



Coming & Going

Recommended year group: Year 8

Subject focus: Geography, English, History

Driving Question

Why do people migrate and what impact does it have on countries?

Introduction

This theme explores migration—why people move, the challenges involved, and how movement shapes countries and communities. It combines geography, history, and English to build a clear understanding of causes and consequences. The focus includes map skills and the role of borders, historical and modern migrations such as the Windrush generation and the Syrian conflict, and real stories like David Lammy's speech on injustice. It also examines social, economic, and political impacts, alongside global comparisons of countries and development. Migration is presented as more than movement; it is a process that influences identity and global connections while developing essential skills in research, analysis, and communication.



Learning Checks

Lesson 5 - Country Project - Explain why the physical geography of *YOUR COUNTRY* has enhanced or restricted its development

Lesson 7 – What is it like to be a refugee infographic

Lesson 9- Big Read: How does Lammy present the treatment of the Windrush generation?

Key vocabulary

Alliteration, Asylum seeker, Colonies, Construction, Consequence, Country, Democracy, Development, Displaced person, Economic, Economic migrant, Emigration, Empire Windrush, Environmental, Exaggeration, Financial Services, Four-figure grid references, GDP (per capita), HIC (High-Income Country), Immigration, Imperatives, Indefinite Leave to Remain, Information Technology (IT), Impact, Internal migration, International migration, Internet users, Kilometres, LIC (Low-Income Country), Life expectancy, Man-made Border, Miles, Migration, Natural Border, NEE (Newly Emerging Economy), Ordnance Survey, Political, Population, Refugee, Scale, Seasonal worker, Sector, Six-figure grid references, Social, Superlative, Systemic Racism, Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL), Territory, Transferable.

Linked Reading

***The Other Side of Truth* by Beverley Naidoo**

This gripping novel tells the story of Sade and Femi, siblings forced to flee Nigeria after their mother is killed in a political attack aimed at their father, a journalist who speaks out against corruption. The book explores themes of truth, justice, and survival as the children face the challenges of illegal immigration, adapting to life in England, and coping with fear and loss.

***The Missing: The True Story of My Family in World War II* by Michael Rosen**

A deeply moving non-fiction account in which poet Michael Rosen uncovers the fate of his relatives during the Holocaust. Through letters, archives, and personal reflections, Rosen reveals the devastating impact of war, displacement, and persecution, helping readers understand the human cost of conflict and the importance of remembering history.

***Refugee Boy* by Benjamin Zephaniah**

This novel follows Alem, a boy of mixed Ethiopian and Eritrean heritage, whose parents send him to Britain to escape civil war. Alone in a strange country, Alem faces the asylum process, prejudice, and uncertainty about his future. The story highlights resilience, identity, and the emotional struggles of young refugees.

***Windrush Child* by Benjamin Zephaniah**

Set during the post-war migration from the Caribbean to Britain, this book tells the story of Leonard, who moves to England with his mother in search of a better life. It explores themes of belonging, racism, and cultural identity, while shedding light on the experiences of the Windrush generation and their contribution to British society.

***Welcome to Nowhere* by Elizabeth Laird**

A powerful novel about Omar, a 12-year-old boy living in Syria whose life is turned upside down by civil war. Forced to flee with his family, Omar experiences the harsh realities of refugee camps and the struggle to find safety. The book offers insight into the human side of global conflicts and the resilience of families in crisis.



People, Place and Time

The 'People, Place and Time' resources provide support to key knowledge throughout the theme. More specifically:

- **People:** fact files on key people who have had an influence in this theme. Students can use these to research information, or they can be used as WAGOLs for fact files.
- **Place:** Countries with the greatest current refugee movement
- **Time:** Timeline of the movement of people across the world

Looking After Yourself

Read the following Kooth articles that link to the issues of this theme:

- Being at school when English isn't your first language
- Create an anxiety comfort bag
- Living far from home
- When your parents pressure you to succeed

Cultural capital suggestions

 **Read:** [Penguins](#) | [Brian Bilston's Poetry Laboetry](#)

 **Look:** *Paddington* (2014)

 **Listen:** Neil Diamond *America*, The Pogues *Thousands are Sailing*, the Dubliners *McAlpine's Fusiliers*.

Songs that celebrate immigration into America and Britain.

