



**FRIENDS,
FAMILIES &
TRAVELLERS**



**Gypsy, Roma and Traveller
History Month 1-30 June 2021**

PARTICIPATION PACK FOR SCHOOLS

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#MakeSomeSpace
#ProudToBe

Thank you for joining us in celebrating Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month!

Every June since 2008, people from across the UK have celebrated Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month (GRTHM). Through celebration, education and raising awareness, GRTHM helps to tackle prejudice, challenge myths and to amplify the voices of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers in wider society.

During Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month, we celebrate the unique and diverse histories, cultures and languages of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in the UK and also the remarkable and immense contributions Gypsy, Roma and Traveller individuals and communities bring to wider society.

Travellers' Times have produced a short video 'Roads from the Past'¹ which provides a brief overview of the histories of some of the largest Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in the UK.

This year, our theme for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month is 'Make Some Space'.

We are asking people across the UK to 'Make Some Space' for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in their day to day lives. This will look different for different people, for example:

- If you work at a council, this might mean ensuring there are enough spaces for Gypsies and Travellers to stop in your area, or mapping traditional stopping places throughout history in your area.
- If you are a teacher, this might mean making space in your teaching time to focus on the histories, cultures or present realities of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.
- If you work on TV or in the media, this might mean making some space in TV and film for authentic portrayals of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.

- If you work for a Government organisation, this might mean making some space to consider how your service or area of work could be more inclusive to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.
- This might mean making some space in your day to educate yourself on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller histories and cultures and how to support Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people to uphold their rights.

In addition to this, during the last week of GRTHM (from the 23rd - 30th June), there will be a special focus on the theme 'Proud to Be'. During this week, we're asking people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities to share reasons why they are proud to be from the community they are from.

We would love for you to take part in our celebrations this June and we hope that in this resource pack you will find the inspiration and information you need to fully participate.

Warmest wishes,

Sarah Mann

Director at Friends, Families & Travellers

Ben Stroud

Friends, Families & Travellers Trustee and Chair to Friends, Families & Travellers Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month Work 2021

¹ www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bhBbMrF8Z0

Key dates for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people throughout history

The rich and diverse histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people are largely absent from classrooms, books and museums.

The timeline across these pages gives a small glimpse into the international histories of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers. There are many different people and groups who fit under the umbrella term 'Gypsies, Roma and Travellers' used in society. This can include Roma people, Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers, Scottish Gypsy Travellers, New Travellers, Liveaboard Boaters and Travelling Showpeople.

In the timeline below, we include key dates in history for people of Romany Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Roma and Scottish Gypsy Traveller ethnicities. We include the events below as a starting point for your further reading and learning.



998AD	1100S	1200S	1500S	1600S	1650	1850	1940S
	Ancient laws in Scotland recognise a community of people called 'tinklers' from their occupation as tinsmiths. They are viewed differently to mainstream society, seen to have their own customs and dialect. ²		Romany Gypsies first recorded in England were incorrectly thought to have travelled from Egypt. In 1530, Henry VIII's 'Egyptians Act' expelled Romany Gypsies in England. ⁴ In 1554, Queen Mary ruled that being a Gypsy was punishable by death. ⁵		Last known hanging for the crime of being a Gypsy in Suffolk, England. ⁷		Roma and Sinti people, sometimes called the 'forgotten victims' of the Holocaust were subject to deportation to concentration camps, mass murder and horrific medical experimentation. Over 200,000 Roma and Sinti were murdered or died as a result of starvation or disease. ⁸
People with Roma heritage travelled from northwest India as prisoners, slaves and soldiers. Theories suggest 60,000 Roma people were forcibly enlisted to the army of Mahmud of Ghazni and after his death, were expelled from Indian territories and driven to nomadism. ¹	Roma people in the territories of modern day Romania were taken as slaves and forced to work in monasteries, mines and in fields. Slaves were the property of their owners, bought and sold in their hundreds. It was not until 1856 that the Moldovian and Wallachian Assemblies abolished slavery within their principalities. ³				Irish people began to split from the general population around 12 generations ago in the 1600s - 'an lucht siúil' (the walking people) became known for storytelling and sharing songs from city to city. ⁶		Romany people historically travelled with elaborately made 'bender tents'. From 1850 onwards, Gypsy Wagons are used to travel, with bender tents used alongside.

