

Activity 1

Describe to your partner somebody who you consider to be typically 'British'. Think about:

- what they look like
- what they wear
- what activities they participate in
- how they talk
- what makes this person typically 'British'.

Does your partner agree with your choices? What else do they think contributes towards someone being defined as 'British'?

Using the list of names below, discuss with a partner who you would describe as typically 'British' and why.

- Jessica Ennis
- Lewis Hamilton
- Prince Harry
- Leona Lewis
- Gok Wan
- Daniel Radcliffe
- The Queen

Activity 2

Your teacher will give you some dates and some groups of migrants who have come to Britain. Match up the migrants to the dates when they arrived.

Then stick the dates and the groups of migrants on a timeline.

Now discuss the following questions:

1. Which continent do most of the migrants appear to have come from? Why do you think this is the case?
2. What is the most common reason for coming to Britain? Why do you think this is the case?
3. In which century do most migrants seem to have arrived? Suggest why this happened.
4. India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Uganda and some of the Caribbean islands were former British colonies and are still part of the Commonwealth. How do you think this might have helped migrants from these countries settle in the UK?
5. Do these facts make you feel differently about 'British' people?

You can use the list of keywords and definitions below to help you construct your answers.

Keywords

asylum seeker	someone who leaves their own country because they are in danger (often due to their political opinions) and who asks for protection in the country they come to
Britain	England and Wales (but 'British' is also used to include people from Scotland as well, i.e. people from Great Britain)
British citizenship	the legal right to be British
British Empire	the UK and the countries it used to own – at its largest from the beginning of the 19 th century to the end of the Second World War (1945)
British Isles	England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, including the Republic of Ireland
Commonwealth	an international association of countries including the UK and countries which used to be part of the British Empire
colony	a country which is controlled by another, usually a long way away
conflict	fighting or war
economic migration	moving to a different country in order to earn more money
Great Britain	England, Scotland and Wales
migrant	someone who moves to another area or country
immigrant	someone who comes to live in a country
persecution	being treated cruelly and unfairly, usually because of political or religious beliefs
refugee	someone who leaves their own country because they are in danger (because of war or their political or religious beliefs)
United Kingdom	England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
visa	an official stamp or document added to your passport, allowing you to enter a particular country

Activity 3

Think about the following statement: There is no such thing as being typically 'British'.

Do you agree with this point of view? As you're thinking about your answer be mindful of the following areas:

- values that people have
- religions that people follow
- where people were born
- what football team they support
- what friends they have
- activities they take part in.

Write around 250 words giving reasons for your opinion. You should support your argument with examples.

Cards for activity 2

1972	Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis seek work.
1938 onwards	Poles, Italians and Latvians are invited by the British government to fill jobs.
From 800	Jewish people flee from Europe to escape persecution.
43 AD	West Indians from the Caribbean are invited by the British government to fill jobs.
From 1840s	Kurds, Kosovars and other Eastern Europeans flee from war-torn countries.
1956	Asians are deported from Uganda in Africa by Idi Amin.
1999	Irish people come to seek work.
4000 BC onwards	Celts from central Europe settle here.
1948 onwards	Romans arrive from Italy and take control.
1945 onwards	Viking raiders sail from Scandinavia and settle here.

Timeline for activity 2

the past

now



Teaching notes

Age group: Year 8.

Objectives:

- to explore the term 'typically British'
- to identify why migration to Britain occurred/occurs.

Timing: approximately 45 minutes.

Answers

Activity 2

4000 BC onwards	Celts from central Europe settle here.
from 800 AD	Viking raiders sail from Scandinavia and settle here.
43 AD	Romans arrive from Italy and take control.
from the 1840s	Irish people come to seek work.
1938–1945	Jewish people flee from Europe to escape persecution.
1945 onwards	Poles, Italians and Latvians are invited by the British government to fill jobs.
1948 onwards	West Indians from the Caribbean are invited by the British government to fill jobs.
1956	Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis seek work.
1972	Asians are deported from Uganda in Africa by Idi Amin.
1999	Kurds, Kosovars and other Eastern Europeans flee from war-torn countries.

1. Most of the migrants appear to have come from Europe, probably their countries of origin are not far from Britain.
2. The most common reason is to find work. This is because Britain had/has a stronger economy than the countries that migrants came/come from.

The second most common reason is fleeing conflict and persecution, i.e. coming as refugees or asylum seekers. During the Second World War, this was because Britain was not occupied by the Nazis. Since then, Britain has not experienced any conflicts on its own territory and so may be seen as a safe country in which to seek asylum.

3. Most migrants seem to have arrived in the 20th century. In some cases this was probably because of the connections with the former British Empire: the migrants came from countries which are part of the Commonwealth. Another factor is likely to be improved transport in the 20th century.
4. Being part of the Commonwealth might have helped migrants in several ways: there were political and economic ties with the UK; the UK felt it owed those countries a debt (it felt guilty about having occupied them); many people from Commonwealth countries speak English because of having belonged to the British Empire.