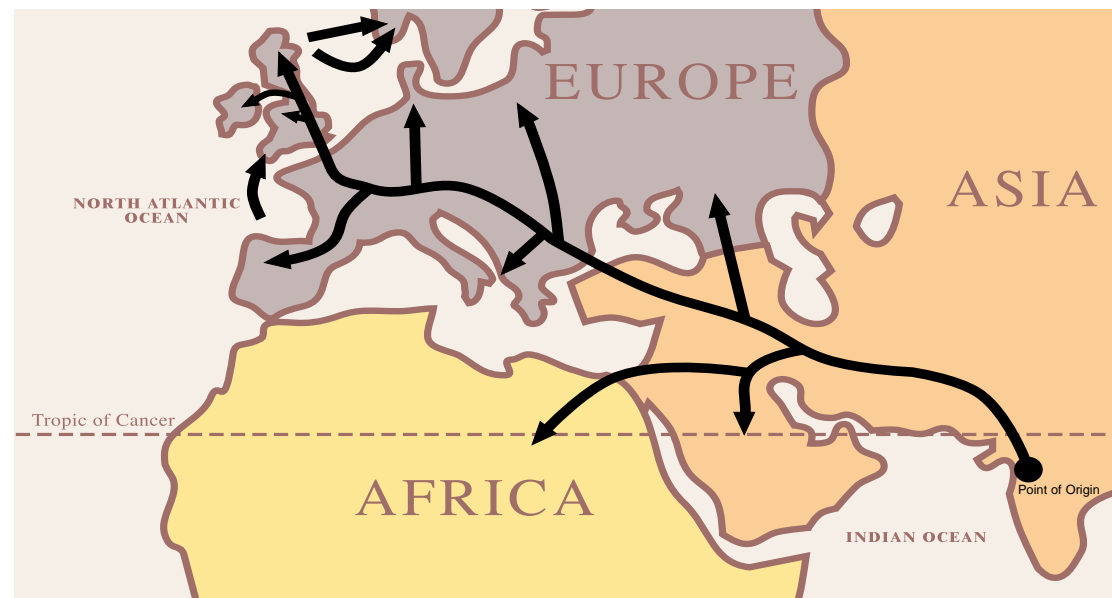


GYPSY AND ROMA FACT FILE



ROMANY GYPSIES:

- ☼ the largest group of Travellers in the **U.K.**
- ☼ first seen in England in 1514, during Henry V111's reign;
- ☼ thought, incorrectly, to have come from Egypt and called "Egyptians". This was shortened to "Gypsy";
- ☼ travelled west from northern India, from about 1000 A.D. moving in small groups and living in tents (see map).

Word "Romany" has no connection to Rome or Romania.

LANGUAGE

Their language, **Romani**, originated from Sanskrit spoken in India. Passing through countries they added words to their language, and left words behind.

EXAMPLES OF SOME WORDS NOW USED IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAL	Friend
LOLLIPOP	Apple or sugary sweet on a stick.
KUSHTI	Good
HICKORY, DICKORY, DOCK	Romany for one o'clock, two o'clock.

ROMA:

- ☼ Romany Gypsies who have arrived in the U.K. this century;
- ☼ most have come from Eastern Europe and live in houses;
- ☼ many have entered the country as **refugees**.

IRISH, SCOTTISH AND WELSH FACT FILE

IRISH TRAVELLERS

1. One of the oldest groups of Irish Travellers, descended from established traders (**Tinkers** and **Pedlars**). They were first seen in the 1100s and spoke **Shelta**, an Irish Travellers' Language. The Tinkers may originally have been wandering poets, or Irish Lords who had lost their land.
2. As well as selling goods they brought information from place to place. This was valued because before 1700 Dublin was the only Irish town to have its own newspaper.
3. There is a theory that a group including Romany **immigrants** reached Ireland around 1500 and developed a language from Shelta and a little Romani, called Gammon.
4. Irish Travellers often do not like to be called "Gypsies".



SCOTTISH TRAVELLERS

1. Groups of Scottish Travellers developed between 1500 and 1800 from travelling Scottish craftsmen, who married into immigrant Romany groups from France and Spain.
2. In 1969 about one third of Scottish Travellers were still living in tents.
3. Much of Scotland's traditional music has been collected from Traveller families.

WELSH (Kalé m. Keli f)

1. About 1000 people call themselves Kalé.
2. Most have descended from Abram Wood, a talented Gypsy violinist.
3. They entered Wales about 1700 A.D.
4. Until recently they spoke Romani.
5. The majority are now living in houses.

NEW TRAVELLER AND BARGEE FACT FILE

NEW TRAVELLERS

1. Groups began to form in 1970s.
2. Many New Travellers came from the settled community but decided to live a travelling way of life.



BARGEES

This is a distinct group of Travellers who live and work on barges. There are now very few Bargees in Britain as canals are no longer usually used to carry **freight**.

UPPER/CASE or lower/case?

The word "Gypsy" is the proper name of an **ethnic** group and comes from the proper noun "Egyptian." It should be spelt with a capital letter.

The word "Traveller" should also be spelt with a capital letter when it refers to the group of people that includes Gypsies. The word "traveller" without a capital "T" refers to anybody who is on a journey by car, bus, train etc.