

Multilingual Britain

Let's learn about multilingual Britain and the languages we speak in our country.



Ιπποπόταμος
WoLLoW the HiPPo

The World of Languages
and Languages of the World

Multi-lingualism

Who here speaks
more than one
language?

How does it make
you feel to know
another language?

Poem by Grace
Nichols

I have crossed an ocean

I have lost my tongue

from the root of the old one

a new one has sprung.



What languages are spoken in modern-day Britain and why?



There are over 350 languages spoken in the British Isles.

Some of them, such as English, Irish and Manx, originated here. Can you think of others?

Most of them began elsewhere and arrived on our shores.

**What reasons could there be
for the arrival of new
languages?**



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According to the 2011 census, in England and Wales, among other languages, the most common were as follows.....(Not including English and Welsh)

- Polish 546,000 or 1.0%
- Punjabi 273,000 or 0.5%
- Urdu 269,000 or 0.5%
- Bengali 221,000 or 0.4%
- Gujarati 213,000 or 0.4%
- Arabic 159,000 or 0.3%
- French 147,000 or 0.3%
- Chinese 141,000 or 0.3%
- Portuguese 133,000 or 0.2%
- Spanish 120,000 or 0.2%
- Tamil 101,000 or 0.2%
- Turkish 99,000 or 0.2%
- Italian 92,000 or 0.2%
- Somali 86,000 or 0.2%
- Lithuanian 85,000 or 0.2%
- German 77,000 or 0.1%
- Persian 76,000 or 0.1%
- Philippine languages 70,000 or 0.1%
- Romanian 68,000 or 0.1%



Britain has always been
multilingual, multi-
cultural and multi-ethnic.



Why are we a multilingual nation? Tell us your thoughts.

- Invasion
- Empire
- Slavery
- Migration
- Trade
- Windrush
- Asylum Seekers
- Refugees
- Economic Migration



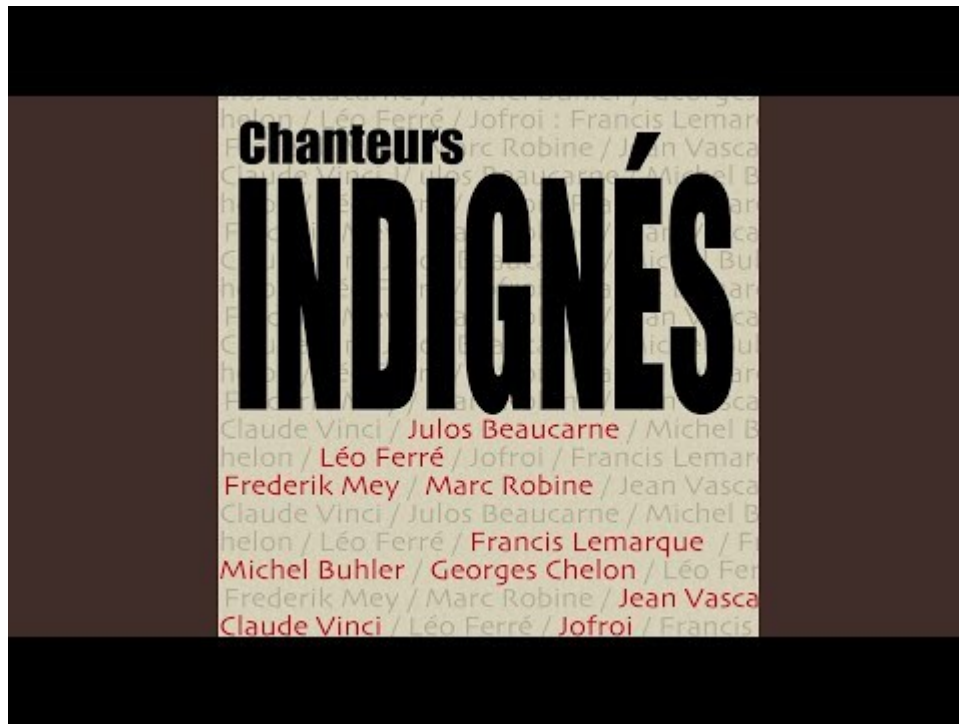
Listen to the French song "Ton Christ est Juif" by Julos Beaucarne

You may not understand French, but can you pick out some words you recognise? Are you learning French in school? Have you learnt it at primary school?

Here's the first stanza:

Ton Christ est Juif
Ta voiture est japonaise
Ton couscous est algérien
Ta démocratie est grecque
Ton café est brésilien
Ton chianti est italien

Use the prompts in your workbook to help you. What can you understand? What is Beaucarne trying to say with this song?



My Shampoo is German

How global is your life?

Complete your own version
of this poem by thinking
about the products you use
from around the world.

By all means, create your own list, but here are some prompts
should you need them...

My shampoo is....

My car is....

My bananas are...

My trainers are...

My jumper is...

My coffee is...

My medicine is...

My laptop is...

We live in a country with a huge number of imports. Britain has
always traded globally for centuries. With trade of good comes
the spread of words and language.

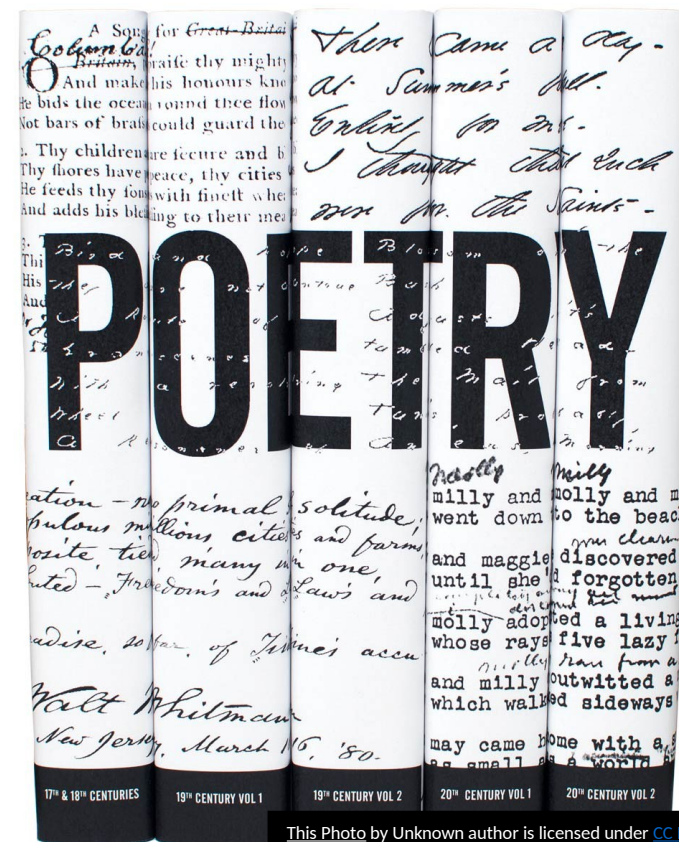


A Poem for Britain

We began this lesson with a poem and we'll end with a poem.

Your task is to create a poem about multilingual Britain.

- You could use words from the many languages spoken in our country.
- You could write about how it feels to be bi-lingual or multilingual, or how you'd image it would feel.
- You could think about the richness, diversity and interest it has brought to Britain.



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A Final Thought...

- Volunteer to read your poem aloud to the class.
- Which poem do you prefer and why?
- I have Crossed an Ocean by Grace Nichols
- Ton Christ es Juif by Julos Beaucarne
- Search for my Tongue by Sujata Bhatt
- One of your poems?



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