BLACK CULTURAL ARCHIVES

TEACHERS'

Learning Resource Pack

Key Stage 2

Post-War Journeys

CINREL TOMLIN

CONNIE MARK

ASQUITH XAVIER

LORD KITCHENER

CLAUDIA JONES

Timeline

1939
World War II is declared on 3rd September.

1945
The Fifth Pan-African Congress is held in Manchester. Attended by future, independent African leaders including Kwame Nkrumah and Jomo Kenyatta, October 1945.

1948
The British Nationality Act is passed on January 1st.

This act granted citizens of the colonies the right to work and live in Britain.

1948
HMT *Empire Windrush* docks at Tilbury with approximately 492 passengers from the Caribbean on 22nd June.

1958
Racial equality activist Claudia Jones founded the newspaper, *West Indian Gazette*.

1958
The rising tensions between the fascist 'Teddy boys' and the growing Black community in Notting Hill came to a head during uprisings in August.

1959
Following the Notting Hill race riots of 1958, community activist Claudia Jones organised a Caribbean Carnival celebration at St Pancras Town Hall on 30th January. The intention was to celebrate Caribbean culture and bring communities together.

1959
A government investigation on race relations in Britain, led by Amy Ashwood Garvey is carried out.

1959
Antiguan born Kelso Cochrane is killed by a group of white youths in the Ladbroke Grove area, May 1959.

1959
Kelso Cochrane's funeral takes place at St Michael and All Angels Church in Ladbroke Grove, 6th June. More than 1,200 people attended.

1962
The Commonwealth Immigration Act is passed. This required British subjects to obtain a job voucher in order to live and work in Britain.

1963
After the Bristol Omnibus Company refused to employ Black and Asian workers, Paul Stephenson led a boycott against them. This boycott led to the colour bar being lifted.

1964
Marion Glean sponsors activist Martin Luther King's visit to Britain. In December he addressed a committee she set up to lobby for race relations legislation.

1964
Claudia Jones passes away in December and is buried to the left of Karl Marx as a reflection of her politics.

1964
Russell Henderson of Trinidad and Tobago led his steel band through the streets of Notting Hill. Many spectators danced alongside the steel band. This event continued to grow each year and became the Notting Hill Carnival that still exists today.

1965
First Race Relations Act is passed. This act outlawed discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity and ethnic origin in public places.

1965
Campaign Against Racial Discrimination is formed (C.A.R.D.). Members include founder Marion Glean and CLR James.

1966
Asquith Xavier, a rail worker, was refused a job transfer from Marylebone to Euston Station. He was refused the transfer because of the colour bar at Euston Station. The existing race relations legislation did not protect people from racial discrimination in employment.

1967
Stokely Carmichael arrives in London from America for an 11-day visit.

1968
Review of the first Race Relations Act following the campaign around the colour bar at Euston train station.

The new Race Relations Act of 1968 outlawed racial discrimination in employment and housing.

The British Nationality Act and the Journeys of Generation Windrush

Post-World War II Britain suffered great war damage and needed rebuilding. During this period institutions such as the NHS and London Transport were set up by the British government.

Both the state of the country and the forming of these institutions required large bodies of labour. Due to the shortage of labour in the country, Britain reached out to the citizens of its empire to fill this shortage.

In 1948, the British government passed the British Nationality Act. This act gave British subjects (citizens of the British Empire) the right to live and work in the UK. That same year, 492 passengers from the Caribbean embarked on the HMT *Empire Windrush* and arrived in Tilbury Dock, Essex on 22nd June.

The arrival of this ship marked the beginning of a wave of post-war migrants from the Caribbean. Between 1948 and 1968, thousands of people from the Caribbean came to Britain and settled. Their contributions helped to shape Britain as we know it.

Expectations vs Realities

Prior to 1962, no British-Caribbean islands were independent; they were all colonies of Britain. The citizens of the islands and Guyana received a British education, lived under British laws and viewed Britain as the 'mother country'.

Although Britain controlled the colonies economically and politically, little infrastructure or industry was built in the colonies. This and the hurricane of 1944 left many people in the Caribbean impoverished.

In addition to passing the 1948 British Nationality Act, the British government actively encouraged British subjects from the Caribbean to settle in Britain in order to reduce the labour shortage. Many people from the Caribbean took this opportunity to improve their job prospects.

As British subjects, who received a British education, lived under British law and rule, Windrush settlers expected to be welcomed into the 'mother country' (as they viewed Britain). Unfortunately, their reality was extremely different from their expectations. Many experienced overt racism, particularly when accessing housing and employment.

