



**BRITAIN AFTER WW2 – KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER**

YEAR 6 HISTORY

BRITAIN AFTER WW2

SUMMER TERM

**Key Knowledge**

**Effects of WW2**

World War 2 cost Britain billions of pounds and the government had to borrow vast sums of money from the USA to pay for it. Every part of British life had been affected and after the war, Britain needed to focus on rebuilding the country. Millions of homes had been destroyed by German bombing, together with docks, factories and coal mines. Railways, airports and roads had also been bombed or were old-fashioned and needed repair.

**Rebuilding Britain**

Even though Winston Churchill had led Britain to victory during the war, his Conservative party lost the 1945 election when the British people voted for the Labour party, led by Clement Attlee. Labour promised to expand the Welfare State by getting rid of slum housing, building affordable new homes and creating a new National Health Service (NHS). The Labour party also planned to nationalise important services to create millions of new jobs. These ideas appealed to many ordinary British people in 1945. Fixing the damage done by the Blitz was an enormous job and took until the 1960s. Over this period, new towns were established and new sorts of buildings were designed and built.

**The Windrush**

Before the war, many countries around the world were part of the British Empire, known as the Commonwealth. Armies from several of these countries fought alongside Britain during WW2, and thousands of people from the Caribbean also volunteered to join the British army and fight against Hitler.

As so many British soldiers had been killed in the war, Britain didn't have enough workers for rebuilding so people from the Commonwealth were encouraged to move to Britain to help. In 1948, a ship called the Empire Windrush arrived carrying nearly 500 Caribbean people hoping for a new life in Britain. Over the next few years, thousands more joined them and this wave of immigration became known as 'the Windrush'.

**What should I already know?**

WW2 broke out in 1939 and lasted until 1945. Some of the main causes and consequences of WW2. What life was like for British families during the war. The experiences of Londoners during the Blitz.



**The Barbican Estate**

Cripplegate, in the City of London, was devastated by bombing during WW2. The Barbican Estate was built on the site between 1963 and 1976 in the new Brutalist style of architecture of the time. In 2003, it was voted London's ugliest building!



**The Windrush Generation**

Some of those arriving on the Windrush eventually settled in Brixton and others formed a community in Notting Hill. Some British people were welcoming but some were not. Many Caribbean immigrants faced hostility and racial discrimination and there were no laws against this until 1965. In Brixton today, Windrush Square commemorates the arrival of the Empire Windrush, while Notting Hill is home to the annual Carnival, celebrating the cultures and traditions of London's Afro-Caribbean communities. Since 2018, National Windrush Day is also celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> June each year!

**Key Vocabulary**

Blitz	the German bombing attacks on Britain during World War 2.
British Empire	a group of countries ruled or administrated by Britain between the 1600s and 1960s.
Caribbean	the region of the world consisting of the Caribbean Sea and its islands.
Commonwealth	an association of countries that were part of the British Empire.
Conservative	a political party in the United Kingdom.
election	a process where people choose their Member of Parliament (MP) by voting.
immigrant	a person who moves permanently to live in another country.
Labour	a political party in the United Kingdom.
NHS	the National Health Service in Britain which is funded by the government.
nationalise	to bring under government ownership or control.
racial discrimination	treating people unfairly because of prejudice against their race or colour.
welfare state	a social system where the government takes responsibility for the welfare of its citizens.
(the) Windrush	the period of immigration to Britain from the Commonwealth after World War 2.

**History Skills**

Identify periods of rapid change and periods of little change. Understand the concepts of continuity and change over time. Describe the main changes in a period of history using terms such as social, political, technological and cultural. Describe social, ethnic, cultural or religious diversity of people. Analyse a wide range of evidence to justify claims about the past. Identify continuity and change in the locality of the school. Use original ways to present information and ideas.

**Timeline**

<b>July 1945</b> Labour party, led by Clement Attlee, wins UK election.	<b>July 1946</b> Coal industry is nationalised and National Coal Board is created.	<b>Jan 1948</b> Railways are nationalised and British Rail is created.	<b>June 1948</b> Empire Windrush arrives at Tilbury Docks, Essex.	<b>July 1948</b> National Health Service is established.	<b>May 1949</b> First 10-storey block of council flats opens in Holborn, London.	<b>October 1949</b> Construction of Royal Festival Hall begins on London's Southbank.	<b>1950</b> Construction of first post-war new town of Stevenage begins.	<b>Dec 1958</b> Motorway system begins with the M6 Preston bypass.	<b>Sept 1963</b> Construction of Barbican Estate begins in the City of London.	<b>Dec 1965</b> Race Relations Act comes into force to tackle racial discrimination.
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