

Topic: Immigration in the UK

Lesson 1: Immigration in the UK	KS or Year Group: KS 3
Resources: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Resource 1 - Advantages/ disadvantages of immigration2. Resource 2 – News article	Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students learn that immigration is not just a modern phenomenon.• Students find out more about the demographics of immigration in modern Britain.• Students are able to relate more sensitively to the immigrant experience.

National Curriculum

Key Concepts: 1.1c, 1.3a, 1.3b, 1.3d

Key Processes: 2.1a, 2.2b

Range and Content: 3i

Lesson 1

This is the first lesson in a three-part series that looks at immigration in the UK. The overall aim of this series is to look at multicultural Britain today and show how immigration is not just a modern phenomenon but rather something that has been occurring here for at least the last two thousand years.

The second and third lessons will both look at immigration in modern multicultural Britain then move on to focus on the major 'waves' of immigration within a historical timeframe. This lesson, however, starts the series by exploring the students' opinions and preconceptions about immigration in general.

Starter

- Ask the students to come up with definitions of the key terms 'immigration' and 'immigrant'. Put their suggestions on the board, refining terms and correcting misconceptions.
- For teacher's reference (or you could put this up on the board if the students haven't come up with a satisfactory definition themselves), 'immigration' can be broadly defined as the movement of people between countries. In a modern context, it implies permanent and legal residence as recognised by immigration law. By this definition, an 'immigrant' is somebody who has left their country of origin to become a citizen of a new country.

Main activity

Activity 1

- Divide the class into small groups. Give each group a copy of **Resource 1 – Advantages/disadvantages of immigration**.
- Ask the groups to discuss each of the ten points in the boxes. Amongst themselves, each group should discuss whether each of these points is an 'advantage' or 'disadvantage' for the host society and write them in the appropriate column of the table.
- In each column, the points should be ranked in order, with the most important advantage or disadvantage at the top of their lists.
- Groups to feedback to the class. The teacher should probe the rationale behind each of their decisions. It may be necessary to point out when their rationale is inaccurate or overly based upon stereotypical misconceptions of immigrant communities.
- Is there any kind of consensus in the choices they made? What point was most widely held to be an advantage or disadvantage?
- As a whole class, have a debate on which points were difficult to categorise. Why were they difficult to categorise? It should emerge that a point might be viewed as an advantage by some sectors of society, but as a disadvantage by others. For example, teenagers might welcome the infusion of new buzzwords into their vocabulary, but the elderly might find such changes in language to be confusing and alienating.

Activity 2

- Distribute copies of **Resource 2 - News article**. Ask the students to read the article carefully. When they have finished, emphasise that this survey is only a partial snapshot of people's views and survey results widely vary according to the type of questions asked, current events in the news, the economic climate, etc.
- Ask the students whether they are surprised or not surprised by the results of the survey. Did their own lists of disadvantages mirror the results of the survey? Do they feel any of the advantages of immigration are being overlooked by the wider population?
- As it is clearly a controversial topic in wider British society, emphasise to the students how important it is to become more fully informed about immigration. The teacher should highlight that this is the aim of this series of lessons.

Plenary

Ask the students to summarise the opinions fed back from Activity 1. Was there any consensus as to the major advantages or disadvantages of immigration? Or was there significant disagreement? Did anyone change their opinion after hearing the issues debated in class?

Summary of key learning

- Students are introduced to key statistics and demographics relating to immigration in the UK
- Students are able to relate more sensitively to the immigrant experience

Resource 1 – Advantages/disadvantages of immigration

Stronger links forged between UK and their countries of origin.

Immigrants often prepared to work for lower wages.

New words and fresh contributions to language.

New and exciting varieties of food and music.

Wider selection of job applicants for UK employers.

<i>ADVANTAGES</i>	<i>DISADVANTAGES</i>

Immigrants taking jobs which would have gone to UK unemployed.

More immigrants means more people potentially reliant on benefits system.

The UK economy grows as immigrants spend their wages and contribute tax.

People might feel their culture was under threat.

Increased demands upon schools and hospitals.

Resource 2 – News article

Four-Fifths 'Want Less Immigration'

November 12, 2007

More than four-fifths of Britons think immigration should be cut substantially, according to a new poll. A majority also dispute the Government's claim that those coming into the country have helped the economy.

The research, carried out by YouGov for pressure group Migrationwatch, emerged as politicians battle to dominate the immigration debate.

David Cameron was boosted at the weekend when another poll suggested he was more trusted to deal with the issue than Gordon Brown. The Tory leader has condemned ministers for "incompetence" and called for an overall limit on immigration levels. He has also attacked the Prime Minister for echoing the BNP with his "British jobs for British workers" slogan.

The latest study says 85% of people think immigration is putting too much pressure on public services, with only 10% disagreeing. Some 81% support the view that the level of immigration should be reduced substantially, while 14% reject it.

When asked if they believe immigration has been generally positive for the UK economy, 35% say it has compared to 54% who think it has not.

Migrationwatch chairman Sir Andrew Green said: "These figures show that now the scale of immigration and its consequences are now being better understood and people are deeply concerned at what is going on."