1 Culture

Ethnic minorities in the UK



1 **SPEAKING** Describe the photo opposite. Does it match your idea of typical British children? Why? / Why not?

2 Read the text. Where did immigrants to Britain mostly come from ...

1 in the 1950s?
2 in the 1960s and 1970s?
3 in the first decade of the 21st century?

3 Read the text again. Are these sentences true or false? Write T or F.

1 In the 20th century, immigrants to Britain mainly came from countries that used to be part of the British Empire. ___
2 People from the Caribbean were invited to come and work in Britain. ___
3 Britain has generally refused to adopt any traditions of immigrant cultures. ___
4 Many Asian immigrants came from other British colonies. ___
5 The majority of immigrants to Britain in the 21st century do not settle permanently. ___

4 4.05 Listen to five people whose families emigrated to Britain talking about their lives. What is the ethnic origin of each speaker?

5 4.05 Listen again. Match sentences A–F below with the speakers (1–5). Some sentences match with more than one speaker.

Which speaker(s) ...
A have experienced racism in the UK? ___
B make a negative comment about the weather? ___
C did not personally emigrate to Britain? ___
D consider themselves British? ___
E mention good British friends? ___
F mention problems finding a job? ___

6 **SPEAKING** Discuss questions 1 and 2 in pairs. You can use the phrases below to help you.

I think people might ... In my view ...
I'm not certain, but ... It could be that ...
It's probably true to say that ...

1 What are some of the reasons why people emigrate to another country?
2 Do you know any immigrants to your country? Where are they from? Why are they there?

4.04

BRITAIN – a mix of cultures

Britain has always been a mixture of different nationalities and cultures. The country itself is made up of four nations – England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – each with its own cultural heritage. Back in the 17th century, Britain became a global power and gained an enormous empire. By the 1920s, the empire was home to 458 million people – a fifth of the world's population! But forty years later, most of the colonies had gained their independence, and immigrants from Britain's former colonies had begun to arrive in the UK and contribute to its multicultural society.



The longest-established ethnic minority in Britain is the black Caribbean population. After the Second World War, there was a labour shortage in the UK and people from Jamaica and Trinidad, former British colonies, were encouraged to come and work in Britain. In 1948, five hundred came over on the steamship *Empire Windrush*, and throughout the following decade, thousands more arrived. Many immigrants experienced some form of racism at that time. However, Caribbean culture – especially food and musical styles such as ska and reggae – gradually became part of British life. The Notting Hill Carnival – the biggest street festival in Europe – was started by Caribbean immigrants.

Another wave of immigration to the UK occurred in the 1960s and 1970s. India and Pakistan were formerly part of the British Empire, and many people arrived from those countries. In previous decades, Indians and Pakistanis had also gone to work in British colonies in Africa. But after those African countries gained independence, Asians were forced to leave and came to the UK. Asians in Britain formed a close community and on the whole retained their own customs and languages. However, Indian food is now part of British culture, with Indian restaurants found all over the country. Curry is one of Britain's most popular meals.

Since the expansion of the European Union in 2004, the UK has seen more immigrants from continental Europe. Most come to work in Britain and then return home after a few years, but others have chosen to settle in their new homeland.



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