

# Ethnicity, Language and Culture

## Teaching Ideas

### 1. Identity

Look at own identity – who am I?

How do I define myself, how do others see me?

What makes me who I am? Various influences on me, past and present

Diversity/ difference within own class/group; within school

Look at physical differences, height, hair & eye colour etc – graphs of heights, eye colour, shoe size etc

Place of birth of self, of parents, grandparents

Family trees of place of birth as well as dates

### 2. Ethnic backgrounds

Diverse races in school, in community, in football/rugby teams, celebrities etc

Difference between countries – geography of country, food, work, clothes, festivals & customs, language – do we have any words from that language in English?

Countries you may have visited on holiday – how was it different from where you live. Why?

Invite people from different races to tell traditional stories, cook food, wear and explain their dress, do a question and answer session, talk about life in their country and how it differs from life in Wigan.

Use contacts at SWAP to source visiting speakers (see contacts page.)

### **3.History**

Look at local history. How has Wigan changed?

Work, homes, immigrants over the centuries – where did they come from and what made them come here?

Patterns of immigration and emigration in UK through the ages

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What contribution has been made by diverse groups of people arriving in UK?

How has this country been shaped by influences from other countries.

Language, place names, buildings, industry.

Look at census / parish records to investigate common surnames, changing occupations.

Maps of former times – how has local area changed? housing, industry, roads, open spaces etc.

Discover local people (grandparents?) who were miners, mill workers, and would be happy to come into schools and share their experiences.

Pass their names on via the contacts page, so other schools can benefit from their experience.

### **4.Culture**

What is it?

How are people affected by their culture and how do they shape the culture in which they live?

Would we be different if we lived with different cultural influences.

How does culture in Wigan today differ from culture in grandparents' day?

Influence of cultures from different countries, particularly US, via film and television.

Representatives from brass bands to talk about origins of Brass band movement.

Also football/ rugby clubs – how their originated in local community or local parish church.

George Formby association (see contacts page).  
Teen culture and the rise of communication methods associated with this.

## **5. Language**

Dialects, accents. Different ones within class, school, staff, family members.

Would we be the same if we spoke with a London accent?

Would people here in Wigan treat us differently?

Examine own reactions to differing accents/dialects.

Which accents do we like and which do we find amusing?

Internet study of roots of common words.

Compare local dialect words with those in other locations in UK

e. g. names for certain foods that differ across country

Specialist visitors who could talk about dialect linked to particular industry, eg mining words.

How dialect has changed over generations – again use older people to display this.