

# Music Migrations worksheet **B1** **B1+**

## PART I THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

### Immigration in London: immigration from the Commonwealth

London was the main immigration hub in the UK. After the end of World War II, most of the immigrant flow from the Empire was concentrated there.



Misty in Roots reggae band, Rock Against Racism concert - Militant Entertainment tour, 1979 - © Syd Shelton

The West Indians were the first to arrive. They are referred to as "Generation Windrush", after the ship that arrived from Kingston, Jamaica, reaching the port of Tilbury, in the UK, on June 21 1948. In 1965, of the 450,000 West Indians recorded as living in the country, 150,000 settled in London, mainly in the neighbourhoods of Islington, North Kensington, Paddington and Brixton. They were followed by migrations from India and Pakistan, which intensified from 1960. In 1965, there were 180,000 Indians and 120,000 Pakistanis in the UK. For the most part, they settled in Greater London, and proportionally exceeded the number of West Indians in districts like Southall or Stepney. Initially facilitated by their status as Citizen of the United Kingdom and the Colonies, which had granted freedom of circulation since 1948, immigration from former colonies that had gained independence required a work permit from 1962.

### Zoom

*The Windrush* was a ship that some 800 people from the British West Indies (Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad, mainly) sailed in to come and work in the UK. They were the first to benefit from the free circulation that came with the status of Citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies, accorded in 1948. The passenger register shows that many of them planned to settle there, and indeed their status enabled them to benefit from permanent residence authorisation. The consequences of this colonial period could still be felt until 2018, when the British government created barriers to recognising the right of former citizens of the Empire to full British nationality.

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Nathan

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**a. Read** the texts from the Music Migrations online exhibition and **make** a short timeline of the history of immigration in the UK.

**1945**



**b. Locate** the countries referred to in the text on the map of the world.



## Zoom on the Caribbean



**c. Explain** what measures contributed to encourage immigration to the UK.

## PART II THE SOUNDTRACK TO REBELLION: THE 1970s

### GROUP A

### The Notting Hill Carnival, from festive to manifesto

The organisation of the Notting Hill Carnival was a reaction by London's Afro-Caribbean community to a series of riots that took place in late August 1958.

Gangs had assaulted a young woman, Majbritt Morrison, married to Jamaican musician Raymond Morrison. Within the activist world, the idea of responding to this violence by affirming a positive and festive Afro-Caribbean identity was gaining ground. The organisation of the first "Caribbean Carnival" in Saint Pancras town hall in 1959 owed much to Claudia Jones, activist and founder in 1958 of the *West Indian Gazette*, the newspaper of the Afro-Caribbean community in London. From 1966, the event became an annual happening, taking place in late August. Many obstacles were encountered in gaining acceptance of the event. The police tried several times to ban the Carnival, notably after 1976 where actual riots interrupted the end of the event.



Notting Hill Carnival, 1975  
© Chris Steele Perkins/Magnum photos

From a musical viewpoint, the Carnival helped anchor reggae music in the heart of the city of London. It did in fact evolve from being a multi-ethnic event to a parade mainly influenced by the music of Trinidad, then by reggae, in the 1970s. A whole specific world developed around this musical style from Jamaica: the sound system culture. From using music as an instrument for affirming politics and identity, the Carnival turned into an international festive event.

## GROUP A - The Notting Hill Carnival, from festive to manifesto

### QUESTIONS

a. **Read** the text and find out about the people who led to the creation of the Notting Hill Carnival.

b. **Comment on** the evolution of the festival.

c. **Explain** its effects on London's culture.

d. **Make** a poster to present the history of the Notting Hill Carnival to the rest of the class.

## PART III GLOBAL RHYTHMS: the 1980s



Electric Ballroom, London, 1983 - © Pierre Terrasson

Years of political struggle gave rise to a wealth of encounters and exchanges between different scenes of musical diaspora all over the world. Paris and London became epicentres of artistic energy, their reputations bolstered by a number of legendary venues. (...)

**Discover** what 'world music' is all about. Visit <https://www.histoire-immigration.fr/exhibition-paris-londres#slide-3>. **Use** the arrows to find out about different artists. **Choose** one music event or music band and present it to the class.