

Migration Experience

Task Sheet

Learning Objectives

- To **understand** the *push* and *pull factors* of British Muslim migrants in the 1960s and 70s.
- To **analyse** the changes and experiences of migrants in the 1960s and 70s.
- To **compare** and **contrast** the challenges faced by British Muslim migrants in the 1960s and today.

Key Terms:

- Immigration
- Migration
- Colony
- The Commonwealth
- Commonwealth Immigrants Act
- Economic prospects
- Voucher system
- Discrimination

Introduction:

Large-scale **immigration** to Britain from Pakistan, Bangladesh and India began in the 1950s when Britain encouraged **migration** from former **colonies** to satisfy its post-war labour shortages. Up until 1962 and the introduction of the **Commonwealth Immigrants Act**, citizens of the **Commonwealth** were able to enter the UK automatically and without restrictions.

During the 1950s and 1960s the majority of those migrating to Britain were single men seeking to better their **economic prospects**. Later in the 1970s and 1980s they were joined by their wives and families. Others arrived in Britain on student or work visas. The 1960s also saw controls on immigration and the introduction of the '**voucher system**', which allowed those who were already settled in the UK to arrange jobs and vouchers for friends and relatives.

England was not always a welcoming place for new migrants, who at times faced **discrimination**. Finding a home or a room to rent was sometimes a difficult task for South Asians. Landlords would not rent to them and even if they did, the rooms were often in a bad condition and overcrowded. In order to overcome this, many South Asians began to collectively raise money to buy houses, which would then serve as lodgings for newcomers.

Starter

Look at the picture from the Partition of India, which displaced fifteen million people and killed more than a million.

Why do you think humans migrate?

How might migrants be impacted by their new environments?

How might local populations react to migrants?

Task 1

a) Examine source 1a

Think about and discuss the following:

What do you notice first?

What people and objects are shown?

Where is this photograph taken?

What other details do you see?

Why do you think the photograph was taken?

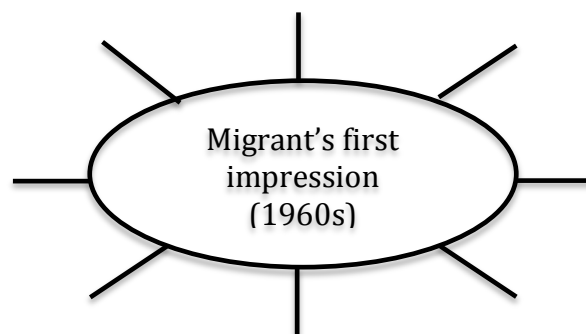
When do you think it was taken? Why do you think that?

Who do you think this photograph was taken for?

**Think of three questions you would ask the person in the photograph.
Now think of the answers he might give.**

b) Read source 1b

Based on this source, draw a concept map of what you think would be a migrant's first impressions of London in the 1960s?



Task 2

Now carefully **read** sources 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d and 2e.

What were the *changes* and *experiences* mentioned by the migrants in the sources? Use the following grid to help you:

Oral History Interview	List <i>changes</i> of Interviewee	List <i>experiences</i> of Interviewee
<p>Source 2a</p> <p>Humayun Ansari</p> <p>(arrived in England in 1962)</p>		
<p>Source 2b</p> <p>Razia Sultana Rashid</p> <p>(arrived in England in 1967)</p>		
<p>Source 2c</p> <p>Zahida Mughal</p> <p>(arrived in England in 1973)</p>		
<p>Source 2d</p> <p>Aga Rais Mirza</p> <p>(arrived in England in 1960)</p>		

<p>Source 2e</p> <p>Habib Hussein</p> <p>(arrived in England in 1967)</p>		
--	--	--

Using information from your grid *compare* and *contrast* the experiences of South Asians arriving in England in the 1960s and 70s with that of migrants today.

(Give three experiences which may be similar and three which may be different)

Task 3

Carefully ***read*** through sources 3a, 3b and 3c.

Explain the conditions of their living arrangements.

Identify the difficulties faced by the new migrants in trying to find a place to live.

