

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month

What is Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month?

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month, or GRTHM, celebrates the variety that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities bring to the UK, through their skills and talents.

Many years ago, Gypsies, Roma and Travellers were groups of people who might have moved from place to place, however, now that is not the case. Most Gypsies, Roma and Travellers live in houses or permanent sites, but some choose to live in caravans and travel around. They have their own beliefs, histories, cultures and languages.

GRTHM has been celebrated in some schools since 2001 but was recognised by the Department for Education in 2007, and is now celebrated throughout the UK during June.

History of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers

Gypsies, Roma and Travellers have been part of British society for over 500 years. The first mention of a Gypsy in England was in 1514.

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities have faced persecution and mistreatment through people's lack of understanding and judgemental attitudes.



Aims of GRTHM:

- improve awareness of Travelling communities;
- develop respect and understanding about traditional Gypsy, Roma and Traveller ways of life;
- encourage positive links between communities.

Interesting Information

- Many Gypsies and Travellers traditionally worked on farms, for example, fruit picking, harvesting and planting.
- Many have adapted their skills to work in landscaping, gardening, laying tarmac, motor trading, scrap metal dealing and tree felling, however, Gypsies and Travellers work in a variety of professions and careers. There are Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people who work in the Police Force, as politicians, and teachers.

- Gypsies, Roma and Travellers are three separate ethnic groups with different histories, cultures and languages.
- All three groups traditionally lived nomadic lives, moving to different places.
- Now most Gypsies, Roma and Travellers live in houses. Some people choose to travel around and live in caravans and some people live in caravans that stay in one place for most of the year.

Problems Faced by Gypsies and Travellers

Views about Gypsies and Travellers are often wrong due to a lack of information. GRTHM aims to change this, and teach people about their traditional lifestyles and the importance of the histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller cultures. Gypsies and Travellers face regular racism and negative attitudes on a daily basis.

Not enough authorised camp sites mean there are less places for people who travel to stay for a short time.

Famous Gypsies and Travellers

Django Reinhardt was brought up in the Belgian Sinti Gypsy community in 1910 and became the first and most important European jazz musician of all time, playing the guitar, banjo and violin.

Flamenco dancing in Spain came from the Gypsy community, and the Romany Diamonds are a popular Polish music group. There have been many writers, artists and musicians who grew up in a variety of Gypsy and Traveller communities.

Fascinating Fact

Most Gypsies and Travellers call caravans, 'trailers' and a mobile home on a site is called a 'chalet'.



Questions

1. When did GRTHM start to be celebrated around the UK? **Tick one.**

2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	2002	<input type="checkbox"/>
2007	<input type="checkbox"/>	2008	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. In the past, where did Gypsies and Travellers live?

3. Match up these sentences:

Gypsy, Roma and Travellers	the month of June.
GRTHM is celebrated during	a word meaning 'caravan'.
A trailer is	are three separate ethnic groups.

4. Which of the following statements are aims of GRTHM? **Tick two.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	To develop respect and understanding.
<input type="checkbox"/>	To encourage people's misconceptions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	To encourage people to travel.
<input type="checkbox"/>	To improve awareness of Travelling communities.

5. Give two examples of jobs Gypsies and Travellers did in the past.

6. Complete the sentence:

Not many authorised campsites means _____

7. Give two facts about Django Reinhardt.

8. Romany Diamonds are:

A type of jewellery.

☐

A type of caravan.

☐

A Polish group.

☐

A clothing range.

☐

Answers

1. When did GRTHM start to be celebrated around the UK? **Tick one.**

2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	2002	<input type="checkbox"/>
2007	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2008	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. In the past, where did Gypsies and Travellers live?

They moved around and lived in different places.

3. Match up these sentences:

Gypsy, Roma and Travellers	→	the month of June.
GRTHM is celebrated during	→	a word meaning 'caravan'.
A trailer is	→	are three separate ethnic groups.

4. Which of the following statements are aims of GRTHM? **Tick two.**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To develop respect and understanding.
<input type="checkbox"/>	To encourage people's misconceptions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	To encourage people to travel.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To improve awareness of Travelling communities.

5. Give two examples of jobs Gypsies and Travellers did in the past.

Accept any two: fruit picking, harvesting and planting.

6. Complete the sentence:

Not many authorised campsites means **there are less places where Gypsies and Travellers can stay for a short time.**

7. Give two facts about Django Reinhardt.

He was a Belgina Sinti Gypsy.

