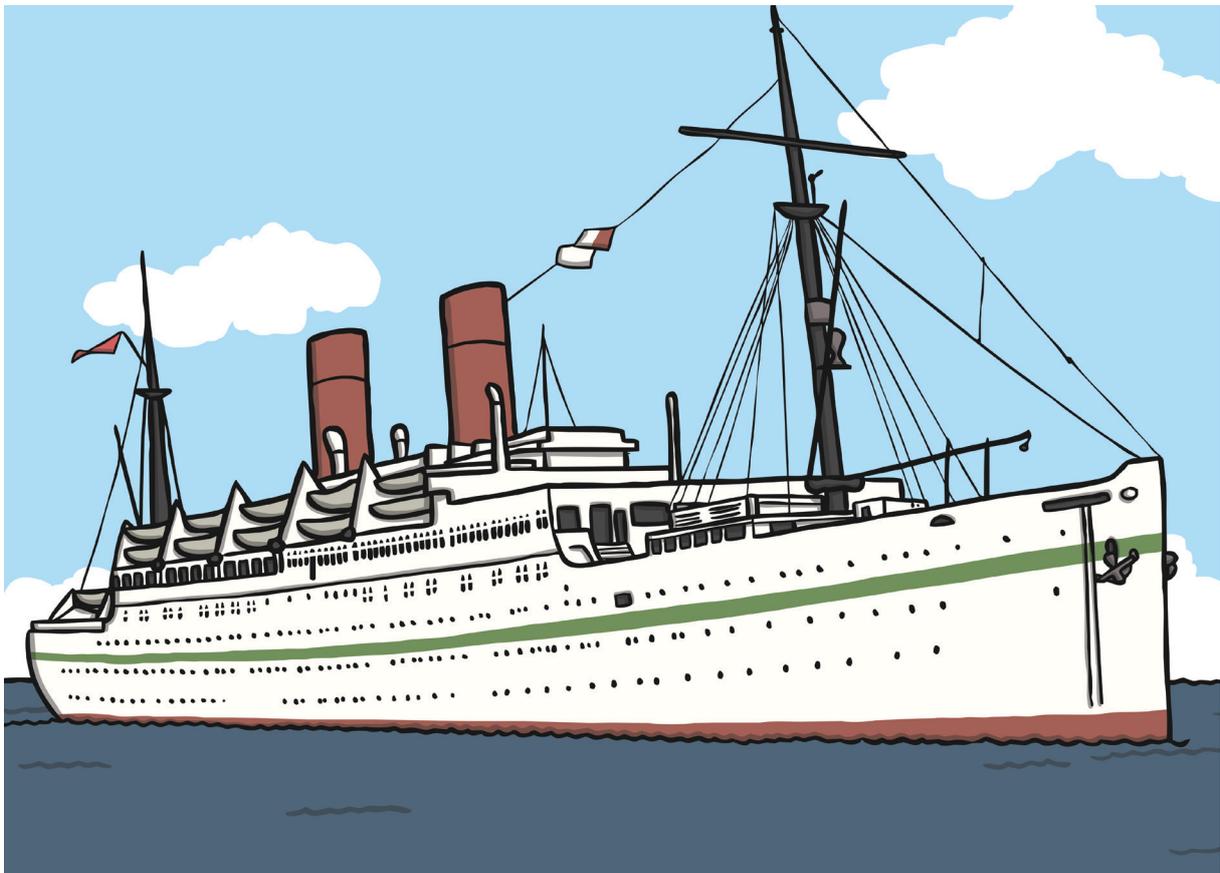


The Windrush

HMT Empire Windrush began sailing in 1930. It was originally used as a cruise ship and passenger liner. However, during the Second World War, she was used as a troopship. At first, she was used to transport German troops from country to country but was then taken over by the British Army to carry British soldiers. On one disastrous journey back to the UK in 1954, a fire broke out killing four engine crew members. Fortunately, all 1276 passengers were saved before she sank in the Mediterranean Sea. The wreck still lies 2600 metres below the surface of the sea.