1. <https://kopachi.com/articles/a-new-look-at-our-romani-origins-and-diaspora-by-ronald-lee/>

2. <https://www.iriss.org.uk/sites/default/files/2017-06/gt-timeline-A4-web.pdf>

3. <https://romediafoundation.wordpress.com/2014/04/18/roma-slavery-in-the-romanian-territories-a-catch-22-of-history-and-recognition/#:~:text=For%20almost%20five%20centuries%2C%20Roma,simply%20used%20to%20repay%20debt.>

4. <http://www.nationalgypsytravellefederation.org/culture-and-history.html>

5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z2b36fr/revision/2>

6. <https://www.nature.com/articles/srep42187>

7. <https://www.historytoday.com/reviews/gypsies-england>

8. <https://www.hmd.org.uk/learn-about-the-holocaust-and-genocides/nazi-persecution/the-porrajmos/>



1940S - 1960S	1963	1976	1982	1990S	2000	2004 / 2007	2008	2017
<p>General adoption of a mechanised caravan, rather than a horsedrawn wagon.⁹</p>	<p>The Report of the Commission on Itinerancy is the first systematic attempt by the Irish government to settle Travellers in Ireland, aiming to force families off the road, into bricks and mortar accommodation.¹⁰</p>	<p>Romany Gypsies were recognised in Britain as a distinct ethnic minority group under the 1976 English Race Relations Act.¹¹</p>	<p>Germany officially recognise the genocide of Roma and Sinti people in the Second World War.¹²</p>	<p>Roma communities begin seeking asylum in England through the 1990s.</p>	<p>Irish Travellers recognised in British law as an ethnic group, following a legal challenge in court brought by eight individuals refused service at five pubs in London.</p>	<p>Following expansions of the European Union, there is an increase in migration of Roma people to the UK from across Europe.</p>	<p>Scottish Gypsy Travellers recognised as an indigenous ethnic minority group in Britain.¹³</p>	<p>Irish Travellers are recognised as a distinct ethnic group in Ireland, and recognised as Ireland's only indigenous community.¹⁴</p>

9. <https://www.salford.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/info-for-parents-students-and-teachers/ethnic-minorities-and-travellers/traveller-wagon-project/history-of-wagons-and-wagon-building/>

10. <http://www.pavepoint.ie/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/AssimilationPolicies.pdf>

11. <https://minorityrights.org/minorities/romagypsies/travellers/#:~:text=Romany%20Gypsies%20were%20recognized%20as,accorded%20this%20status%20in%202000>

12. <https://www.romarchive.eu/en/roma-civil-rights-movement/sinti-and-roma-federal-republic-germany/>

13. http://bemis.org.uk/docs/gypsy_travellers_in_contemporary_scotland.pdf

14. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/oireachtas/travellers-formally-recognised-as-an-ethnic-minority-1.2994309>

Want to learn some useful words and phrases in Irish Cant?

For Irish Travellers, the language you speak can have varying names according to the family you belong to.

Mincéir Thari can be called Shelta, Cant or De Gammon. It is an ancient indigenous language formed using the Ogham technique that gradually developed towards its present form under the pressure of contact with Irish and Hiberno-English. Mincéir means Traveller and Thari means talk, so this might be translated as ‘Traveller talk’.

The closest living language is old Irish, which was spoken in Ireland pre 1200s. While the language is practiced mainly through oral tradition, with very little written history of it, the words for ‘priest’ and ‘God’ shown in old, pre-Christian documents in Ireland show shared lineation between the languages. The language is widely used today and the majority of people who speak it also speak English. There are different dialects of Irish Cant and in Ireland alone, there can be differences in words commonly spoken across the country and differences in spelling between people.



Want to learn some useful words and phrases in Scottish Cant?

Scottish Cant is spoken between Scottish Gypsy Traveller or Nacken people.

While there is a standardised strain of Cant, localised dialects mean there are multiple evolutions of the dialect. The language is almost entirely oral and differs between geographical locations or through family and social preferences. The language is constantly evolving. For Scottish Gypsy Travellers, Scottish Cant is often the first language for children, but will be accompanied by other languages used by parents.

Scottish Cant shares greater commonality with Rromanés than with Gaelic languages, revealing the lineage of Scottish Gypsy Travellers from Northern India, with Roma peoples. It is part of the phenomenon of Indic diaspora languages spoken by travelling communities of Indian origin outside India. There are different dialects of Scottish Cant and in Scotland alone, there can be differences in words commonly spoken across the country and differences in spelling between people.



Want to learn some useful words and phrases in Romani Dialect?

Roma, Romany Gypsies, Manuches, Kale and Sinti and people with Roma descent live in various countries across the world.

There are more than 10 million people of Romani descent in Europe alone. Romani is a rich family of languages with an Indo-Aryan root. Romani is the only Indio-Aryan language that has been spoken exclusively in Europe since the Middle Ages and whose vocabulary and grammar are related to Sanskrit.

The language used by Romani people is a source of great pride, facilitating the connectivity and communication between people across the world. Nearly all Romani speakers are multilingual (speak another language) and also use the language of the majority population where they live. It is estimated that there are 4.6 million Romani speakers in Europe.

There are many different dialects of Romani spoken and in England alone, there can be differences in words commonly spoken in the North and in the South of the country and differences in spelling between people.

HOW ARE YOU?

English Romanichal:
Sar shan/so keresa?

Romanian Roma:
So kăres?

Slovak Roma:
Sar sal?

I'M GOOD, THANK YOU

English Romanichal:
Shom kushti, palikerava toot

Romanian Roma:
Mes sim mišto,
nais tukă

Slovak Roma:
Laces, Palikerav

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

English Romanichal:
So see chiro nav?

Romanian Roma:
So si kiro anav?

Slovak Roma:
Sar pes vicines?

MY NAME IS...

English Romanichal:
Murro nav see...

Romanian Roma:
Muro anav si...

Slovak Roma:
Me pes vicinav...

WOULD YOU LIKE A CUP OF TEA?

English Romanichal:
Komessa lumbas/chai?

Romanian Roma:
Kames ekh cuci ciau?

Slovak Roma:
Kames teja?

I WOULD LOVE A CUP OF TEA

English Romanichal:
Ava, may komava lumbas/chai

Romanian Roma:
Me kamav ekh cuci ciau

Slovak Roma:
Kamlomas teja

ONE, TWO, THREE

English Romanichal:
Yek, doi, trin

Romanian Roma:
Ekh, dui, trin

Slovak Roma:
Jek, duj, trin

I'M PROUD TO BE ROMANY

English Romanichal:
Loshalo shom te shom Romano chavo

Romanian Roma:
Falma mišto kă sim Rom (male)/
Romni (female)

Slovak Roma:
Me som barikani hoj som Romani

MAKE SOME SPACE

English Romanichal:
Keren phuv

Romanian Roma:
Kăr than

Slovak Roma:
De man than

I'M PROUD TO BE ROMA

English Romanichal:
Loshalo shom te shom Rom

Romanian Roma:
Falma mišto kă sim Rom (male)/
Romni (female)

Slovak Roma:
Me som barikano hoj som Rom

Experiences of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller students in education

Young Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people can face unique and too often, difficult challenges in education and schooling.

- The Race Disparity Audit found that when compared to other ethnic groups, pupils from Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller backgrounds had the lowest attainment and progress, and were the least likely to stay in education after the age of 16.¹
- A study by the Children's Commissioner in 2012 found Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children were four times more likely to be permanently excluded than the school population as a whole.²
- In 2017, The Traveller Movement found 70% (138 out of 199 interviewed) of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller young people had experienced discrimination in some form in education.
- In 2019, Friends, Families and Travellers asked Gypsy, Roma and Traveller young people about the biggest challenges they faced in school; 86% of pupils reported the biggest challenge to be bullying, followed by racism at 72%.³

Quotes from 'Bullied, Not Believed and Blamed', an Anti-Bullying Alliance report⁴:

In primary, I didn't understand in maths and the teacher said 'It doesn't matter anyway, you're not gonna do anything when you're older except stay at home.'

I want people to understand the ways we talk our words and phrases.

Don't teach nothing about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history or culture. Makes you feel like no one understands.

Make
I Some
Space
GRTHM 2021



1. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/686071/Revised_RDA_report_March_2018.pdf

2. <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/They-never-give-up-on-you-final-report.pdf>

