

Windrush

Learning Resources Pack

Attention – calling all teachers, educators and parents, and pupils and students!

Consistent with our values (and unwavering commitment to EDI and anti-racism) the Forum's vision is to leave a positive and lasting legacy for the enjoyment and benefit of everyone who respects and enjoys Black British history and African heritage culture.

Our Values = to leave a lasting legacy

Love – Excellence – Growth – Ambition – Culture – Youth

We all have an important role to play to help eliminate racism, reclaim Black history, and ensure Black history is represented authentically and celebrated all year round (and not just for Windrush Day or during Black History Month).

The Forum (together with our partners) is proud to support local educators and learning institutions that constantly strive to empower, educate and inspire our diverse communities.



We are pleased to share with you a Windrush ‘Learning Resources Pack’ # that we have curated. The pack has been prepared with the emphasis very much on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) – **because every learner matters and matters equally.**

Even better the pack is available free of charge and can be used all year-round.

The pack contents have been sourced from publicly available sources and is made available to use generally for the (non-commercial) specific purposes of supporting and raising EDI awareness, teaching history, learning and education.

Notes:

- The pack contents have been compiled by the African Heritage Culture Forum (the Forum) from publicly available sources.
- The Forum is a registered charity based in Sheffield and is also a member of the Sheffield Culture Consortium. For further information please visit: <https://www.africanheritage.org.uk>
- One of the Forum’s key objectives is to support and work with partners (as part of the Sheffield Culture Consortium leadership) and key educational stakeholders to help raise awareness and enhance understanding of Black British history and African heritage culture in Sheffield’s primary and secondary schools (amongst pupils, staff, parents and governors) by identifying and promoting appropriate supplementary education materials.
- Whenever copying or editing pre-supplied content please always remember to correctly reference and attribute the original sources.

May 2026

The National Curriculum

In the context of the national requirements around the teaching of historic events the curriculum¹ supports and encourages educators to ensure that all pupils learn about a wider range of perspectives in British history. The government recently conducted an in-depth review of the curriculum and published its findings² in 2025 – with a new national curriculum expected by 2028.

History³ is a key subject for learning about the significant influence that diverse groups have had over many centuries on the continued growth and development of Britain⁴.

The role of educators is crucial to ensure a balanced curriculum that includes Black history (inc the contribution of the Windrush Generation) is authentically delivered⁵. For example:

- **KS1** > lessons about the significance of the Windrush generation to Britain, and the lives of key Black historical figures in the context of the UK.
- **KS2** > contrasting and comparing pre-and post-slavery African / Caribbean history with British history.
- **KS3** > raising awareness about the history (and consequences) of Empire (inc exploring ideas, political power, industrial revolution and migration) and Britain history between 1745-1901.
- **KS4** > embedding understanding (to GCSE level) of key events, periods and societies – spanning cities, the UK, and the global context (inc pros and cons of migration).

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-framework-for-key-stages-1-to-4>

² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/690b96bbc22e4ed8b051854d/Curriculum_and_Assessment_Review_final_report_-_Building_a_world-class_curriculum_for_all.pdf

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-history-programmes-of-study>

⁴ https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/61488f992b58e687f1108c7c/623888c70b5ca9066371ec50_Making-british-histories-diversity-and-the-national-curriculum.pdf

⁵ <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/06/22/national-windrush-day-how-we-teach-children-about-black-history/>

National Windrush Day – 22 June

National Windrush Day 2023 marked the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the passengers of the Empire Windrush to the UK. The day celebrates the vital contribution and achievements of the Windrush generation and their descendants.#

The ship the HMT *Empire Windrush* arrived into the UK on 22 June 1948. It carried 592 passengers from the Caribbean who were answering the UK Government's call to fill jobs in Britain's post-war economy. Between 1948–1971 many more Empire and Commonwealth citizens from the Caribbean islands would arrive in the UK to work in many predominantly unskilled and low-paid roles as well as in essential areas of the newly formed NHS and transport sectors. The thousands who arrived over the next 20 years, usually as young people, all became referred to as the Windrush generation.

Despite being able to work in the UK by their own citizenship status and because the British Government wanted them, many of the new Caribbean arrivals faced strong racism and often violent attacks. A lack of anti-racism laws against racial discrimination meant that the new Caribbean immigrants were treated badly, prevented from accessing housing and certain sectors of the job market, and discouraged from taking part in certain areas of education. Large numbers of those that arrived already had ties to the UK, whether through service during the Second World War or through education and family ties.


As the British Empire disappeared and was replaced by a Commonwealth the UK introduced new legislation. In 1971 the UK Immigration Act allowed Commonwealth citizens resident in the UK 'indefinite leave to remain' – which meant a permanent right to live and work in the UK. However, many of those who had arrived in the 1940s and 50s had not been recorded properly by government officials and when the 1971 law came into effect they were not properly granted legal status.


