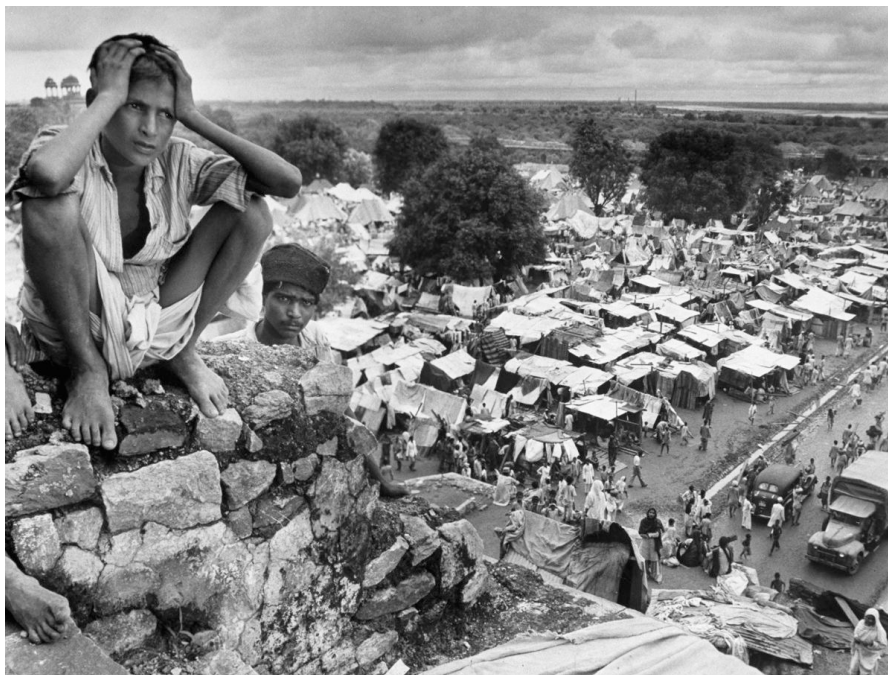


Migration Experience Source Sheet

Starter



Photograph by Margaret Bourke-White / life picture collection / Getty

Source 1a

Source 1b



Excerpt from an oral history interview conducted with Aga Rais Mirza (male, born: 1938) who arrived in England in 1960.

"I come to the UK in 24th January 1960. I finished my education in Pakistan and I thought I should go over there to acquire more knowledge, more education, and then I will come back to Pakistan again. So I came here basically for the education. I left my whole family: my father, my mother, my sister, and my brothers...A friend of mine came here [to England] and he was the first person who advised me to come over here for a better future than Pakistan. I took a plane from Karachi and landed over there [at Heathrow Airport]. And at that time every English face was look alike. And I was very scared and I had limited money and they charged me 5 guineas from airport to Victoria [Station]...I came to Victoria [Station] I saw his face, my friend's face, and I [became] quite relaxed. And then he brought me to Shoreditch and was living in a room... There were three bedrooms in the house and all the rooms were occupied by the tenants. So, he had a small box room and I started living [there]. "

Source 2a

Excerpt from an oral history interview conducted with Humayun Ansari (male, born: 1947) who arrived in England in 1962.

“I was hugely excited about coming here. Partly because we watched a whole load of Hollywood stuff ...and on celluloid these images are even more alluring, more attractive than what you find in reality. So you know Britain was, well I wasn’t thinking economically, the land of milk and honey, nor streets paved with gold but it was certainly somewhere that I did want to go to. I was hugely impressed by the differences between the place that I was living in and the place that I wanted to come to...what I remember is landing here and there was no problem in immigration, it didn’t exist. The first Commonwealth Immigration Act hadn’t actually come into force yet, I’m talking about May 1962. And on the green [District] line going to stay for a few days with my uncle in Wimbledon Park. It was interesting that journey, it was a cold, quite grey, miserable sort of day but that didn’t matter. I was here! And I remember sort of the novelty of traveling by the tube and also television which hadn’t come to Pakistan by then.”

Source 2b

Excerpt from an oral history interview conducted with Razia Sultana Rashid (female, born: 1941) who arrived in England in 1967.

“I was just shocked and horrified because I had a nice life there [in Lahore, Pakistan] and here [in England] I was living in one room with a landlady and with an old heater [...] I used to sit and cry and cry and cry.”

Source 2c

Excerpt from an oral history interview conducted with Zahida Mughal (female, born: 1952) who came to England in 1973 to join her husband.

“When I got here I thought ‘Oh my god, it’s so grey and cold!’ All the buildings looked black to me, you know. Grey and old buildings. And I said, is this London? Oh my God. It was all grey believe me. There was no sun, nothing... I came here and I had to wear a coat... And I had to wear a scarf or a cap to keep myself warm.”

Source 2d

Excerpt from an oral history interview conducted with Aga Rais Mirza (male, born: 1938) who arrived in England in 1960.

“[In Pakistan] I was living with my parents, my family and living here [in England] on my own I had to do everything that they used to do at home. Now I used to cook, I had to cook my food. I had to wash my clothes. And I got to do the shopping as well. So everything was done by me while over there everything was shared by my sisters, by my brothers, by my parents. So it was very hard.”

Source 2e

Excerpt from an oral history interview conducted with Habib Hussein (male, born: 1930) who arrived in England in 1967.

“I missed my shower. There in Pakistan, we had showers in the morning, afternoon, evening because of the weather, but there was no shower system here. There were tubs or baths in this country, and I had a problem [having] a bath in a tub... That’s the thing I missed most. Obviously I missed my parents and family but I missed my shower back in Pakistan because there was no shower system here, at least where I lived.”

Source 3a

Excerpt from an oral history interview conducted with Rashid Khokhar (male, born: 1930) who arrived in England in 1963.

“There were houses with adverts that said ‘No dogs, no Indians welcome.’”

Source 3b

Excerpt from an oral history interview conducted with Habib Hussein (male, born: 1930) who arrived in England in 1967.

“The one thing in those days was that you could get a job but you couldn’t get the accommodation because these British people didn’t like our way of life, because of ignorance. Of course our food is entirely different from [English] people and they used to object. Sometimes they used to say ‘You can stay here, but you can’t cook here’ and when you first came, it was very difficult. You had to ask somebody for a reference to get accommodation... and in those days there were very, very few properties owned by other Asian people and obviously they been through it themselves and they used to accommodate you. And you had to share the room, sometimes you had to share the bed because there wasn’t anywhere else to live.”

Source 3c

Excerpt from an oral history interview conducted with Fatima Khan (female, born: 1978) whose father arrived in England in the 1960s.

“We had a very busy household it was always a bit like a train station [because] we had this lodgers thing. We had a freehold house which was quite unprecedented at that time so we had a lot of [men] that stayed. We had an old Victorian house - three stories with basement and attic and different bathrooms... Every floor had makeshift bathroom facilities put in. So we had [men] living and cooking on different floors and I used to watch them cook different things every night.”