Extended learning opportunities

Migration Museum (London)

Focuses on how migration has shaped Britain through exhibitions, oral histories, and immersive experiences. **Visit Migration Museum** [migrationmuseum.org]

Museum of Immigration and Diversity (Princelet Street, London)

Located in an 18th-century house in Spitalfields, this museum explores waves of immigration to East London, including Huguenots, Jewish settlers, and more. **Visit Museum of Immigration and Diversity** [museumlondon.org]

Royal Museums Greenwich – Migration and Movement

Offers stories of ocean crossings, Windrush histories, and migration through maritime collections. **Explore Migration and Movement** [rmg.co.uk]

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum (Dublin, Ireland)

Interactive museum telling the story of Irish emigration and its global impact. **Visit EPIC Museum** [epicchq.com]

Red Star Line Museum (Antwerp, Belgium)

Chronicles the journeys of millions of emigrants who left Europe for America between 1873 and 1935. **Visit Red Star Line Museum** [ricksteves.com]

MEI – National Museum of Italian Emigration (Genoa, Italy)

Dedicated to the stories of Italians who emigrated worldwide from the 19th century onwards. **Learn about MEI** [epicchq.com]

Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration (New York)

Iconic museum documenting the immigrant experience in America from 1892 to 1954 and beyond. **Visit Ellis Island Museum** [statueofliberty.org]

Museum of the Diaspora

Explores migration and identity across multiple cultures and continents. **Learn more** [wonderfulmuseums.com]

Lessons

	Lesson title	Subject	Essential knowledge/concepts	Competencies	National curriculum coverage
01	What is a country	Geography	Identify the border features of different countries Explain the benefits of a border Define key words	SE.GE.01 Demonstrate knowledge of locations and places, environments and different scales	Geography: Develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these provide a geographical context for understanding the actions of processes.
02	Why did people cross borders ?	History	Compare and contrast motivations for migration from different historical periods. Apply knowledge gained from evidence to create an informative leaflet.	RL.ID.01c Cite specific textual evidence to support conclusions drawn from the text	
03	History of Migration	History	Identify and order several events in chronological order. Compare and contrast motivations for migration from different historical periods.	SE.HS.02: Making historical connections (cause and consequence)	KS3 History NC: understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts and analyse trends.
04	Careers to help you move	Careers	Identify reasons why people benefit from working abroad Describe the careers within different job industries or sectors Investigate the qualities needed to work within these sectors	PD.CA.02: Experiencing the world of work	Every student, and their parents, should have access to good quality information about future study options and labour market opportunities.
05	Country Project	Geography	Describe the physical geography of different areas of the world Explain how physical geography can affect that area or country Explain why geography can promote or hinder the development of a country	SE.GE.03 Demonstrate understanding of physical geography concepts and its interrelationships with places, environments and processes	Geography Develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these provide a geographical context for understanding the actions of processes

06	Case Study – Syria	Geography	Identify why Syria is a prisoner of geography. Describe how this impacts the recent history of Syria Explain the impact of this on the people of Syria.	SE.GE.02 Demonstrate understanding of human geography concepts and their interrelationships with places, environments and processes	Geography Human geography relating to population and urbanisation Understand how human and physical processes interact to influence, and change landscapes, environments and the climate; and how human activity relies on effective functioning of natural systems
07	What is it like to be a refugee	Geography	Define the term ‘refugee’ and put it into context. Explain how and why people become refugees – push and pull factors. Examine and research facts and figures about refugees		
08	Map Skills revisit and review	Geography	Review knowledge of to use an 8-point and 16-point compass to give directions Apply knowledge of 4-point and 6-point grid references Identify and summarise key Map Skills	SE.GE.04 Demonstrate map skills	Geography Students are competent in the geographical skills needed to interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
09	Big Read: David Lammy speech	English	Identify language techniques in the set text. Explain and analyse the purpose and overall effectiveness behind these features.	Identify and interpret language devices, sentence forms, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyse how they affect meaning or tone.	English NC Students should: acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage