**Lesson Plan**

Title: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Migration

Lesson objectives:

* To know when and how Gypsy and Roma people came to Western Europe
* To explore an early example of discrimination towards Gypsies in Britain
* To investigate Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month and produce an assembly to raise awareness of it at your school

Activities (note: resources can be found on corresponding PowerPoint and handout):

**Starter – slide 2**

Pupils discuss the terms ‘Gypsy’, ‘Roma’ and ‘Traveller’ and pose any questions they may have. Use the guidance below to help frame the discussion and give pupils greater clarity over the meaning and usage of the three terms:

Guidance from National Association of Teachers of Travellers + Other Professionals: <http://www.natt.org.uk/community-information/gypsy-roma-and-traveller-communities/>

***Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities – terminology***

*A number of different groups are covered by the generic term Gypsy, Roma and Traveller: English and Welsh Gypsies, Irish and Scottish Travellers, showmen (fairground people) and circus people, bargees (occupational boat dwellers) and New Travellers. Most of these communities have a long tradition of a travelling lifestyle, although their history and customs vary.*

*The term Gypsy, Roma and Traveller is acceptable to most members of these groups but many English Gypsies prefer to be called Gypsies. However, ‘Gypsy’ is a term that can be perceived as having negative connotations and is not acceptable to some. This is very much the case with families from Eastern and Central Europe and ‘Roma’ is the universally preferred term. Fairground people, who prefer to be called ‘Showmen’, have a separate traditional history that can be traced back to the Middle Ages when royal charters were granted for fairs and before this to the gatherings for trade in the Roman times.*

*Circus people have their own planned movement of travel and are fiercely proud of the family history associated with the traditional skills of the ‘big top’. Circuses tend to be owned by a single family who may hire a range of acts; these may have a variety of international backgrounds.*

*‘Bargee’ is a term used more appropriately in Europe where working on the canals is still an industry, particularly in the Netherlands. In the UK there are very few recorded families living on the waterways and few who would describe themselves as bargees, preferring the term ‘boat dwellers’. There is reported evidence that there are a small number of families living on sea-going coastal boats, which travel between small harbours and ports on the south coast during the summer months.*

**Task 1 – slide 3**

Show pupils the YouTube clip, which traces the migration of Gypsy/Roma peoples from India to Western Europe. Establish that Gypsy communities first enter the historical record in England in the early 16th century.

**Task 2 – slides 4 -5**

Link the previous activity to the Egyptians Act – this was passed very shortly after the first recorded Gypsy presence in Britain.

Read the extract from the Act with the pupils, discussing the terms used and ensuring pupils understand the information. Pupils can make notes on the handout copy, then answer the comprehension questions.

**Task 3 – slides 6,7**

Pupils conduct online research using the links provided to produce a brief presentation on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, including raising awareness of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month.

A suggested structure for the presentation is provided.