

# History Key Learning

## Vocabulary / Key Terms

Colony	A colony is a piece of land that another country has taken
Commonwealth	The Commonwealth is a group of 54 independent countries who joined together to promote peace, prosperity and democracy. Almost all of them are former British colonies and the Queen is the head of the Commonwealth. It began in 1931.
empire	When a country has a lot of colonies it is called an Empire.
immigration	This is when you move permanently to another country
Mother Country	In an empire the mother country is the country that rules
plantation	Large farms that grow crops such as sugar and tobacco

## Important Facts

Between 1948 and 1970, nearly half a million people left their homes in the West Indies to start a new life in the UK.

After WW2, Britain needed more men and women to work in industry because of a shortage of workers

Many Caribbean men and women had served in the British armed forces because, at the time, many West Indian islands were still under British rule (empire) and not yet independent

After the war, some of these people answered an advert to come to Britain where there were lots of different jobs to do

An estimated 500,000 people now living in the UK arrived from the Caribbean

## Important Events

### Events and Places



The 8000 mile journey that the ship the **Empire Windrush** made from the Caribbean to the London docks in 1948.

## Timeline

**1492**  
Christopher Columbus arrived in the Caribbean.

**1500s and 1600s**  
Europeans send ships and people to the Caribbean and establish colonies. The Transatlantic slave trade begins.

**1722**  
It becomes illegal for free Black Africans living in England to be captured and taken back to the Caribbean.

**1807**  
Britain abolishes the slave trade.

**1833**  
Britain abolishes slavery.

**1939-45**  
Men and women from Britain's colonies fought in WWII.

**1948**  
The **Windrush** arrived; postwar immigration begins.

**1960s**  
Caribbean countries gain independence from Britain.

1500

1600

1700

1800

1900

2000