

## **Migrants to Britain**



*Right: Hadrian's Wall, built by the Romans*

In the same way as British people have gone to live and work in other countries, migrants have come to Britain and left their mark. Some of the earliest settlers in Britain were invaders who controlled the country, or parts of it, by force. The best known are probably the Romans. There are many signs of their occupation, which lasted several centuries. One of the most spectacular is Hadrian's Wall, built to keep the Picts and the Scots away from Roman-occupied Britain.

Some parts of our cities have always been places where immigrants have concentrated. In London one of the best known of these places is Soho with its Italian, Greek, Spanish, Hungarian and other European shops and restaurants. In ports such as Liverpool or Cardiff there are 'quarters' where Indian and Chinese seamen and their families live. Some cities, including Liverpool and Glasgow, have large Irish areas.

When we talk of immigrants to Britain we usually think of the most recent people to migrate here, from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, East Africa and the West Indies. We sometimes forget that immigration and emigration has been part of Britain's history for hundreds of years.

When migrants first come to a country they have to make a new beginning. Often they find it hard to get a well-paid job and a house. They tend to go to an area where their friends or relatives live and therefore concentrate in one area. When migrants concentrate in one area, whether it is the British in Calcutta or Indians in London, they tend to make a strong impression on the place.



*The Mosque in Regents Park, London. Mosques are Moslem places of worship*



- 1 From your atlas find out in which counties are a) the part of Hadrian's Wall near Newcastle, b) Regents Park, c) Cardiff, d) Southall.
- 2 What are some of the disadvantages of immigrants and their families concentrating in one place? Even if immigrants wanted to spread out through the city, why is it sometimes difficult for them?

An advertisement for an Indian film in Southall



Britain today is a multicultural society