‘These sources provide a reliable overview of the migration experiences of most South Asians arriving in post-war London.’

- a. Provide three reasons for why someone may ***agree*** with the statement:

- b. Provide three reasons for why someone may ***disagree*** with the statement:

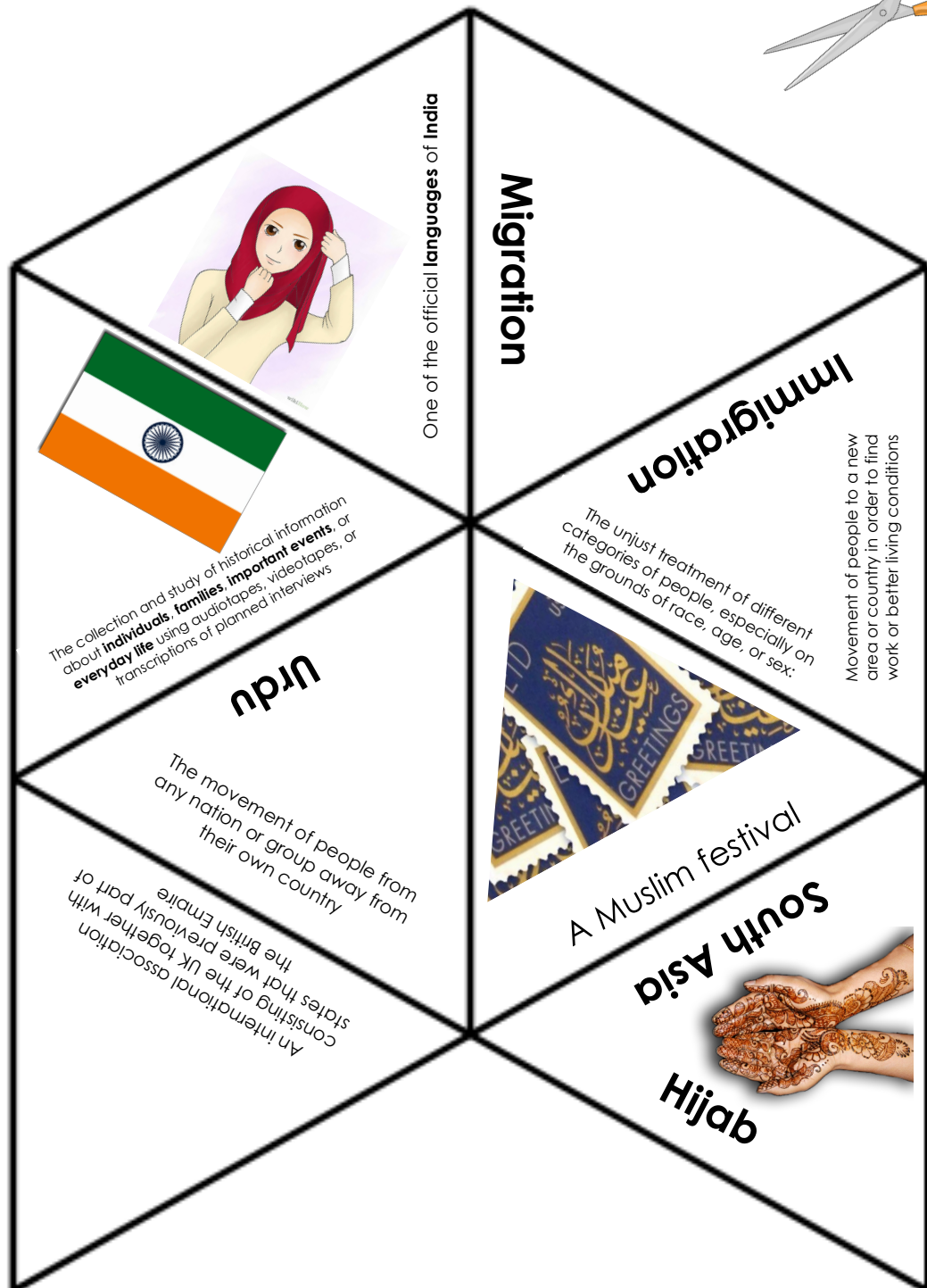
c. Do you *agree* or *disagree* with this statement and *why*?