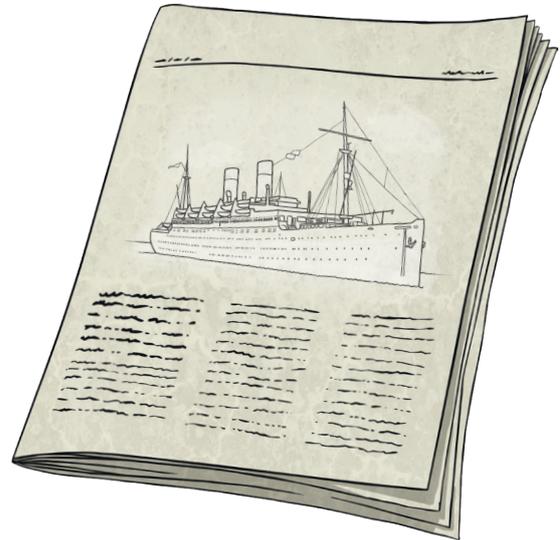
One of Empire Windrush's most famous journeys was in 1948. After many young men and women lost their lives during World War II, Britain had a shortage of workers and needed more labourers. The British government invited people from Jamaica and other British colonies to come and work in the UK. Therefore, the Empire Windrush was sent to collect 492 people from Jamaica and bring them back to London. These people worked in industries such as transport, rail and the National Health Service. Although many of them only planned to stay for a few years, the majority stayed in the UK permanently and have been a huge influence in changing British culture.



Did You Know...?

People living in the Caribbean saw an advert in a newspaper offering them passage to Britain and promising them work once they got there.

Sadly, life wasn't always easy for the new arrivals. Many were treated unfairly by white British people and they even found it difficult to find basic things such as somewhere to live. In 1959, an annual carnival was started in Notting Hill, London as a celebration of people's differences. It continues to bring people from various communities together to this day and is famous for its vibrant colours and exotic dances.



Questions

1. Who **first** used the Empire Windrush as a troopship? Tick **one**.

- The Germans
- The Spanish
- The British
- The Americans

2. In what year did the Windrush sink? Tick **one**.

- 1930
- 1948
- 1954
- 1945

3. How many metres below the sea is the wreck of the Windrush? Tick **one**.

- 1276 metres
- 2600 metres
- 492 metres
- 600 metres

4. **Find** and **copy** a word that means **well-known**.

5. Fill in the missing words.

These people worked in _____ such as transport, rail and the National Health Service.

6. Why was the Notting Hill Carnival set up?

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

- The Empire Windrush brings 492 Jamaicans to London.
- The Empire Windrush sinks.
- 1 The Empire Windrush first sets sail.
- The Notting Hill Carnival begins.

Answers

1. Who **first** used the Empire Windrush as a troopship? Tick **one**.

- The Germans**
- The Spanish
- The British
- The Americans

2. In what year did the Windrush sink? Tick **one**.

- 1930
- 1948
- 1954**
- 1945

3. How many metres below the sea is the wreck of the Windrush? Tick **one**.

- 1276 metres
- 2600 metres**
- 492 metres
- 600 metres

4. Find and copy a word that means **well-known**.

famous

5. Fill in the missing words.

These people worked in **industries** such as transport, rail and the National Health Service.