He played the guitar, banjo and violin.

He was born in 1910.

He was a famous European jazz musician.

8. Romany Diamonds are:

A type of jewellery.

☐

A type of caravan.

☐

A Polish music group.

☒

A clothing range.

☐

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month

What is Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month?

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month, or GRTHM, is a celebration of the variety of talent and achievements that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities bring to the UK.

GRTHM has been celebrated in some schools since 2001 but was recognised by the Department for Education in 2007, and is now recognised throughout the UK during June.

Many years ago, Gypsies, Roma and Travellers were groups of people who might have moved from place to place, however, now that is not the case. Most Gypsies, Roma and Travellers live in houses or permanent sites, but some choose to live in caravans and travel around. They have their own beliefs, histories, cultures and languages.

History of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers

Gypsies, Roma and Travellers have been part of British society for over 500 years. The first mention of a Gypsy in England was in 1514.

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities have faced victimisation and mistreatment through people's lack of understanding and judgemental attitudes. Aims of GRTHM is to improve awareness of Travelling communities, develop respect and understanding about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller traditional ways of life, and encourage positive links between all communities.



Interesting Information

Traditionally, many Gypsies and Travellers worked on farms, for example, fruit picking, harvesting and planting. After more machines were used on farms, Gypsies moved from the countryside to cities and towns, to find work.

Many Gypsies and Travellers have adapted their skills to work in landscaping, gardening and motor trading. Gypsies and Travellers work in a variety of professions and careers, including the police force, as politicians, and as teachers.

Gypsies, Roma and Travellers are three separate ethnic groups with different histories, cultures and languages. All three groups traditionally lived nomadic lives, moving to different places. Now most Gypsies, Roma and Travellers live in houses. Some people choose to travel around and live in caravans and some people live in caravans that stay in one place for most of the year.

prejudice: negative opinions not actually based on facts.

persecution: ill-treated or victimised due to race or religion.

Fascinating Fact

Gypsy culture is built upon strict codes of about being clean and hygiene. There are strict guidelines, for example, on what objects can be washed in what bowls.

Most Gypsies and Travellers call caravans 'trailers', and mobile homes on sites are known as 'chalets'.

Problems Faced by Gypsies and Travellers

Gypsies and Travellers have faced hundreds of years of prejudice and persecution. This is largely due to a lack of understanding about the way of life. Views about Gypsies and Travellers are often wrong because of a lack of information. Gypsies and Travellers face a lot of racism and prejudice. During the Holocaust in the Second World War, Gypsies and Travellers were killed in the mass genocide carried out by the Nazis.

There aren't enough authorised camp sites. Many old campsites have been shut off so it is hard for anyone to camp there. This means they have to camp wherever they can, sometimes without the land owners' permission.

GRTHM aims to change this, and teach people about lifestyles and the importance of the histories of Gypsy and Traveller culture.



Famous Gypsies and Travellers

Django Reinhardt was born in 1910 in Belgium. He was brought up in a Sinti Gypsy community and became the first and most important European jazz musician of all time, playing the banjo, guitar and violin.

Flamenco dancing in Spain is originally from Gypsy communities, and the Romany Diamonds are a popular Polish music group. There have been many writers, artists and musicians who grew up in a variety of Gypsy and Traveller communities.

Questions

1. Match up these sentences:

GRTHM began in	500 years.
It was celebrated nationally from	1514.
Gypsies in England were first recorded in	2001.
There have been Gypsies in the UK for over	2007.

2. Give two reasons why Gypsies and Travellers have been treated badly in the past.

3. Before the use of machines, Gypsies and Travellers often worked on farms. Tick all the jobs they would have done.

milking cows	<input type="checkbox"/>	picking fruit	<input type="checkbox"/>
help with the harvest	<input type="checkbox"/>	plant seeds	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Explain why Gypsies and Travellers needed to move to the cities.

5. Which of these statements are true? Correct the statements which are wrong.

Gypsies and Travellers are not bothered about hygiene.

Traditionally, Gypsies have rules about what can be washed in which bowls.

Most Gypsies and Travellers work on farms.

6. Identify one major problem that Gypsies and Travellers who still travel face.

7. Tick the correct facts about Django Reinhardt.

He was Belgian.

☐

He played the violin.

☐

He was born in 1901.

☐

He was the first disco musician.