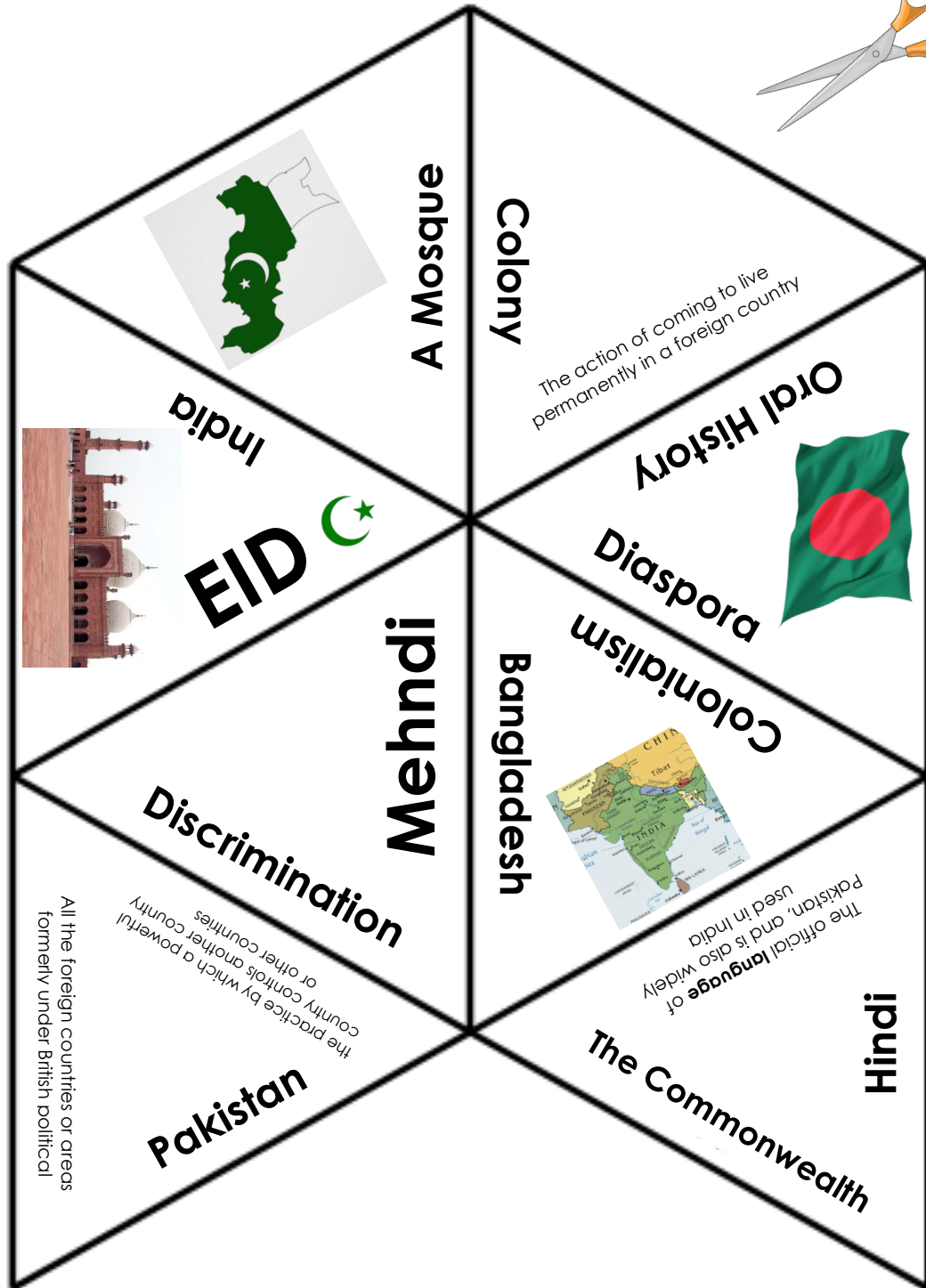
Plenary

Imagine you are a South Asian migrant living in London in the 1960s. Write a postcard to a friend who is arriving in London soon and tell them what they can expect.



