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# WINDRUSH DAY 2022

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## Family quiz



LEGACY OF WINDRUSH DESCENDANTS AND FRIENDS  
Charity No: 1194788



## History of the Windrush



On June 22nd 1948, 492 men and women and children were allowed to disembark the HMS Windrush. Notice the words 'allowed to disembark' the ship, as it actually arrived at Tilbury docks on the 21st of June, but due to objections in Parliament regarding people of colour arriving into the country. Passengers had to remain on the ship until 22nd June 1948. Sadly, the introduction of the 1948 British Nationality Act was never the intended to allow people from countries with people of a darker hue to enter Britain. The Act actually only intended for Canadians Australians and white South Africans. However, the act was passed still leaving huge concerns Clement Attlee argued that as the ship was going to Africa that the people from the Caribbean should be left there.



## INTRODUCTION

In 1948, Britain was just beginning to recover from the devastating effects of WW2. Cities across the country had been badly bombed, and there were many public buildings and homes that needed to be rebuilt. However, there was a huge shortage of labour to help rebuild the country. During the war, almost 265,000 military men and women, and 67,000 civilians had been killed, with a further 284,000 wounded. The working-age population had been greatly depleted.

To deal with the shortage of working-age men and women, the British government decided to encourage people from other British colonies to migrate to the UK. The British Nationality Act was passed in 1948, which gave everyone who lived in the UK, or any of the British colonies around the world, the same rights to live and work in the UK. At that time, the British colonies included many of the Caribbean islands, including The Bahamas, Barbados, Trinidad and Jamaica.

On 15th April 1948, a small advertisement was placed in a newspaper announcing a 'passenger opportunity' to sail from Jamaica to the UK on the HMT Empire Windrush. The price of a 'troop deck' ticket was £28 (equivalent to around £1000 now).

The ship that brought Caribbean migrants to Britain was once known as the Monte Rosa, a passenger liner and a cruiseship launched in Germany in 1930. During WWII, the Germans used her as a troopship, but after the war she was taken by the British, renamed MV Empire Windrush and became a troopship until March 1954, when she caught fire and sank in the Mediterranean Sea. The ship was said to have been named after the 'River Windrush' which starts in the Cotswold Hills in Gloucestershire. The MV Empire Windrush was the opportunity that hundreds of young Caribbean men and women were hoping would enable them to help the 'Motherland' and their families 'back home'.

Many of the passengers who disembarked on 22 June 1948 had no place to live and so he suggested to the Colonial Office that the Clapham South Deep Shelter, in South London, should be used. The Shelter had been used as a refuge for local people during German bombing raids in WWII and after 1945 to accommodate Italians and German prisoners of war.





## Learning notes:

This pack has been designed to be used by schools and families:

The Legacy Of Windrush Descendants and Friends (LOWD) designed this education pack to highlight the contributions made by the Windrush generations with most of the focus being on Bedford.

**Peter Stapleton – Chair of Legacy Of Windrush Descendants and Friends** said *“This pack has been created to encourage family and intergenerational learning – working together in groups. Although it only touches on a very small area of black history, I hope it will encourage people to seek more knowledge”*

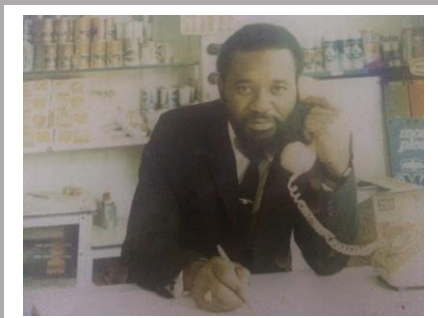


## Bedford's Windrush Community

Following the Second World War, there was a shortage of labour in the UK and many jobs became available. People from the Caribbean came to Bedfordshire to seek work in industry. The factories in Bedford that actively sought workers included Britannia Ironworks, Brookhirst Igranic (electronic switchgear), London Brick Company, W.H. Allen sons and co, Texas Instruments and Meltis confectionery. In Luton workers were recruited to Vauxhall's car plant.

There was plenty of work available for bricklayer, carpenters and other skilled tradesmen, who then contributed significantly to the re-building of Bedfordshire and Britain after the war.

Many planned to stay short-term in the UK, earn money and then return home but, it was often not that straightforward. People settle and looked for better jobs, promotion sometimes becoming self-employed and setting up their own businesses.



### VINCENT CAMPBELL

Mr Vincent Campbell, fondly known as 'Stagger Lee' came to Britain from Jamaica in 1958. His first job was in the building trade. He worked as a lorry driver and later he was a crane driver at WH Allens. He went on to work at Vauxhall's car plant as a Quality Control Officer. He and his wife Eva settled and opened their own shop which sold Caribbean groceries and products.

In his spare time, he set up a 'sound system' called Viking as entertainment for the Caribbean Community and later opened a community centre and club called The Cabana.





## Pearl Clareta Thomson

Pearl Thomson was born in 1917 in Rose Garden, Portland, Jamaica. She came to Bedford in 1956 and was offered a place at Bedford Training College and commenced re-training and registering as a Teacher, which she achieved in 1961.

