

How did Britain's Maritime Connections lead to Migration?

How have the maritime connections of the British Isles changed over time?

Background information:



A Viking Knarr – c. 900



Empire Windrush – Passenger Vessel c.1930



Sutlej East Indiaman – Trade Vessel c.1847

Over the last 1200 years the technology connected to seafaring and travel has changed massively allowing faster, safer, and easier travel to and expanding range of places across the world. This meant that people from the British Isles could travel further and also that people from further away could reach the British Isles in far larger numbers enabling migration.

Changing connections over time:

These connections existed for multiple reasons. Conflict, trade, and settlement were just some of the factors that drove movement and migration around the world by sea while other migrations and movements were forced such as in the cases of Enslaved people or those escaping persecution or war.

Watch the 'Changing Maritime Connections' Video and collect as much information using the table below. They match different sections of the video. Note down things that happened, the places the British Isles were connected to by sea, and then using this work out what was changing at this time. You will then need to use this information together with the background information and your own knowledge from studying migration over time to answer the overall question.



What connections existed from the British Isles and to where? How did they change over time?

How did these connections to different places lead to migration and movement of people around the world?

Vikings and Medieval period
(Around 800–1500)

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Global Seafaring and Empires
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Charting Change – How can we understand changing connections and migration over time using maps?

This is a Portolan. It is a type of map. It shows Europe and North Africa around the year 1550.



Mediterranean and Black Sea and NE Atlantic

Can you identify the following and label them on the map (you can use a modern map for reference)

1. Using the video and looking at the map which areas of the map do you think that people from the British Isles would have strong connections with around the year 1500?

The British Isles

Ireland

France

Italy

North Africa

2. How might this have affected migration to the British Isles?



