



5.1 Some Facts About Roma - Activity

What do you know already?

(Tick ✓ what you know. Some statements are true and some are false)

1. Who are Roma?

- Roma are a distinct ethnic group of people.
- Roma people are from Rome.
- Roma are the largest ethnic minority in Europe.
- Roma live all over the world.



2. Where do Roma come from?

- Roma come originally from Egypt.
- Roma come originally from Northern India.
- Roma travelled to different countries.
- Roma do not have a nation state but are citizens of the countries they settled in, and/or born in.

3. What languages do Roma speak?

- Roma speak Romanes.
- Romanes originates from the Indian Sanskrit language.
- Roma language originates from Romania.
- Roma from different countries and regions speak different dialects.

4. Roma identity

- Roma means 'people' in Romanes language.
- Roma are not a homogeneous group (they do not have one single cultural identity).
- Roma communities have rich regional diverse cultures and traditions depending on where they live.
- All Roma women wear long skirts.

5. Important dates

- On 8th April 1971 the Roma flag was adopted at the first Romani World Congress in London. This is known internationally as Roma Nation Day.
- The flag colours represent Blue for the sky, Green for the land and the Red Wheel signifies movement and progress.
- The month of June is known as Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month (GRTHM) in the UK.
- On 2nd August 1944, 2987 Roma were killed in Auschwitz (a German Nazi Concentration Camp in Poland). This is known as Roma Genocide Remembrance Day and there is a memorial stone in Hyde Park.

6. Roma discrimination

- All Roma people steal.
- Roma have a shared history of discrimination, persecution and exclusion.
- Roma were an enslaved people, most notably in Romania where slavery was abolished in 1856.
- Roma people were victims of the Second World War and over 500,000 Roma were killed.

7. Roma Celebrities

- Elvis Presley, singer and actor (1935-1977)
- Charlie Chaplin, actor and film-maker (1889-1977)
- Django Reinhardt, musician (1910-1953)
- Eric Cantona, footballer (1966-now)
- Livia Jaroka, politician (1974-now)
- Ricardo Quaresma, footballer (1983-now)
- Bronislawa Wajs (known as Papusza), poet (1908-1987)

Film: '7 Things You Should Know About Roma',

<http://www.errc.org/video/7-things-you-should-know-about-roma-people>