6. Why was the Notting Hill Carnival set up?

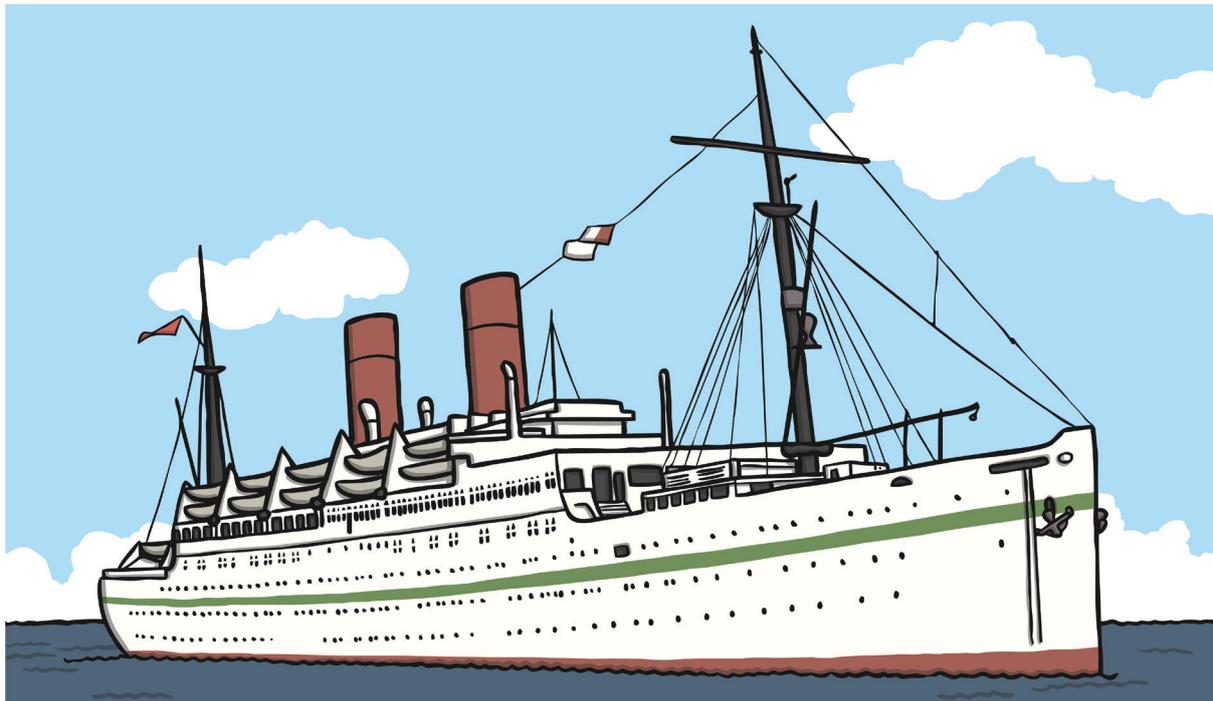
Pupil's own response, such as: The Notting Hill Carnival was set up to celebrate the differences of people living in the area and to bring people from different communities together.

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

- 2 The Empire Windrush brings 492 Jamaicans to London.
- 3 The Empire Windrush sinks.
- 1 The Empire Windrush first sets sail.
- 4 The Notting Hill Carnival begins.

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**.

- 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?

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.

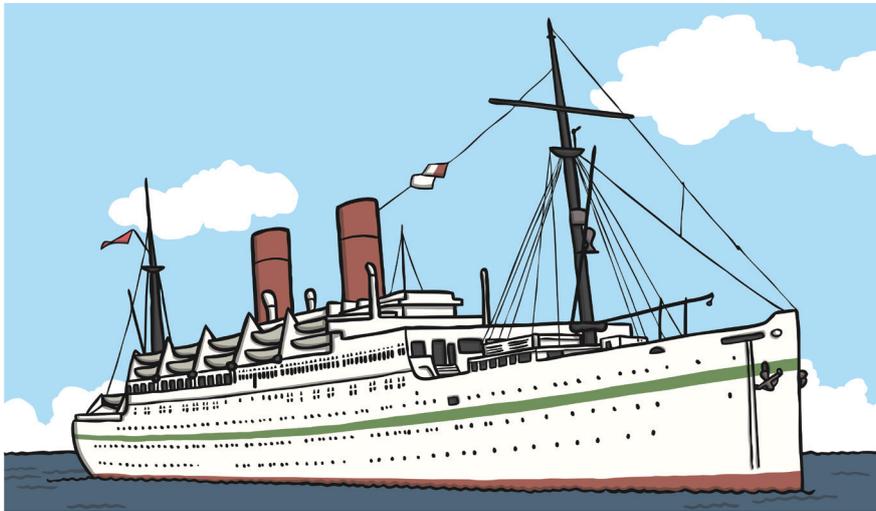
It is famous for its colour, **exotic dances** and vibrant atmosphere.

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

- 1948
- 1930
- 1970
- 1959**

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

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



Questions

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

2. Where can the Empire Windrush be found today?

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?

5. Fill in the missing words.

These Caribbean people later became known as _____

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.'

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.

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**