



ARTICLE OF THE WEEK

INSTRUCTIONS

This flexible resource is intended to provide you with some easy to use, appropriate rights-related learning to share with your children, their families and your colleagues.

Please **edit out non-relevant slides or tasks** before sharing with students. Please check the content works for your learners and feel free to add any content that would make the material more relevant to your setting.

This pack also provides links to learning resources from third parties and from the UK Committee for Unicef (UNICEF UK) that you can access for free.

Slide 3 – Introducing Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month

Slide 4 – Introducing the articles

Slide 5 – Exploring Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History month question

Slide 6 – Exploring Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History month answers

Slides 7&8 – Primary Activities

Slides 9&10 – Secondary Activities

Slide 11 – Reflection

INTRODUCING GYPSY, ROMA AND TRAVELLER HISTORY MONTH

Helen introduces Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month



 **YouTube**
Click [here](#) to watch on YouTube

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Month is held in June.

Gypsies, Roma and Travellers are the largest ethnic minority community in the European Union with over 12 million people across the EU and around 300,000 in the UK. They experience extreme levels of prejudice and discrimination.

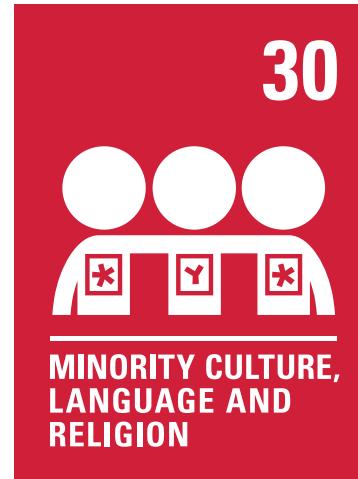
Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month celebrates all the different ways in which the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities add to the vibrancy of life in the UK and recognises the contributions that these communities have made to British society historically and today.

The month shares the history, culture and language of these communities, as well as other Travelling communities including Showmen and Boaters and helps to tackle prejudices, challenge myths and raise the voices of Gypsies and Travellers in wider society.



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LINKED UNCRC ARTICLES



There are three articles that provide a particularly strong link this week:

- **Article 2 – Non-discrimination**
 - The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.
- **Article 8 – Protection and preservation of identity**
 - Every child has the right to an identity. Governments must respect and protect that right, and prevent the child's name, nationality or family relationships from being changed unlawfully.
- **Article 30 – Children from minority or indigenous groups**
 - Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.

EXPLORING GYPSY, ROMA AND TRAVELLER HISTORY MONTH



What is needed for **every child**
to be able to enjoy their rights
fairly and equally?

unicef
UNITED KINGDOM



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HOW MANY OF THESE DID YOU GET?

- Every young person and child should know that their race, gender, ability, nationality (or other characteristic or identities) should not stop them enjoying all their rights.
- Nobody should feel that they are treated differently because of who they are.
- All people should accept, respect and value others for who they are.
- All schools should teach, practise and actively celebrate respect for all.
- Learning should include opportunities to empathise with those who are discriminated against.
- Government decisions and the law should show the way against all forms of discrimination.
- Everyone should be open to the fact that we all have prejudices and be ready to challenge them.
- People challenge and speak up about any discrimination they experience or see.
- Newspapers and other information sources should promote and celebrate diversity and inclusion.

Did you get any of these? What other answers did you have?

PRIMARY ACTIVITIES

You do not need to complete every activity but if you have time you can try to complete more than one.

Read through the ABC book. This is a book aimed at traveller children and contains lots of images showing the traveller community and their culture and lifestyle. What different things can you spot?



A vardo is a traditional horse-drawn caravan used by Roma people. Some travellers live in caravans and some travellers live in houses. Read 'Home' by Carson Ellis or [watch it being read here](#). This book shows lots of different types of homes, some real and some imaginary! [Other books about homes can be found here](#). Now have a go at designing your own home.



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Richard O'Neill is an author and storyteller and member of the traveller community. Read his book, *Ossiri and the Bala Mengro* or [watch him read the book here](#). In this story, Ossiri, the main character, is very brave when she met the Bala Mengro. How would you have reacted?

