

HISTORY

Answers Lesson 6 The Windrush Generation

As you watch these members of the Windrush community being interviewed about their arrival and new life in Britain, consider the following:

1. What were their first impressions of Britain?

It was cold, windy, wet and horrible! The landscape was full of factories.

2. What do they remember about school?

Being bullied because of having different accents. Asked 'where is your tail?' at school. The education system was different, some felt as though they did not learn a lot in secondary school.

3. What types of jobs did they do on arrival?

Bus conductors, RAF veteran, nurses, plasterers, engineers, onion peelers, prison officers, civil servants, retail workers, teachers, social workers.

4. What struggles did these people face when they started work?

A lot of hard work for very little pay, very few black role models, lack of equality and diversity.

5. How do they view Britain now?

They viewed their move to Britain as an opportunity for exploration. Some planned to stay for a few years but ended up staying in England and creating lives for themselves. They see Britain as their home.

Above are two sources which offer an insight into what life was like for many Caribbean immigrants in Britain in the 1960s. What do these sources tell us about the sense of community amongst these Caribbean natives? What do they tell us about the hardships that they faced on arrival in the UK?

There was a strong sense of community among Caribbean natives upon arrival in Britain. The West Indian Gazette's flyer advertises an indoor Caribbean carnival that was set up in response to racist violence and riots in Notting Hill and Nottingham. This showed that people wanted to support each other through difficult times and celebrate their culture in a safe space.

Caribbean immigrants faced many hardships on arrival in the UK. The source taken from the 'Going to Britain?' handbook, highlights that employment opportunities were much lower for Caribbean immigrants than they were for British citizens. Employers worried that their employees might not take kindly to working alongside foreign colleagues. As a result, many immigrants faced discrimination and segregation.