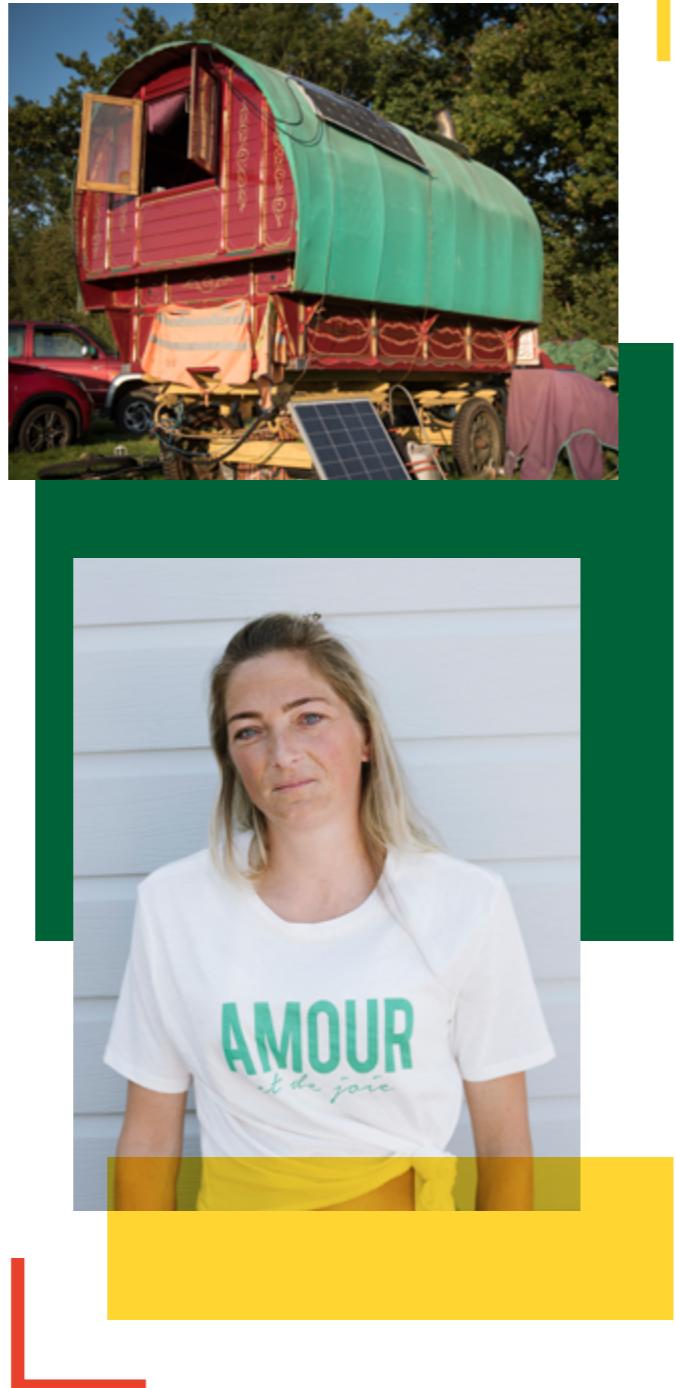
3. http://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachment/GRT%20report%20-%20FINAL_0.pdf

4. http://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachment/GRT%20report%20-%20FINAL_0.pdf

6 ways you can mark Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month

1. Make some space in your lessons or in an assembly to focus on learning about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller histories and cultures

There are lots of resources available online with ideas for lesson plans, assembly plans for all age groups and all parts of the curriculum. Reflect upon how you can incorporate information on the histories and cultures of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people into learning you are already delivering and make some space for teaching on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller histories and cultures throughout the month of June. We've included some suggested materials later in this booklet to inspire you.



2. Speak to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils and their parents in your school and agree on a plan together

Over 1 in 200 people in the UK are from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, so it's likely that you will have Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people in your school. If you are aware of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils in your school, you can speak to these children and their parents to discuss possible plans for celebrations in June. As a result of the discrimination faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people, many children and young people don't share their ethnicity with classmates or teachers, so please keep in mind that just because nobody has told you they are from a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community doesn't always mean that there are no Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people in your school. Celebrating GRTHM may just be

the encouragement a young person in your class needs to feel comfortable in sharing their ethnicity in school.

3. Review your anti-bullying policy and practices

Many young people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities experience bullying in school because of their ethnicity. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month is a good time to review whether your school's anti-bullying policy and practices go far enough for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children. Together with the Anti-Bullying Alliance, we have developed a **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller anti-bullying school audit tool¹**.

To learn more about what young Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people have to say about racist bullying, read the report **'Bullied, Not Believed and Blamed': The Experiences of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Pupils: Recommendations for Schools and Other Settings²**.

4. Organise a class viewing of Crystal's Vardo theatre production

During the last week of June, educational play Crystal's Vardo will be available to watch online for free. Crystal's Vardo is a play about a young Romani Gypsy girl who travels through time in her Grandad's vardo, unravelling the history of her ancestors. It is perfect for children and adults alike. Accompanying Crystal's Vardo, we've developed **teaching materials³** which include information on the cultures and histories of Gypsies and Travellers, as well as activities for children.