☐

8. What do you think GRTHM hopes to achieve?

Answers

1. Match up these sentences:

GRTHM began in 500 years.
 It was celebrated nationally from 1514.
 Gypsies in England were first recorded in 2001.
 There have been Gypsies in the UK for over 2007.

2. Give two reasons why Gypsies and Travellers have been treated badly in the past.

Gypsies and Travellers have been treated badly in the past because of a lack of understanding and judgemental attitudes.

3. Before the use of machines, Gypsies and Travellers often worked on farms. Tick all the jobs they would have done.

milking cows	<input type="checkbox"/>	picking fruit box	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
help with the harvest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	plant seeds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4. Explain why Gypsies and Travellers needed to move to the cities.

Gypsies and Travellers moved to the cities after machines were being used on farms, and they needed to look for work.

5. Which of these statements are true? Correct the statements which are wrong.

Gypsies and Travellers are not bothered about hygiene.

Traditionally, Gypsies have rules about what can be washed in which bowls.

Most Gypsies and Travellers work on farms.

Gypsies and Travellers follow strict rules about cleanliness and hygiene.

Most Gypsies and Travellers no longer work on farms.

6. Identify one major problem that Gypsies and Travellers who still travel face.

Choose one: There are not enough authorised sites for them to stay on, so they might have to stay on land without the owner's permission.

There might not be enough work, so they have to keep on the move to look for work.

7. Tick the correct facts about Django Reinhardt.

He was Belgian.

☒

He played the violin.

☒

He was born in 1901.

☐

He was the first disco musician.

☐

8. What do you think GRTHM hopes to achieve?

Answers will vary.

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month

What is Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month?

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month, or GRTHM, celebrates the richness that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities bring to the UK, through a variety of academic and artistic skills and achievements.

GRTHM has been celebrated in some schools since 2001 but was recognised by the Department for Education in 2007, and is now celebrated throughout the UK during June.

History of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers

Gypsies, Roma and Travellers have been part of British society for over 500 years. The first mention of a Gypsy in England was in 1514. In 1530, King Henry VIII banned Gypsies in England and Wales, and they were transported out of the country or killed.

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities have had centuries of being persecuted and mistreated through ignorance and prejudice. Therefore, one of the aims of GRTHM is to improve to awareness of Travelling communities, develop respect and understanding about the traditional Gypsy, Roma and Traveller ways of life, and encourage positive links between all communities.



Many years ago, Gypsies, Roma and Travellers were groups of people who might have moved from place to place, however, now that is not the case. Most Gypsies, Roma and Travellers live in houses or permanent sites, but some choose to live in caravans and travel around. They have their own beliefs, histories, cultures and languages.

Interesting Information

Traditionally, many Gypsies and Travellers worked seasonally on farms. Different jobs would be done at different times of the year, for example, fruit picking, harvesting and planting. After the mechanisation of farming, Gypsies moved from the rural areas to cities and towns, to find work.

Many Gypsies and Travellers have adapted their skills to work in landscaping, gardening and motor trading. Gypsies and Travellers work in a variety of professions and careers, including the police force, as politicians, and as teachers.

Gypsies, Roma and Travellers are three separate ethnic groups with different histories, cultures and languages. All three groups traditionally lived nomadic lives, moving to different places. Now most Gypsies, Roma and Travellers live in houses. Some people choose to travel around and live in caravans and some people live in caravans that stay in one place for most of the year. It is estimated that around 70% of Gypsies and Travellers in the UK live in houses, with 20% living on sites and only 10% choosing to live a nomadic lifestyle.

Fascinating Fact

- Gypsy culture is built upon strict codes of cleanliness learnt over centuries of life on the road. There are strict guidelines, for example, on what objects can be washed in what bowls.
- Most Gypsies and Travellers refer to caravans as 'trailers' and mobile homes on sites are known as 'chalets'.

Problems Faced by Gypsies and Travellers

Gypsies and Travellers have been subjected to hundreds of years of prejudice and persecution. This is largely due to a lack of understanding about the traditional ways of life. There are many misconceptions about Gypsies, Roma and Travellers. GRTHM aims to change these misconceptions, and educate people about the traditions and histories of Gypsy and Traveller cultures.

- Many old campsites have been shut off so it is hard for anyone to camp there.
- Gypsies and Travellers face regular racism and prejudice. During the Holocaust in the Second World War, Gypsies and Travellers were killed in the mass genocide carried out by the Nazis.
- An unusually high mortality rate means the life expectancy of Traveller men is ten years less than the national average.