'Only 13% of West Indian men, and 5% of West Indian women, who came to Britain during the 1950s had no skills. Half of the women and a quarter of the men were non-manual workers. Almost half of the men (46%) and over a quarter of the women (27%) were skilled manual workers. But despite their skills they were usually given the worst jobs – those jobs that white people refused.

In the late 1950s more than 50% of West Indian men in London had lower status jobs than their skills'. *(Walker, 1998)*

People were also discriminated against when it came to housing. Many landlords and ladies refused to rent homes to Black people, which meant that renting was extremely difficult. Many people were forced to share just one room as landlords and landladies took advantage of the fact that people from the Caribbean had very few options when renting.

As banks often refused to give Afro-Caribbean people loans, they had to save in groups called 'pardnas' or 'su-sus' to buy homes. This was one of the ways that the community supported each other. Other ways they found support amongst each other was by forming church groups and opening their homes for a place to stay for people that were new to Britain.

C.A.R.D.

Britain was not racially segregated by law, however, many spaces such as restaurants, pubs, churches and homes for rent excluded Black people. The people who owned these places often discriminated against people from the Caribbean who wanted access or services in those spaces.

Prior to 1965 there was no legislation in Britain to protect people from racial discrimination.

As a response to this, the pressure group C.A.R.D. (Campaign Against Racial Discrimination), led by Trinidadian activist Marion Glean, formed in 1964. The group's aims were to get legislation passed through parliament which would outlaw racial discrimination.

C.A.R.D.'s campaigning was successful and in 1965, the first Race Relations Act was passed. Three years later, in 1968, the same Race Relations Act was amended. This 1965 act outlawed racial discrimination in public places but not in employment.

The generation that achieved this success fought hard to create change in Britain. Their fight has helped to shape some of our British values such as tolerance of race and faith.

BLACK CULTURAL ARCHIVES

Discover the people and stories of the Windrush generation

CINREL TOMLIN

CONNIE MARK

ASQUITH XAVIER

LORD KITCHENER

CLAUDIA JONES

Complete the fun activities inside!

CONNIE MARK

Constance Winifred McDonald was born in 1923 in Kingston, Jamaica. As her name was so long, she was nicknamed Connie by her friends. When Connie married her name changed to Connie Mark.

In 1943, during World War II, Connie was recruited into the British army in Jamaica as part of the ATS.

She assisted the British Military Hospital of Kingston as a medical secretary. After much hard work, she was given a promotion to a full corporal, but she was denied the pay rise to go along with this because of her skin colour. When the war ended Connie was recommended for a British Empire medal. In the end, she was not given the medal as a punishment for standing up for herself as a Black woman in the army.

Did you know?

ATS stands for Auxiliary Territorial Service.

Connie dedicated her life to raising awareness about the Caribbean and the African contribution to World War II. Connie felt the heroic war efforts of many other Caribbean people like herself had been forgotten.

After many years, Connie's efforts were eventually recognised and she finally received a medal for all her hard work.

Codebreaking

Use the code below to reveal the keywords.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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In the space below copy the keywords you have revealed and underline any that you do not understand. Your teacher will explain what they mean.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

Answers: a. RAF. b. War. c. Troop. d. Regiment. e. Auxiliary Territorial Service.

CLAUDIA JONES

Claudia Jones was born in 1915 in Trinidad. At the age of 8, she moved to the USA where she spent most of her youth. Claudia settled in Britain eventually in 1955.

When Claudia came to Britain she saw that many Black people were treated unfairly because of the colour of their skin. Claudia wanted to make the situation better, so she set up a Black British newspaper, the West Indian Gazette, to report on the injustice they faced.

After a racist attack in Notting Hill in 1958, a big riot broke out which lasted for many days. This left a divide amongst different groups, so to bring people together Claudia Jones set up a celebration carnival of Caribbean culture in St Pancras Town Hall in 1959.

Did you know?

A carnival celebration created by Claudia inspired the Notting Hill Carnival, which is still an annual event today.

Claudia's quiz

Tick the boxes next to your answers.

1. Where was Claudia Jones born?

- ☐ Trinidad
- ☐ Jamaica
- ☐ USA

2. What was the newspaper that Claudia founded?

- ☐ *South London Gazette*
- ☐ *West Indian Gazette*
- ☐ *Daily West Indian*

3. When were the Notting Hill riots?

- ☐ 1950
- ☐ 1962
- ☐ 1958

4. Where was the carnival celebration held that Claudia Jones organised?

- ☐ St Pancras Town Hall
- ☐ Ladbroke Grove
- ☐ Lambeth Town Hall

Answers: 1. Trinidad. 2. West Indian Gazette. 3. 1958. 4. St Pancras Town Hall.