

HISTORY / CITIZENSHIP · Y5–Y6

# The Windrush Generation & Post-War Britain

Knowledge Organiser — Y5–Y6

## Key facts and vocabulary

1

### Empire Windrush

A ship that arrived at Tilbury Dock, London on 22 June 1948, carrying approximately 800 Caribbean migrants. It became symbolic of a generation of immigrants.

2

### The Windrush Generation

Caribbean migrants who came to Britain roughly between 1948 and 1971, invited to help rebuild post-war Britain. Many came from Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, and other Caribbean islands.

3

### British Nationality Act 1948

Gave all citizens of the British Commonwealth the right to live and work in the UK — which is why the Windrush migrants had every legal right to be in Britain.

4

### Commonwealth

A voluntary association of former British territories. Citizens of Commonwealth countries were entitled to British citizenship under 1948 law.

5

### Discrimination

Treating someone unfairly because of who they are. Windrush migrants faced widespread racial discrimination: refused housing, employment, and entry to places.

*Example: 'No Blacks, No Irish, No Dogs' — signs reported on some rental properties in the 1950s-60s*



6

**Windrush Scandal (2018)**

In 2018 it emerged that many elderly Caribbean migrants — legal British residents for decades — had been wrongly detained, denied services, or deported due to Home Office errors.

# f the Windrush Generation

What migrants built in Brit

- NHS: thousands of Caribbean nurses, doctors, and support staff helped build the National Health Service from its founding in 1948
- London Transport: many drove buses, maintained trains, and staffed the underground
- Manufacturing and industry: worked in steel, textiles, and factories
- The arts: musicians, writers, and artists who shaped British culture (e.g. Notting Hill Carnival, founded 1966)
- Restaurants and food: introduced Caribbean cuisine to Britain
- Communities: built churches, community organisations, and social clubs
- The key point: Britain invited them. They came legally. They built the country.