Contributions of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers

There are many examples of the huge contributions Gypsies, Roma and Travellers have made to the world. Django Reinhardt was born in 1910 and brought up in the Belgium Sinti Gypsy community and became the first and most significant European jazz musician of all time, playing the guitar, banjo and violin.

Flamenco dancing in Spain is of Gypsy origin, and the Romany Diamonds are a popular Polish music group. There have been numerous writers, artists and musicians who grew up in a variety of Gypsy and Traveller communities.



Questions

1. What is GRTHM a celebration of?

2. Summarise the main points in the paragraphs written in the yellow box.

3. Use a dictionary to match up these meanings and words.

persecuted: having a preconceived idea of someone which is not necessarily based on fact.

ignorance: being ill-treated because of race or religion.

prejudice: having a lack of knowledge or information.

4. What does it mean when it says that Gypsies and Travellers used to work “seasonally” on farms? Give an example.

5. Look at the sentence beginning “Gypsies and Travellers have adapted their skills...” What does the word ‘adapted’ suggest about the nature of Gypsies and Travellers when machines were used on farms?

6. *There are many misconceptions about Gypsies and Travellers.* Give the meaning of the word ‘*misconceptions*’ in this sentence.

7. One problem that Gypsies and Travellers have is that there are not enough authorised sites. Why is this a problem and what could be done about this?

8. Tick the correct facts about Django Reinhardt.

He was a banjo player.	<input type="checkbox"/>	He was Belgian.	<input type="checkbox"/>
He was a rumba musician.	<input type="checkbox"/>	He played the guitar.	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. The following sentences summarise the paragraphs in the text. Number them 1 to 5 in order.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Gypsies and Travellers changed how they worked.
<input type="checkbox"/>	A number of talented Gypsies and Travellers are famous.
<input type="checkbox"/>	GRTHM recognises the different contributions Gypsies and Travellers make.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Different factors make life difficult.
<input type="checkbox"/>	GRTHM wants to change the way people think about Gypsies and Travellers.

10. Identify the three main points that you think are most important from this text.

Answers

1. What is GRTHM a celebration of?

GRTHM is a celebration of the academic and artistic skills and achievements that Gypsies and Travellers bring to the UK.

2. Summarise the main points in the paragraphs written in the yellow box.

Answers will vary.

3. Use a dictionary to match up these meanings and words.

persecuted:	→	having a preconceived idea of someone which is not necessarily based on fact
ignorance:	→	being ill-treated because of race or religion
prejudice:	→	having a lack of knowledge or information

4. What does it mean when it says that Gypsies and Travellers used to work “seasonally” on farms? Give an example.

When Gypsies and Travellers worked ‘seasonally’ it meant that at different times of the year, they would do different jobs on the farm. For example, planting and harvesting would be done at different times.

5. Look at the sentence beginning “Gypsies and Travellers have adapted their skills...” What does the word adapted suggest about the nature of Gypsies and Travellers when machines were used on farms?

The word ‘adapted’ suggests that Gypsies and Travellers were able to do different work when necessary and could adapt to the change in society as machines were used on farms/That they had adaptable natures/would go where the work was.

6. There are many misconceptions about Gypsies and Travellers. Give the meaning of the word ‘misconceptions’ in this sentence.

The word ‘misconceptions’ means that people had the wrong idea about Gypsies and Travellers, and did not have all the facts about them/ misunderstood Gypsies and Travellers.

7. One problem that Gypsies and Travellers have is that there are not enough authorised sites. Why is this a problem and what could be done about this?

As there are not enough authorised sites, it means that Gypsies and Travellers might park on land without asking the owner’s permission. This could be avoided if there were more authorised sites available for Gypsies and Travellers to camp on.

8. Tick the correct facts about Django Reinhardt.

he was a banjo player



he was Belgian



he was a rumba musician



he played the guitar



9. The following sentences summarise the paragraphs in the text. Number them 1 to 5 in order.

3

Gypsies and Travellers changed how they worked.

5

A number of talented Gypsies and Travellers are famous.

1

GRTHM recognises the different contributions Gypsies and Travellers make.

4

Different factors make life difficult.

2

GRTHM wants to change the way people think about Gypsies and Travellers.

10. Identify the three main points that you think are most important from this text.

Answers will vary.