

PSHE - Citizenship

LO: To understand aspects of the ethnic make up of the local community
and the national context

The British (serves 60 million)

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Take some Picts, Celts and Silures
And let them settle,
Then overrun them with Roman conquerors.
Remove the Romans after approximately 400 years
Add lots of Norman French to some
Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Vikings, then stir vigorously.

Mix some hot Chileans, cool Jamaicans, Dominicans,
Trinidadians and Bajans with some Ethiopians, Chinese,
Vietnamese and Sudanese.
Then take a blend of Somalians, Sri Lankans, Nigerians
And Pakistanis,
Combine with some Guyanese
And turn up the heat.
Sprinkle some fresh Indians, Malaysians, Bosnians,
Iraqis and Bangladeshis together with some
Afghans, Spanish, Turkish, Kurdish, Japanese
And Palestinians
Then add to the melting pot.
Leave the ingredients to simmer.
As they mix and blend allow their languages to flourish
Binding them together with English.
Allow time to be cool.
Add some unity, understanding, and respect for the future,
Serve with justice
And enjoy.

Note: All the ingredients are equally important. Treating one ingredient better than another will leave a bitter unpleasant taste.

Warning: An unequal spread of justice will damage the people and cause pain.
Give justice and equality to all.

The British

By Benjamin Zephaniah

Activity 1:

- What do you think this poem means?
- Why do you think it has been written as a recipe?
- What words are used to make it sound like a recipe?
- How do these words help the author to get his message across?
- What do you think the key messages of the poem are?

Activity 2:

- Which places or nationalities do you recognise in the poem?
- Use a map to explore where all the places referred to in the poem are.

Attitudes

Britain is made up of a range of nationalities, cultures and ethnic groups. The author of the poem thinks that this is a good thing. Have you heard any other views about it?

Negative attitudes towards different cultures and ethnicities might be perceived as racist. If you repeat these negative opinions, they might be recorded as a racist incident.

Activity 3:

- ▶ Make a list of all the benefits that you can think of for living in an ethnically diverse society.

Did you know...?

- ▶ Approximately 13% of the population of Britain is made up of people of minority ethnic origin.
- ▶ Of these people, around 50% were born in Britain.
- ▶ Significant numbers of white British people live in other countries around the world.

Extension activity

Activity 4:

Can you write your own recipe poem to show the make up of our class, school, street, village, town or community?

As our school and some of the local areas not very ethnically diverse, you may want to think about the attributes, characteristics and attitudes that make up the population of your choosing.