

## How did migration impact on early modern England?

**TASK:** Read the story of the unit, to find out more about what we're going to study in the next seven lessons. Then, answer the questions at the bottom of the page (use a separate piece of paper).

During the years 1500-1700, there was an increase in people migrating to - and settling permanently in - England. A number of 'push' and 'pull' factors were behind this increased migration. For example, some people faced **hardship** and **discrimination** in the countries they had been born in, which forced or encouraged them to move to England. Others were attracted by the **opportunities** that they thought existed for them in England - especially for work and different types of jobs.



A small number of **black migrants** (who had been born on the African continent) lived in England in the 1500s and 1600s. These individuals were often well **integrated** into society, and had respected jobs (like John Blanke, a trumpeter who worked for King Henry VIII). However, as England became more involved in the **slave trade** in the years after 1700, attitudes towards black people living in England began to change. Increasingly, black migrants faced **prejudice**, and it was more difficult for them to find well-paid jobs.



**Roma people** first arrived in England in the early 1500s, and from early on they faced the same kind of discrimination that they had experienced in other parts of Europe. Many people in England viewed Roma people as a 'problem' because they were **itinerant**: this meant they moved from place to place, with no fixed home. Laws were put in place to try to encourage Roma people to leave England.



As the **British Empire** grew, new jobs became available for migrants from **India**. English families began to move to India (to take advantage of new trading opportunities), and they appointed Indian women as nannies - or **ayahs** - to look after their children. When these families moved back to England, they often brought their ayahs with them. Also, English ships needed lots of workers, and men from India and South East Asia took on jobs as **lascars**.



Facing **persecution** for their religious beliefs in Catholic France, **Huguenots** (French Protestants) arrived in England in large numbers after 1685. Many settled in Spitalfields, London, and began setting themselves up as **silk-weavers**. This was a highly-valued trade in the period, as lots of English people wanted clothes made from silk. Some Huguenots became very wealthy.



Migration to England in the early modern period offered new opportunities - although migrants still faced challenges as they tried to integrate into English society.

**TASK:** Answer the questions below:

- 1: Name four groups of migrants who arrived in England in the early modern period.
- 2: Describe how the experiences of black migrants in England changed as time went on.
- 3: Why were Roma people viewed as a 'problem'?
- 4: What kinds of opportunities did the growth of the British Empire offer to people from India and South East Asia?
- 5: What job/skill did many Huguenot migrants have?

