

Read the two texts and answer the questions on page 6.

The growth of the non-European population

At the end of the Second World War, Britain was a country on the very edge of economic collapse. The expense of fighting two wars, in Europe and in Asia, and the cost of rebuilding the country after six years of war, were almost too much. What made matters worse was that most of the men needed for the rebuilding work were still overseas in the armed services, overseeing the reconstruction of the Empire. There was much work to be done in Britain, but not enough people to do it.

At first, Britain encouraged immigration from Europe. In fact the Irish remained the largest single group of immigrants until well into the 1970s. Yet, it was soon realized that great though their numbers were, Britain could not only rely on migrants from Europe. In 1948 the nationality laws were changed, giving citizens of the Empire, or Commonwealth as it came to be known, free entry into Britain.

The first Caribbean immigrants arrived in London soon after aboard the ship *Empire*

Windrush. Many were former soldiers, sailors or airmen who had fought for Britain in the war. Others were young men with a sense of adventure and a desire to see England, which many citizens of the Empire thought of as ‘the mother country’. Most planned to stay in Britain for a few short years, earn some money and then return to the Caribbean and their families. However, many did not return, but were joined later by their families and then others, all coming in search of employment opportunities.

At first, the immigrants met with some difficulties. Housing was one such difficulty. Accommodation was scarce in post-war Britain and the newcomers found themselves competing for a place to call home with the local population. There was also some initial hostility to the non-white migrants and they were excluded from various aspects of social life. So the migrants brought their own institutions to Britain and new churches and social clubs opened up wherever the newcomers settled.

Within a generation, West Indians have become a familiar ethnic group in many cities throughout Britain. Their culture, music and food has been so accepted by the white community that the Notting Hill Carnival, a Caribbean tradition, has become the largest street festival in Europe, rivalling Brazil’s famous Rio Carnival for its popularity. People of Caribbean origin continue to play an important part in the social and economic life of the modern United Kingdom. They were the first non-white migrants to arrive in any large numbers, and it is through their experience that the British have learned to realize just what it means to be British.



Pronunciation guide

Commonwealth /kəmˈwɛlθ/
Caribbean /kærəˈbiːən/
the *Empire Windrush*
/ði ˌɛmpaɪə ˈwɪndrʌʃ/

The Notting Hill Carnival
/ðə ˌnɒtɪŋ hɪl ˈkɑːnɪvl/
Rio Carnival /riːəʊ ˈkɑːnɪvl/



The Notting Hill Carnival

Dear Sue,

I thought I'd write to tell you about our three days at the Notting Hill Carnival. You know the history, how it started in the 1950s as just a small street party to try to bring the communities together? Well it's certainly done that.

We started early. We met at Steve's house and then went to their club's meeting point near the start of the procession. Steve and his family are part of a Grenadian Carnival Club. They spent all last year planning for this day, and what preparations! We arrived at the church hall where the costumes were ready waiting for us. The theme this year was 'The Romans in Britain'. At first I thought it was an odd choice - especially as Carnival started in Trinidad, to celebrate the end of slavery. But when we got to the start of the procession you could tell that this is really a British event. The group in front of us were dressed as Victorian chimney sweeps, though the people behind were wearing huge colourful costumes, more like the ones you'd expect to see in the Caribbean.

*The music began and we started walking. Each group walks behind their float, that's a lorry, decorated in their theme and carrying their musicians or sound system. There was **Calypso** and **Steelman** - traditional*

*music from all over the Caribbean as well as more modern, mostly Jamaican music. There was also African, Indian and British music playing too. We started walking but soon we were dancing, so was everyone else. The procession went on for about four miles - my feet were killing me! Our job was to make sure none of the crowd, and there must have been nearly a million people in those streets, got among the **Mas** - the people in costume. We had to keep people out, firstly because everyone wants to join in the fun (even the police), and secondly so the judges could see. Every Carnival Club is judged for their costume and music. We didn't win, but as Steve said, we never do, we do it for the fun, not the competition.*

The people were amazing, they come from everywhere - not just London. Some tourists come just for the carnival. Everywhere we went people were cheering, singing, having a good time. The noise was incredible.

*Make sure you can come and see us next year. Steve's friends are already looking for people to be in the **Mas** as **Viking Warriors**. We'll be there, you would love it.*

*Love
Jim*

Pronunciation guide

Mas /mæs/

Calypso /kə'lɪpsəʊ/

Steelman /sti:lpæn/

Jamaican /dʒə'meɪkən/

Viking Warriors /ˌvaɪkɪŋ ˈwɔːriəz/

Comprehension

1 Read the first text on page 4 and choose the best title for each paragraph.

Paragraph 1

- A The Second World War
- B In the army
- C Expensive war
- D Work to be done

Paragraph 3

- A Young men
- B From the Empire
- C On board ship
- D An adventure

Paragraph 5

- A Being British today
- B Notting Hill Carnival
- C Better than Brazil
- D Economic life

Paragraph 2

- A European migrants
- B B The Irish
- C 1948
- D Immigrants

Paragraph 4

- A Housing
- B Newcomers
- C Hostility
- D Difficulties

2 Read the second text on page 5 again and answer the questions in your own words.

1 Why did people first organize a Caribbean carnival in London?

2 What did Carnival originally celebrate?

3 What do the groups walk behind?

4 What kind of music comes from the Caribbean?

5 Who are the *Mas*?

6 How far do people walk?

Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from text 1 and text 2.

planning	procession	rebuilding	playing	reconstruction
return	preparations	realize	party	remained

- 1 After the war, they started the country.
- 2 The task of continued for many years.
- 3 They solved many of the problems, but some
- 4 They came to help, but hoped to home after a short time.
- 5 Only when it was over did they how much they had achieved.
- 6 They celebrated the end of the war with a
- 7 They had spent months what they were going to do.
- 8 The for the Carnival involved many people.
- 9 People were all kinds of music.
- 10 They walked a four mile route in

Speaking

Discuss these questions with your partner.

- Why do people move to a new country?
- What do they leave behind?
- Is it easy to adapt to life in a new country? What would you find difficult? What would you look forward to?

SPEAKING TIPS

- Give your opinions.
- Make sure your listeners understand.
- Be friendly.

TASK

Give some advice to a friend thinking of going to live in Britain.

Read the first text again and tell them about:

- Working and earning money
- Getting on with the British
- Finding somewhere to live
- Food and drink

Use this information to help you.

- **Take money** May not find a job immediately, qualifications useful
- **Local people** Often helpful, may not talk to strangers, protective of their jobs
- **Housing** Rents expensive: better to share (other Russians), adverts in newspaper
- **Food** imported foods / drinks in city: European and Asian food everywhere

Remember to:

- use *sometimes, often, usually*, etc.
- give warnings and reminders.
- use *should / ought to*.
- give reasons for your advice / opinions.

Writing

A DAY AT THE CARNIVAL

You have been to see the Notting Hill Carnival. Write a letter to a friend telling them about it.

- 1 Read the second text again and make notes about these points.
- 2 Include some of these words and phrases

multi-racial, exotic, noisy, deafening, crowded, friendly, fantastic, colourful

Write 100–140 words.

Saw: people in costumes; groups of people dressed the same; large crowds watching

Heard: Music (Caribbean / Asian / European): instruments, singing

Did: joined in dancing; enjoyed myself; met people

Ate: tried different foods; Caribbean and Asian food; new tastes