

# Pack Your Suitcase

The passengers who boarded the Empire Windrush on 22 June 1948 had a long journey ahead of them. Many hoped to settle in Britain permanently, but they couldn't take much luggage with them.

**Think like those passengers and fill this suitcase with your most precious things.**



# Sam King MBE

Sam King was born in Jamaica in 1926. He worked as an engineer in the RAF during the Second World War. After the war, he returned to Britain on the Empire Windrush. Once in London, Sam helped Black families to buy their own homes and even helped organise the first Caribbean-style carnival in London. This became the first Notting Hill Carnival in 1964. Sam became the first Black Mayor of Southwark (South London) in 1983.



# Johnny Smythe

Johnny Smythe was born in Sierra Leone (West Africa) in 1915. He worked as a navigator in the RAF during the Second World War. In 1948, he helped airmen onboard the Empire Windrush on their journey back home to the Caribbean. The British government gave him permission to bring people to the UK from the Caribbean if they wanted to help re-build Britain after the war.



# Sonia Thompson

Sonia Thompson was born in Kingston, Jamaica and travelled to the UK to join the war effort. She became one of 80 Black women in the WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force). Thompson qualified as an Instrument Repairer and became a 'Leading Aircraftwoman.' She would have worked long hours checking and fixing faults in the instruments (controls and monitors) of the aircraft. Sadly, nothing is known about her life after the war.



# Alma Veronique La Badie



Alma La Badie grew up in Kingston, Jamaica. When war broke out in 1939, Alma began raising money for the war effort. On 2 February 1943, she arrived in the UK and began working in the WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force). Alma stayed in the UK after the war. She worked as a social worker and continued her lifelong campaigning for the rights of women and African-Caribbean people.