

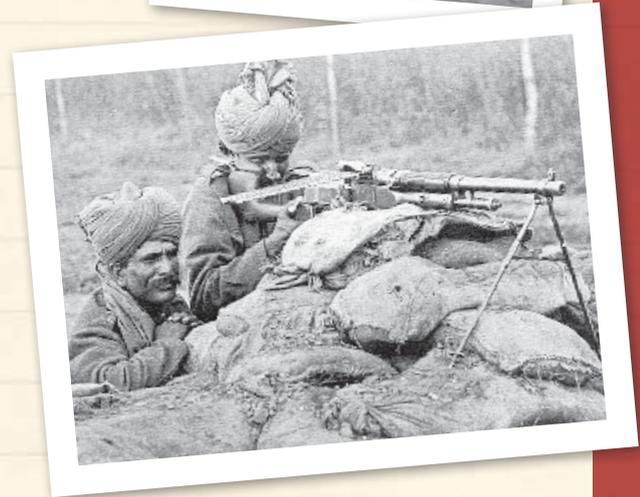
FAMILY HISTORY

Learning objectives:

- Get students involved in their family history.
- Students explore their own personal history through talking to relatives.
- Raise awareness of family history and backgrounds and the broader Bangladeshi 'community' history.

English learning objectives:

- Developing active listening skills and strategies.
- Understanding and responding to what speakers say in formal and informal contexts.
- 3.1 Developing and adapting discussion skills and strategies in formal and informal contexts.
- 3.2 Taking roles in group discussion.
- 5.1 Developing and adapting active reading skills and strategies.
- 5.2 Understanding and responding to ideas, viewpoints, themes and purposes in texts.
- 6.3 Analysing writers' use of organisation, structure, layout and presentation.
- 7.1 Generating ideas, planning and drafting.
- Also, locating and extracting information.



Preparation/resources:

Exercise 1: Either ask students to go online to research OR give them printed sheets of the pages under: www.banglastories.org/the-bengal-diaspora/history

Subsections:

- Ayahs, Lascars and Princes
- Two World Wars
- Post-War Migration
- Voucher Migration
- Families Reunited
- New Migrants

Exercise 2: Either direct students to read the page online OR give them printed sheets of the pages: www.banglastories.org/the-bengal-diaspora/history/families-reunited.html.

Exercise 1 (30 minutes):

Explain that although a common misconception is that Bangladeshis/Bengalis have only relatively recently migrated to Britain, they have in fact been settling in Britain for over 400 years.

Individually or in pairs

Ask students to look through the website www.banglastories.org/the-bengal-diaspora/history and list all the various groups of Bangladeshis/Bengalis that arrived in Britain.

- Ayahs, lascars and princes.
- Soldiers and sailors who fought in World Wars I and II.
- Those who came after the War including lascars and many who were arriving after the 1947 Partition of India.
- Voucher migrants.
- Families reunited.
- New migrants.

Exercise 2 (25 minutes):

Individually or in pairs

Ask students to read the 'Families Reunited' section on the website (www.banglastories.org/the-bengal-diaspora/history/families-reunited.html) and think about how it felt to be separated from family. As those who were reunited were mostly children and wives, think how it might have felt to be reunited with fathers or husbands. Ask them to discuss these questions and their feelings in pairs and write down some points to feed back to the class.

- What was life like in Bangladesh?
- How and why did they come to Britain?
- How did it feel when they first arrived?
- Were they happy about coming or did they have mixed feelings about coming?
- Did they know many people when they first arrived?



As a whole group

Steer students towards thinking about the diverse ways in which families arrived in Britain and the many journeys they took to get to Britain. Ask students to consider the impact of being separated from and then reunited with your family.

Reflection (5 minutes):

As a whole group

Ask students to reflect on the impact of:

- Where someone arrived in Britain.
- When someone arrived in Britain.
- Arriving at a particularly significant historical time.
- Leaving family behind. Why leave them?
- Speaking or not speaking English?

These questions can lead on to introducing the extended activity.

Extended activity/homework

Individually

Ask students to write about a fictitious Bengali person who migrated to Britain –, what were their experiences before they arrived, their journey, their arrival and how they felt when they first arrived?

- What can you tell us about this person?
- How old are they?
- Why did they come to Britain?
- How did they get here?
- What was their journey like?
- What were their experiences of Britain?