Starter / Plenary





Extension Task 1

Commonwealth Immigration control and legislation

The Commonwealth Immigration Act 1962

In 1960, the Home Secretary, Richard 'Rab' Butler, pressed for legislation, and the Cabinet appointed a committee. Butler oversaw the production of the Bill that became the Commonwealth Immigration Act of 1962. This controlled the immigration of all Commonwealth passport holders (except those who held UK passports). Prospective immigrants now needed to apply for a **work voucher**, graded according to the applicant's employment prospects.

Labour had fiercely opposed Commonwealth immigration controls but, once in office, was forced to reconsider. The experience of the 1964 elections, in which prominent opponents of immigration control lost seats, indicated the act had widespread support. In 1965, the government tightened administrative controls over immigration and reduced the number of vouchers available.

The Commonwealth Immigration Act 1968

In 1967, Asians from Kenya and Uganda, fearing discrimination from their own national governments, began to arrive in Britain. They had retained their British citizenship following independence, and were therefore not subject to the act. The Conservative **Enoch Powell** and his associates campaigned for tighter controls. The Labour government responded with the Commonwealth Immigration Act of 1968. It extended control to those without a parent or grandparent who was born in or was a citizen of the UK.

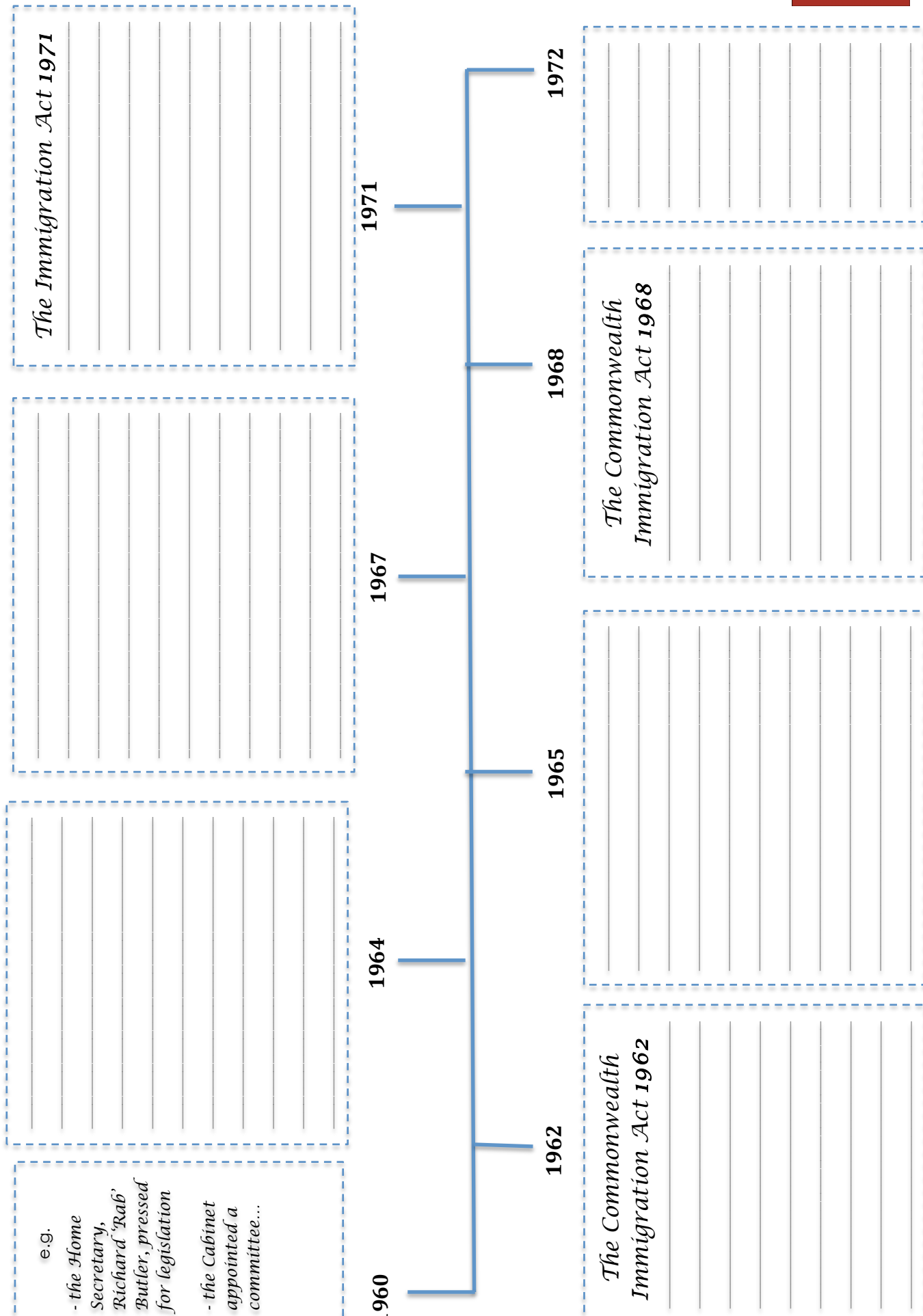
The Immigration Act 1971

