

What does it mean to be British in 2008?

Being British means something different to each person in Great Britain. How does growing up in Aberystwyth, Cornwall, County Antrim, the Outer Hebrides, or more importantly, East Sussex affect what we mean when we say we are British? Why do differences on opinion over what it means to be British lead to bad feeling, arguments and violence?

We all have different experiences and backgrounds, meaning that our understanding of British culture is extremely **DIVERSE and so needs to be looked at in much closer detail.**

You will be learning about why Britain is such a diverse place and thinking about what the fabric of British life is – do we share many of the same ideas or are we all completely our own person? Is there such thing as a greater British community?

As you go through this module you will come across ideas that both challenge and strengthen your sense of being British.

TASK: Over the course of the module use the space below to collect some images from the internet, magazines and newspapers to show what it means to be British in 2008.

The British by Benjamin Zephaniah

**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.**