Pearl taught at Kingsbrook Junior School, Queens Park Junior School and Westfield School.

She was also one of the founder members of the Miracle Church Of God. She has enriched the lives of all the children she taught and inspired the many who knew her.





## CYNTHIA STUART

Cynthia was born in BELIZE, in Central America. Although Belize is not an island it is still considered part of the Caribbean.

She came to England in 1965 to study to become a nurse. She arrived by a BOAC Flight in London, and travelled, by train to Southampton, where she began her three-year Nurse Training at the Royal South Hants Hospital, in Southampton. On successful completion of that course, you were awarded the title State Registered Nurse, (SRN).

Cynthia later wanted to become a State Certified Midwife, so she came to Bedford to do that training. It was a very hard course, but she loved it very much. She worked as a Midwifery Sister for seven years. In 1976, she was seconded by Bedford Health Authority to attend the very prestigious High Coombe College for Midwife Teachers and the University of Surrey, to train to become a Midwifery “Tutor”.

She was the first black Midwifery Tutor in Bedfordshire, and have always been very proud of Bedford Maternity Unit. Cynthia remained a Midwifery Lecturer for 33years.



## Island Word Search

### Activity

When you have completed the word search, pick three countries and find the flags; draw them on the blank templates provided

1. What other name is Vincent Campbell known by?

Ans \_\_\_\_\_

2. Cynthia was born in Belize, can you

(a) Find the flag anywhere in the building?

(b) Draw it in the blank template provided?

3. Where was Pearl Thomson born?

Ans \_\_\_\_\_

3. Where did she first train to be a nurse?

Ans \_\_\_\_\_

4. What was the name of Vincent Campbell's sound system?

Ans \_\_\_\_\_

5. When did the HMS Windrush arrive at Tilbury Docks?

Ans \_\_\_\_\_

Flag template







## Windrush Wordsearch

Find the words that are hidden in this word search. There are also some words which make up a line in a famous song. What is the song? Which country did the song originate?

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s a b y r p s d s t u r k s a
o b y c g e d e a a g o v r d
d u a a l b n l p d m w d k u
a c u r a c a o u h i a x r m
b f g r v l l u e u o n h b r
r b i i s z s a r f q l i a e
a s t c h r i s t o p h e r b
b m n o b c n j o l e e q b t
s z a u u i a c r z o l n u s
t t r l t m m s i v e n g d o
t y t i a j y n c w s i y a c
i s a i y u a k o g a b o t i
k h c x o r c a n g u i l l a
t a t a r r e s t n o m q s c
s x t l a d a n e r g j y u d
  
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Anguilla	Curacao	Tobago
Antigua	Grenada	Trinidad
Bahamas	Haiti	Turks
Barbados	Jamaica	
Barbuda	Montserrat	
Bermuda	Nevis	
Caicos	Puerto Rico	
Carricou	St Christopher	
Cayman Islands	St Kitts	
Cuba	St Lucia	



J P Q U E E A L C Y E A R S D V B M E C  
 C A U G N L B N J M I G K L M M O C O O  
 F S M L A P O O U S H T E B A H I L E M  
 B O A A T J U A N T C R A C G W O R L M  
 R R E T I P T D E N B I R I T N C I T O  
 I E P I O C A O P A J N E Z I P O P T N  
 T T L L N B A D C R D I V E M I C R A W  
 I N A B A N G I F G O D S C O L O B E E  
 S O A U L M A S G I C A R E R O S S B A  
 H M T R I X B E R M U D A K V H M H M L  
 B O I Y T H E M O V E G R A S E C E J T  
 J T T D Y F A B G G N E E U Q L N L K H  
 E H N O B O B A S H O D R M U D A T Z E  
 S E E C E N G R I S T D K Z I B R E Y L  
 T R M K Y E A K C H N E S O N G S R T X  
 E L N S P L A E T I M A R L E Y S N H T  
 R A R F U Y Q D W P N A T I O B N B R H  
 B N E Q R Z U E B J D N A L G N E M E I  
 O D V R B I R D S R O C L K L R Z X E N  
 T V O E E I U D G W A I L E R S I W B G  
 N W G J P Q X M W O R L D W A R T W O G  
 O S E M P I R R O E E S S R A W I O V T  
 D D E L N O M U N I T A L P X A C T C B

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|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Act             | Government  | Tilbury Docks |
| Bermuda         | Jamaica     | Trinidad      |
| British         | June        | World War Two |
| Citizens        | Migrants    |               |
| Colonies        | Monte Rosa  |               |
| Commonwealth    | Motherland  |               |
| Disembarked     | Nationality |               |
| Empire Windrush | Shelter     |               |
| England         | Ship        |               |

Name of the song and the country



## **Recommended book list**

*Black and British* – David Olusoga

*100 Great Black Britons* – Patrick Vernon and Angelina Osborne

*Almost British* – Olivea M Ebanks

## **Activity (overleaf)**

The following pages involves a bit of research. This can be used to encourage use of the internet or reference books. If you are using this as a family activity you can facilitate this as a timed activity or score more points for where the information was found.

All of the countries featured have become independent states but are members of the Commonwealth.