5. Set up a staff network for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in your sector or organisation

At least one in 200 people in the UK are from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and it is likely that some of your staff or service users are from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. During Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month, consider setting up a staff group, following the example of the **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Police Association⁴** and the **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Social Workers Association⁵**.

6. Celebrate Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month on social media

Share any activities that you do and your positive commitment towards Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in your school and local community by using the hashtag **#MakeSomeSpace** on social media through the month of June. Encourage Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in your school community to share messages on social media using the **#ProudToBe** hashtag in the last week of June.

1. <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-alliances-gypsy-roma-and-traveller-school-resources>

2. https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachment/GRT%20report%20-%20FINAL_0.pdf

3. https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/FFT_Teaching-Materials-2020_v12.pdf

4. <https://grtpa.co.uk/>

5. <https://www.basw.co.uk/media/news/2020/jul/gypsy-roma-and-traveller-social-work-association>

Preparing lessons and assemblies for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month

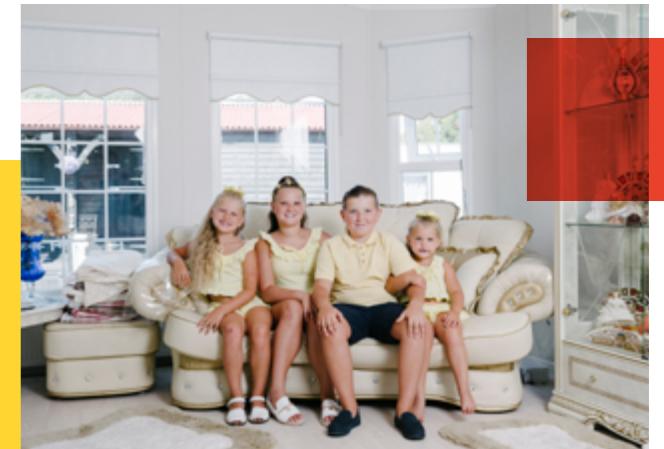
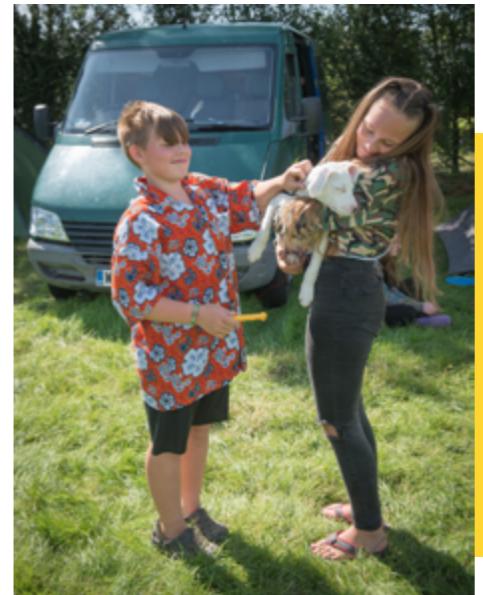
There are lots of brilliant resources available online to help you to prepare lessons and assemblies focussing on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller histories and cultures, including:

- Free **lesson plans and assembly packs¹** for GRTHM are available from Twinkl, made with the **Traveller Movement.²**
- **Romany Theatre Company³** have a brilliant **education pack⁴** which includes activity sheets and audio recordings suitable for students in Key Stage 2 and 3.
- Travellers' Times have wonderful **education packs⁵** which include a film, an assembly script, lesson plan ideas and an FAQ pack to support teaching staff with information on the histories and cultures of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.
- Order some books written by Gypsies, Roma and Travellers for your students in June. You can find a great selection on the **Teaching Resources section of the Friends, Families and Travellers website⁶**.
- If you work with young children, '**An ABC for Travellers⁷**' is a perfect resource for helping young Gypsies and Travellers to learn the alphabet.
- **Roma Support Group⁸** have created a **Roma Oral History website⁹** which brings together stories of Roma people who have lived across Central Europe.
- Iriss have a wonderful **timeline of Gypsy Traveller history in Scotland¹⁰** which you can share with your class and teach about the historic struggle Scottish Gypsy Travellers have faced battling for equal rights.
- Learn about the devastating impacts of the Second World War on Roma and Sinti communities in Europe using resources created by the **Holocaust Memorial Day Trust¹¹** and the **Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum¹²**.
- Read about the life of Settela Steinbach, a Sinti child from the Netherlands who was sent to her death in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp using this **resource by historian Professor Rainer Schulze¹³**.
- Download **lesson plans and guidance for promoting Gypsy Roma Traveller awareness in the primary classroom¹⁴** made by the Brighton & Hove Healthy Schools Team, in partnership with the East Sussex Traveller Education Team.
- Download a **Key Stage 1 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller art lesson PowerPoint and lesson plan¹⁵** available from the TES website.