The Conservative government announced the Immigration Act of 1971. The act replaced employment vouchers with **work permits**, allowing only temporary residence. 'Patrials' (those with close UK associations) were exempted from the act. It also tightened the immigration control administration and made some provision for assisting voluntary repatriation. In 1972, Idi Amin expelled large number of Asians from Uganda. Amid much controversy, the government permitted the immigration of 27,000 Asians through a specially constituted Uganda Resettlement Board.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/cabinetpapers/themes/commonwealth-immigration-control-legislation.htm>

1. Complete timeline for the 'Immigration Acts 1960-72.

- a. On your timeline highlight the three Immigration Acts
- b. Using the information given above plot the changes to immigration in the UK over time for each year illustrated.



Extension Task 2

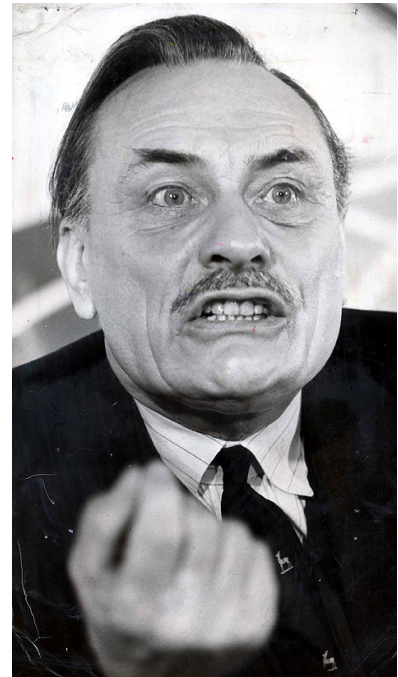
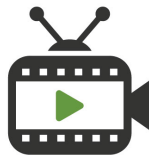
Watch 'Speeches - Enoch Powell's controversial "Rivers of Blood" speech'

A look at how Enoch Powell's controversial speech sparked a huge debate about immigration and its impact on British society. After giving his anti-immigration speech in 1968, Enoch Powell was sacked as a front-bench spokesman by Conservative Party leader Edward Heath, yet received massive public support. Simon Armitage examines how powerful language in the wrong mouths can be dangerous.

Release date:

11 November 2013

Duration: 7 minutes



Enoch Powell

Click Link to watch: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01lr41g>

Read Enoch Powell's 'Rivers of Blood' speech, which was delivered to a Conservative Association meeting in Birmingham on April 20 1968.

Link: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/3643823/Enoch-Powells-Rivers-of-Blood-speech.html>