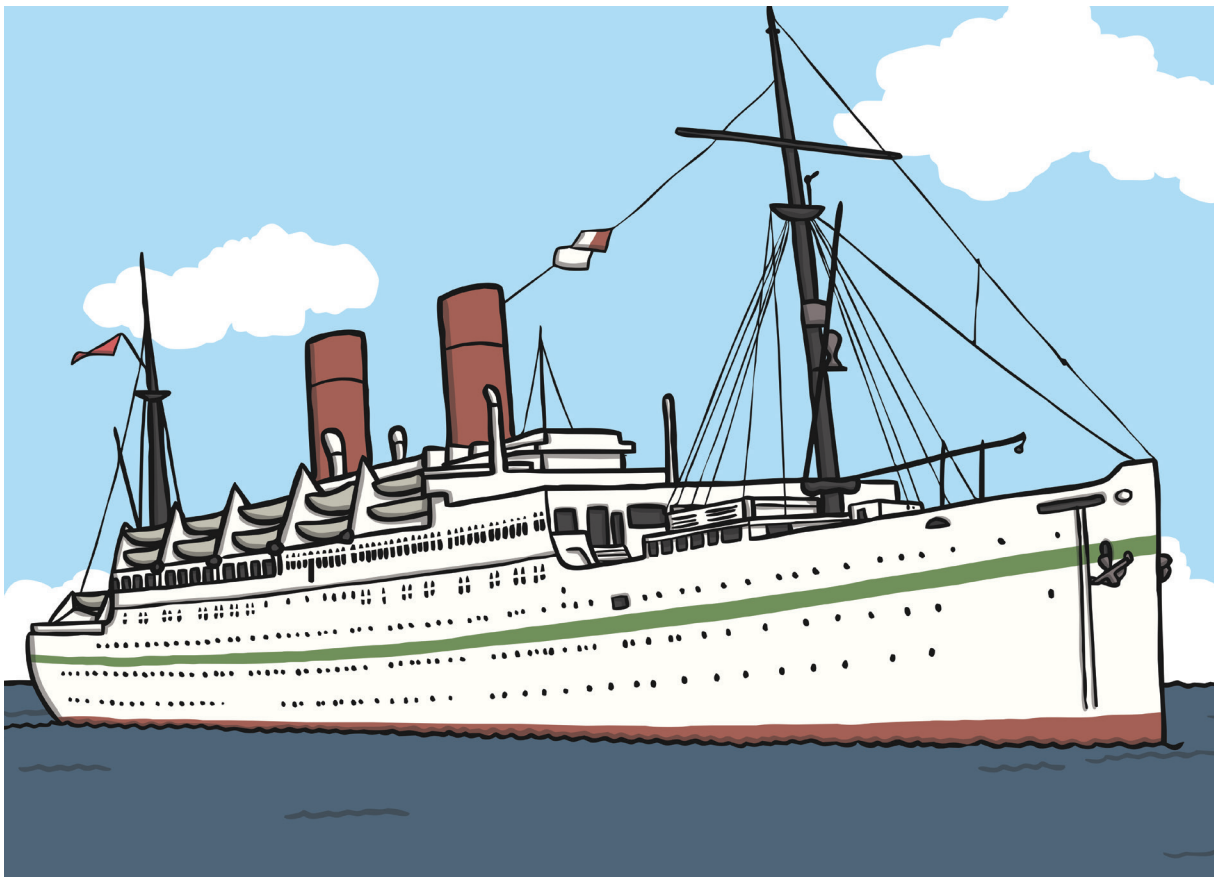


# The Windrush

HMT Empire Windrush began sailing in 1930. It was originally used as a cruise ship and passenger liner. However, during the Second World War, she was used as a troopship. At first, she was used to transport German troops from country to country but was then taken over by the British Army to carry British soldiers. On one disastrous journey back to the UK in 1954, a fire broke out killing four engine crew members. Fortunately, all 1276 passengers were saved before she sank in the Mediterranean Sea. The wreck still lies 2600 metres below the surface of the sea.

One of Empire Windrush's most famous journeys was in 1948. After many young men and women lost their lives during World War II, Britain had a shortage of workers and needed more labourers. The British government invited people from Jamaica and other British colonies to come and work in the UK. Therefore, the Empire Windrush was sent to collect 492 people from Jamaica and bring them back to London. These people worked in industries such as transport, rail and the National Health Service. Although many of them only planned to stay for a few years, the majority stayed in the UK permanently and have been a huge influence in changing British culture.



**Did You Know...?**

People living in the Caribbean saw an advert in a newspaper offering them passage to Britain and promising them work once they got there.

Sadly, life wasn't always easy for the new arrivals. Many were treated unfairly by white British people and they even found it difficult to find basic things such as somewhere to live. In 1959, an annual carnival was started in Notting Hill, London as a celebration of people's differences. It continues to bring people from various communities together to this day and is famous for its vibrant colours and exotic dances.



# Questions

1. Who **first** used the Empire Windrush as a troopship? Tick **one**.

- The Germans
- The Spanish
- The British
- The Americans

2. In what year did the Windrush sink? Tick **one**.

- 1930
- 1948
- 1954
- 1945

3. How many metres below the sea is the wreck of the Windrush? Tick **one**.

- 1276 metres
- 2600 metres
- 492 metres
- 600 metres

4. **Find** and **copy** a word that means **well-known**.

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5. Fill in the missing words.

These people worked in \_\_\_\_\_ such as transport, rail and the National Health Service.

6. Why was the Notting Hill Carnival set up?

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7. **Number** the events below to show the order in which they happened.

- The Empire Windrush brings 492 Jamaicans to London.
- The Empire Windrush sinks.
- 1 The Empire Windrush first sets sail.
- The Notting Hill Carnival begins.

# Answers

1. Who **first** used the Empire Windrush as a troopship? Tick **one**.

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4. Find and copy a word that means **well-known**.

**famous**

5. Fill in the missing words.

These people worked in **industries** such as transport, rail and the National Health Service.

6. Why was the Notting Hill Carnival set up?

**Pupil's own response, such as: The Notting Hill Carnival was set up to celebrate the differences of people living in the area and to bring people from different communities together.**

7. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened.

- 2 The Empire Windrush brings 492 Jamaicans to London.
- 3 The Empire Windrush sinks.
- 1 The Empire Windrush first sets sail.
- 4 The Notting Hill Carnival begins.