

English flip-week 2 Spring 1

Read the information on the next slide. Make notes on what you have learned.
What was life like for the Windrush people?

LIFE IN BRITAIN AFTER WINDRUSH

For some of the passengers on board the Windrush, the reality of life in Britain was very different from their expectations and hopes. The weather was cold, much colder than the weather in the Caribbean. The food was rationed and was very different from the food they were used to. There was a shortage of places to live. This was partly because a lot of buildings had been destroyed by bombs during the war, but was also due to prejudice with some landlords refusing to rent them rooms. Although they had been invited to Britain to help with the shortage of labour resulting from the Second World War, some white people viewed the black immigrants with suspicion and prejudice, leading to problems finding jobs, getting promotion and equal pay, finding accommodation and even being served in shops.

In 1958, racial intolerance led to the Notting Hill Riots. In the late 1950s, Notting Hill was a poor area of London with high levels of crime and a shortage of housing. A period of racially motivated rioting started between groups of white working class 'Teddy Boys' and the new African Caribbean communities in areas of London and Nottingham. This wave of unrest led to a week of violent rioting in Notting Hill in London. The Notting Hill Carnival, an annual celebration led by the area's Caribbean population, was started as a direct response to the riots. Another ten years on and Enoch Powell made his 'Rivers of Blood' speech against immigration and the proposed Race Relations bill. Despite this, the bill was passed, making it illegal to refuse housing, public services, or employment on the grounds of ethnicity.