You could also deliver lessons on one of our Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month themes, 'Proud To Be'.

You can ask:

- What are your children proud about?
- What aspects of their culture or identity would they like to share?
- What makes you proud of your community?
- Describe something that makes you different from a friend or family member
- Why is it a good thing to celebrate each other's differences?



1. <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-t-16580-gypsy-roma-and-traveller-history-month-assembly-pack>
2. <https://travellermovement.org.uk/>
3. <https://www.romanytheatrecompany.com/>
4. <https://www.romanytheatrecompany.com/educational-resources/>
5. <https://www.travellerstimes.org.uk/features/gypsy-roma-traveller-history-education-pack>
6. <https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/teaching-resources/>
7. <https://read.bookcreator.com/Geapq5mqYgyqt8XSYo8GGbADG3/uwpkze30T8OLGeS88CkFEg>
8. romasupportgroup.org.uk
9. <https://www.romaoralhistory.com/roma-history-project>
10. <https://www.iriss.org.uk/sites/default/files/2017-06/qt-timeline-A4-web.pdf>
11. <https://www.hmd.org.uk/resource/june-gypsy-roma-and-traveller-history-month/>
12. <http://auschwitz.org/en/history/categories-of-prisoners/sinti-and-roma-gypsies-in-auschwitz/>
13. <https://www.hmd.org.uk/resource/anna-maria-settela-steinbach/>
14. https://www.egfl.org.uk/sites/default/files/School_effectiveness/Teaching_and_learning/For pack Gypsy Roma Traveller Lessons and Guidance %281%29.doc
15. <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/year-1-gypsy-roma-traveller-art-lesson-ppt-and-lesson-plan-11305332>

Sharing information about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month on social media

This year, we would love to see schools and other education settings across the UK harnessing the positive power of social media to raise the profile of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month and to celebrate the contributions people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities have made to your local area.

Use these hashtags to help us shout about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month

#MakeSomeSpace

For the month of June, you can share activities you're doing as part of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month on social media using this hashtag and use this hashtag to find out what others are doing and how you can be involved.



#ProudToBe

#ProudToBe week (23rd - 30th June)

In the last week of June, we're asking people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities to share reasons why they are proud to be from the community they are from.

Let Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in your staff team and in local communities know that **#ProudToBe** week is taking place and help them to celebrate in a way that feels comfortable to them.

**Make
| Some
Space**
GRTHM 2021

What can I do right now?

Copy and paste the messages below to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

Post 1:

I'm celebrating Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month this June. Are you?

There is so much to learn about the rich histories and cultures of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in the UK.

This year the **#GRTHM** theme is **#MakeSomeSpace**

Get involved here:

www.gypsy-traveller.org/grthm

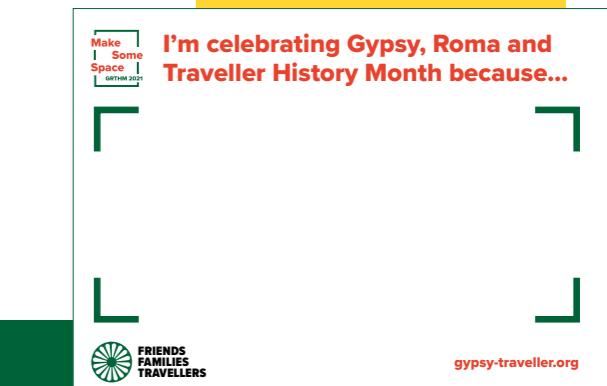
Post 2:

Through celebration and education, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month challenges prejudice and shares the rich and diverse histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.

We are going to **#MakeSomeSpace** in our diary to celebrate **#GRTHM**

Get involved:

www.gypsy-traveller.org/grthm





**FRIENDS,
FAMILIES &
TRAVELLERS**

www.gypsy-traveller.org/grthm

#MakeSomeSpace #ProudToBe

We work to end racism and discrimination against all Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, and to protect the right to pursue a nomadic way of life.

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