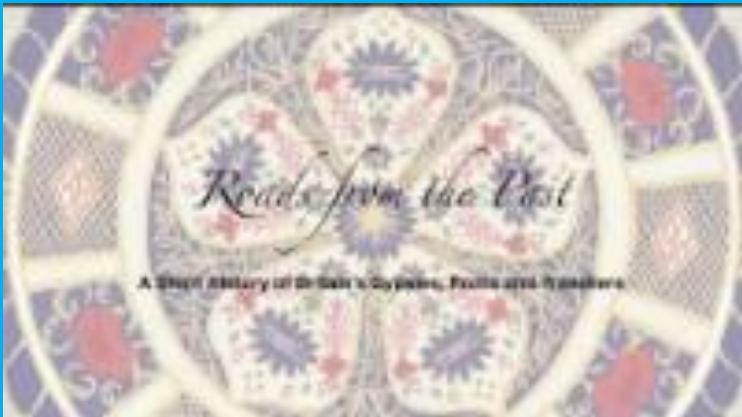


In *Ossiri and the Bala Mengro*, Ossiri's family recycle everything. They find things other people have thrown out and mend them so that they can be reused. Reusing things is helpful for our environment. [Can you think of anything you have reused in a different way, or mended so that it doesn't need to be thrown away?](#)

PRIMARY ACTIVITIES 2

You do not need to complete every activity but if you have time you can try to complete more than one.

Find out about the Appleby Horse Fair and why this is important for the traveller community. Imagine you visited the fair and write a diary entry.



Watch this film about the history of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people created by *Travellers Times*. Write down 3 facts you have learned about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people that you can share with a friend or family member.



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Find out more about some famous people who have Gypsy, Roma or Traveller Heritage. Suggestions include: Charlie Chaplin, Cher Lloyd, Django Reinhardt, Rafael Van der Vaart, Ronnie Wood, Billy Joe Saunders, Eric Cantona, Michael Caine, Shane Ward, Tyson Fury, Scarlett Lee, John Connors. What have their major achievements been?

Lots of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children face bullying and discrimination at school and this impacts on their right to education. **Read this book** which has been written by the

Traveller Movement in co-operation with members of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community and is based on real experiences.

How can you make sure that everyone is welcomed and accepted for who they are at your school?

SECONDARY ACTIVITIES

You do not need to complete every activity but if you have time you can try to complete more than one.

What do we mean by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller? Try and find out something about each of these communities. How are they different? What are the links between them? Share your research with your class or form a group.



Watch this animation
showing the history of the Roma people. Write down 5 facts you have learnt and share them with other students in your class.



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Find out more about some famous people who have Gypsy, Roma or Traveller Heritage. Suggestions include: Charlie Chaplin, Cher Lloyd, Django Reinhardt, Rafael Van der Vaart, Ronnie Wood, Billy Joe Saunders, Eric Cantona, Michael Caine, Shane Ward, Tyson Fury, Scarlett Lee, John Connors.
What have their major achievements been?

Dale Farm in Essex, England was the site of one of the largest traveller communities in the UK, housing over 1000 people.

Find out what happened to Dale farm and think about how this links to Articles 2, 8 and 30.

Use [this website](#) to get your started.

SECONDARY ACTIVITIES 2

You do not need to complete every activity but if you have time you can try to complete more than one.

Many Gypsy, Roma and Traveller young people have high aspirations for their future. Read about these young people who have gone on to University (in [this article](#) and [this article](#)) and think about how all young people could be encouraged and supported to be the best they can be. How could universities make sure they are encouraging applications from **all** young people? And which of this weeks' articles is it important to consider here?



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Read through [this fact sheet](#) about Roma people and or [watch this video highlighting 7 things you should know about Roma people](#). Can you create a poster using this information as inspiration?



Music plays a strong role in the lives of the Irish Traveller community. [Watch Sharyn Ward](#) wow the judges on Ireland's Got Talent when she sings a traditional Irish song. What song would you choose to sing to represent you or your culture?

In examinations Gypsy, Roma and Traveller young people underachieve at school compared to students from all other ethnic backgrounds and have the highest rates of both permanent and temporary exclusions. [Have a class discussion about why you think this might be?](#) What could make schools and education more welcoming for children from these communities? [This article](#) might give some ideas to start.

REFLECTION



Click [here](#) to watch on YouTube

Watch this video. It sets out a problem. Once you have watched the video discuss the following questions.

What have you learnt about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people?

What could you do or say to other people to help them feel positive about who they are as people?

When you see or hear racism and other forms of discrimination against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people what will you do to challenge what you are witnessing?

Watch this video and think about how someone from these communities might feel.



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MORE INFO...



RRSA WEBSITE

For more information or to download previous Article of the Week packs please visit the RRSA website by clicking the link below

[CLICK HERE](#)



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