In 2010 further records of that period were destroyed, leaving many of those who had arrived over 60 years previously without any legal status in the UK. The ongoing hurtful treatment of this group of people by the authorities laid open the unhealed wounds that continue to exist.

The exact number of those who arrived from the Caribbean is therefore unsurprisingly unknown, but their hard work and contribution has helped to shape modern Britain. On the 75th anniversary of the first arrivals we have brought together some of the articles and podcasts that explore the history of this period and recommended to you some of the specialist articles and podcasts telling the stories of that generation of people.

#Source ref: <https://www.history.org.uk/ha-news/categories/455/news/4196/windrush-75>

Useful resources to teach children about Black history

Title / Description	Audience	Links / attachments / download materials
KS1 Specific Learning <u>The Arrival of Windrush</u> – Video and Interactive Quiz	KS1 Pupils (ages 5 – 7)	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmmr4xs
<u>Floella Benjamin</u> – Video and discussion themes		https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zkbnvj6
Learning Themes ➤ KS2 & KS3 Lesson Plans for Studying the Empire Windrush and Caribbean migration	KS2&3 Pupils (ages x – x)	 Windrush-EduPack_A 4_154Pgs_R14_NO-BLI
➤ Black history before slavery		https://www.100greatblackbritons.co.uk/docs/black%20people%20in%20Britain-before%20the%20slave%20trade.pdf
➤ Black leaders in Britain		https://www.100greatblackbritons.co.uk/docs/introductiontoblackleadersinbritain.pdf
Video Shorts ➤ Poet John Agard – ‘Checking Out me History’	KS3&4 Pupils (ages x – x)	https://youtu.be/LFV_06_UidI
➤ How to be a better ally to your students	Teachers / Educators	https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/teacher-support/how-to-be-a-better-ally-to-your-students-black-allies/z6x3f82

<p>➤ Dept. for Education – how Windrush is taught in our schools (updated 2023)</p>		<p>https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/06/22/national-windrush-day-how-we-teach-children-about-black-history/</p>
<p>A4 Posters</p> <p>➤ Black history (pre-21st century)</p>	<p>General use / any</p>	<p>https://www.100greatblackbritons.co.uk/docs/blackhistoryjobamapt12_v118_web.pdf</p>
<p>➤ How the Caribbean freed itself</p>		<p>https://www.100greatblackbritons.co.uk/docs/how_the_caribbean_freed_itself.pdf</p>
<p>Further study / reading</p> <p>➤ Windrush Pioneers</p>		<p> W70-BOOK-H.pdf</p>
<p>Video / short film</p> <p>➤ Passing the baton (Sheffield's Windrush Pioneers)</p>		<p>https://youtu.be/gfIZt2HBtYY</p>
<p># Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pack contents have been compiled by the African Heritage Culture Forum (the Forum) from publicly available sources. • The Forum is a registered charity based in Sheffield and is also a member of the Sheffield Culture Consortium. For further information please visit the Forum's website: https://www.africanheritage.org.uk • One of the Forum's key objectives is to support and work with partners (as part of the Sheffield Culture Consortium leadership) and key educational stakeholders to help raise awareness and enhance understanding of Black British history and African heritage culture in Sheffield's primary and secondary schools (amongst pupils, staff, parents, and governors) by identifying and promoting appropriate supplementary education materials. • Whenever copying or editing pre-supplied content please always remember to correctly reference and attribute the original sources. <p style="text-align: right;">May 2026</p>		

Struggling to find what you need?

Please see the links below to access original sources of learning and where additional content can be sourced
(n.b. in some cases a fee may or may not be payable)

<p>100 Great Black Britons https://www.100greatblackbritons.co.uk/resources.html</p>	<p>BBC Teach https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/black-lives-black-history-resources/zy7sm39</p>	<p>The Black Curriculum https://theblackcurriculum.com/resources</p>
<p>Black Cultural Archives https://static1.squarespace.com/static/629613ebc75cfe6f74515fd6/t/660be08132bf75b9fe90a0f/1712054404480/20220721%2BKey%2BStage%2B3%2BWindrush%2BMaterials.pdf</p>	<p>Dept. for Education https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/06/22/national-windrush-day-how-we-teach-children-about-black-history/</p>	
<p>Historical Association https://www.history.org.uk/ha-news/categories/455/news/4196/windrush-75</p>	<p>Mentally Healthy Schools https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/search/?SearchTerm=black</p>	<p>OAK National Academy https://www.thenational.academy/teachers/search?term=windrush</p>
<p>Stonewall LGBTQ+ black history https://www.stonewall.org.uk/search/results?q=black+history</p>	<p>Teachwire https://www.teachwire.net/search/windrush/</p>	
<p>TES https://www.tes.com/resources/search/?q=windrush</p>	<p>Young Minds https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/racism-and-mental-health/</p>	